



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Israel will seek the extradition of Mousa Abu Mohamed Marzuk, the Hamas official arrested by U.S. immigration officials at Kennedy Airport. The Israeli media cited unofficial reports linking Marzuk to several terror attacks against Israelis, including the April 9 terror attack on a bus near Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip, in which seven Israeli soldiers and a 20-year-old American student, Alisa Flatow, were killed.**

■ **German police were unable to provide the motive that led an Israeli of Russian origin to hijack a tourist bus in Cologne and kill two people during a bizarre hostage drama that lasted seven hours. Police officials described Leon Bor, 31, a former resident of Ramat Gan, Israel, as a "sadist" who enjoyed "killing for the sake of killing." [Page 2]**

■ **An Israeli soldier was killed during a clash with Hezbollah gunmen in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone. Sgt. Yosef Weinstock, 19, of Bnei Brak, was killed when a missile hit a tank that was accompanying his patrol.**

■ **Israel launched the first prototype of the Arrow-2 anti-missile missile. Israel will reportedly be able to defend up to 85 percent of its population from incoming missile attacks once the full complement of Arrow batteries becomes operational.**

■ **British officials dropped charges against two Palestinians who were accused in last year's bombings of the Israeli Embassy and the Joint Israel Appeal in London. Three others charged in the case remain in custody, but their trial has yet to begin.**

■ **Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman of Dallas was selected to be the next president of Hebrew Union College. The college's board of governors is expected to confirm the appointment at its October meeting. [Page 3]**

■ **An accused Nazi war criminal cannot be deported, even if he lied to immigration officers about his wartime activities, according to the ruling of a Canadian immigration official. [Page 4]**

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Intermarriage announcements in Jewish papers spark debate

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the Connecticut Jewish Ledger recently publicized its policy of refusing to run the wedding announcements of interfaith marriages, it prompted such controversy that dozens of readers weighed in on the issue, 40 vented their feelings at a temple forum in Bridgeport, and The New York Times picked up on the dispute.

The Ledger is one of the very few Jewish newspapers in the United States that has a concrete policy against printing announcements of weddings that it knows are interfaith. However, many edit out any overt reference to another religion when running such announcements.

The controversy in Connecticut, which began with an editorial published in February, has illuminated the delicacy of covering intermarriage in the Jewish community.

The Ledger got a strong response to its policy. And after the Times ran its story in mid-July, and Times columnist William Safire wrote a related piece a few days later, the Connecticut Jewish Ledger received a tremendous amount of mail about its policy, said its editor, Jonathan Tobin.

Nearly all of it has been positive, he said, with 51 letters applauding his position. Eight of the letters opposed the policy, two were neutral, and three he described as "hate mail, including one death threat," which came from an anonymous source in Brooklyn.

The key question about publishing notices of interfaith unions, said Tobin, is: "Is an intermarriage a Jewish simcha?"

"My answer is no, it's not," he said in an interview.

"It can be a personal one for the individual family, but there's a difference between what an individual can do and what the community can celebrate," he said.

#### 'Don't ask/don't tell'

However, an informal survey of Jewish newspaper editors across the United States revealed that Tobin is nearly alone in his policy.

Most of the editors said their policy is "don't ask/don't tell." They said they feel obliged, as journalists, to reflect the reality of the Jewish community and not to make judgments by ignoring announcements of intermarriages.

"When a newspaper starts dictating how people should live, it's an abomination journalistically," said Marc Klein, editor of the Jewish Bulletin of Northern California, which is published in San Francisco.

"In the climate we live in today, where we've intermingled and assimilated with the rest of society, there's nothing a newspaper can do to change the field of intermarriage," said Klein. "That comes from the home and how a family raises its children.

"What Tobin is doing is excommunicating Jews and non-Jews alike," said Klein. "He's saying, 'We will not give you a hechsher (kosher certification) in our community even if you raise your kids Jewish.' It's ridiculous.

"Let the rabbis make the rules, and let the newspaper cover the rabbis," said Klein, who also said that about half his staff is intermarried.

Marshall Hoffman, managing editor of the American Jewish World, in Minneapolis, Minn., agreed: "The paper should reflect what's going on in the community and not try to whitewash what's going on.

"It's not promoting anything, just putting it out in front of their faces," Hoffman said. "This is the way it is. We don't put any judgment on it."

And on a pragmatic level, in a day and age where there is at least one non-Jew named Gladys Cohen and there are Jews named Seamus McGraw and Winston Pickett, editors say that it's nearly impossible to screen submitted wedding announcements for non-Jews.

"Do you call up every family and ask if it's a convert?" asked Hoffman. "It's also the kind of thing that wouldn't win you any fans from your readership."

In Georgia, the Atlanta Jewish Times has received letters from readers

“saying we’re damaging the future of the Jewish people” by running interfaith marriage announcements, said editor Neil Rubin.

“It’s the same issue we face with taking advertising from treif (non-kosher) restaurants,” he said. “I don’t think that to run them is to endorse the practice.”

At least one Jewish newspaper editor, however, disagrees.

Hillel Goldberg, an Orthodox rabbi, is executive editor of the Intermountain Jewish News, based in Denver, a city with one of the highest measured intermarriage rates in America.

The Denver paper “will not knowingly print a notice of an intermarriage just as we won’t print something about a gay synagogue,” said Goldberg.

“We’re here to promote the welfare of the Jewish people and Jewish community,” he said, adding that a newspaper is perhaps the “major sanction in a community.”

“When the sanction breaks down, the intermarriage rate goes up, and the same thing goes for homosexuality or anything else,” said Goldberg. “We’re very conscious of our role as being a public sanction.”

In some communities, the response to articles on interfaith-related topics can be even stronger.

About two years ago, the Baltimore Jewish Times ran a story on rabbis and cantors who perform interfaith ceremonies with clergy of other faiths, said Michael Davis, the paper’s editor.

“I got my head handed to me on a platter by the community,” said Davis.

And when the Arizona Jewish Post ran an article last year about Jews who marry Jews, the paper got phone calls and letters from outraged readers, mostly the parents of children who had married non-Jews.

Though the story was all about in-marriage, not intermarriage, the angry readers felt that it implicitly condemned intermarriage. Some cancelled their subscriptions to the Tucson-based weekly as a result. □

## **Motive remains a mystery in German bus hijacking drama**

*By Gil Sedan*

BONN (JTA) — Days after an Israeli of Russian origin hijacked a tourist bus in Cologne and killed two people, German police still are unable to provide the motive behind the bizarre hostage drama that lasted seven hours.

Police officials expressed shock at the cold-blooded murders carried out by Leon Bor, 31, a former resident of Ramat Gan, Israel, last Friday.

They described Bor as a “sadist” who enjoyed “killing for the sake of killing.”

Bor, born Leonid Borshevsky, hijacked the bus, which was carrying 24 tourists, 10 minutes after it left the tourist information center near the Cologne Cathedral.

He immediately shot the driver. With the tour guide serving as a human shield, Bor changed into a green uniform, a ski mask and a fake dynamite belt that looked real enough to convince police that they were dealing with a professional terrorist.

An eyewitness summoned the police. But when the first police unit arrived at the scene, Bor opened fire, severely wounding a police officer.

Speaking with police over a phone on the bus, Bor described himself as a member of the Russian mafia. He spoke with police negotiators in Russian, and in broken German and English.

Five hostages managed to escape from the bus during the ensuing seven-hour ordeal.

Late in the drama, Bor walked down the aisle of the bus and asked the blindfolded and bound passengers their nationality.

When a 64-year-old woman said she was German, Bor shot and killed her, then took a Polaroid picture of the body.

Bor then had a passenger take a picture of him in his combat uniform.

Shortly after Bor killed the woman, a police commando unit stormed the bus. A sniper killed Bor with one shot.

Police later found in his bag a parachute and an electronic navigation instrument, which raised speculation that Bor may have intended to take over an airplane at a later stage of the hijacking drama.

Despite the circumstances surrounding the killing of the German woman, German police refused to say the murder was racially motivated.

Israeli police officials said they had little knowledge about Bor, who they said had no criminal record in Israel.

In 1989, Bor immigrated to Israel from Russia, and in 1993 he reportedly left Israel for the United States.

His reasons for arriving in Germany were unknown.

Israeli diplomatic officials in Cologne said Bor would be buried at a Jewish cemetery in Cologne unless a relative requested that his body be flown to Israel. But, the officials added, Bor apparently had no relatives living in Israel. □

## **Religious parties will advise peace negotiators on holy sites**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Representatives from Israel’s religious parties will serve as advisers to Israeli peace negotiators, providing input on future arrangements for Jewish holy sites in the West Bank.

The decision to form the three-member advisory panel was made at a meeting last week between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Knesset members from the religious parties.

The meeting came about after a controversy erupted over reports that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had reached arrangements providing for Palestinian stewardship at Rachel’s Tomb, located south of Jerusalem, as part of the next phase of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

At the meeting on July 25 with representatives of the religious parties, Rabin agreed that security for Rachel’s Tomb would remain under Israeli authority, as would the road connecting the site to Jerusalem.

Avraham Ravitz, a member of the United Torah Judaism Party, said he was satisfied with the outcome of the discussions with Rabin.

“In Rachel’s Tomb, we got almost everything that we had asked for,” he told Israel Radio.

About 22 other religious sites could come up for discussion in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The religious panel would advise in these areas as well, Israel Radio reported.

Continuing to express concern about the future status of the holy sites, thousands of worshipers held a mass vigil at Rachel’s Tomb on July 27.

Organizers of the vigil reportedly said they were grateful to the Israel Defense Force for the heightened security provided to protect the worshipers.

But the organizers also said they believed there would be no such protection if the site were to come under Palestinian administration in the future. □

**Argentina, in reversal, will pursue nuclear talks with Syria**

By Sergio Kiernan

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — In an apparent flip-flop of its nuclear sales policy, the Argentine government has decided to resume talks in August for the sale to Syria of a five-megawatt nuclear reactor.

The move comes after Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, during a visit to Israel last week, said his country would not proceed with the sale if Israel objected.

Israeli officials have expressed concern about the possible sale of technology that could put Syria "on the road to nuclear development."

But following the foreign minister's visit, sources at the Argentine Foreign Ministry said Buenos Aires would pursue negotiations "on its own terms."

President Carlos Menem's government believes it is taking "all steps to ensure the peaceful use of any technological equipment sold," one source said.

Di Tella, who during last week's trip to Israel was questioned about the negotiations with Damascus, repeatedly gave the assurance that his government would not do "anything that could endanger Israel's security."

But within days of di Tella's assurances, Argentine officials said they had secured American backing for the discussions with Syria. Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires would neither confirm nor deny this, adding that the State Department has issued no official comment regarding the Argentine-Syrian negotiations.

On at least two prior occasions, the United States effectively vetoed Argentine sales of technologies with potential military uses to Middle Eastern countries.

In 1991, the United States asked Argentina to block the sale of a uranium refinery to Iran.

Shortly after, U.S. officials blocked an Argentine project for updating Scud missile technology that was to be financed by Egypt, Syria and Libya.

Ruben Beraja, president of DAIA, the umbrella political organization of Argentine Jewry, maintained that the blocked sale of the uranium refinery may have provided a reason for Iran's alleged involvement in the July 18, 1994, terrorist bombing of the Jewish headquarters building in Buenos Aires. □

**Argentine judge releases extradited bombing suspects**

By Sergio Kiernan

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — An Argentine judge has released seven Lebanese and Brazilian nationals who had been suspected of links to the bombing of Jewish buildings here.

The seven were extradited from Paraguay in connection with a separate investigation into illegal stocks of weapons found near Buenos Aires in April 1994.

Argentine officials had hoped that the seven also would provide information regarding last year's terrorist bombing of the Jewish community's headquarters here, as well as the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy.

Judge Roberto Marquevich freed the seven suspects on July 27, after they underwent two days of interrogation.

Marquevich said last week the information he had was not sufficient to bring a judicial case. The suspects — six Lebanese and one Brazilian — were arrested in Paraguay in February. After months of legal wrangling, they were extradited to Argentina on July 23.

Although three of the suspects admitted to having sympathies toward the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement, Marquevich said there was no basis to sustain allegations that they were part of a terrorist cell. □

**Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman to head Hebrew Union College**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman has been elected by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's search committee to be the Reform seminary's next president.

In what the search committee's chairman described as "a very, very, very close vote," Zimmerman was selected over Rabbi Peter Knobel on July 26. The college's full board of governors is expected to approve the Dallas rabbi as president when it meets in October.

When Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk retires from the college's presidency, at an as-yet undetermined time, Zimmerman will take the helm of an institution with campuses in New York, Cincinnati, Los Angeles and Jerusalem.

Zimmerman is the last of the new, young heads of the Reform movement's three central institutions to be selected. The other two are Rabbi Eric Yoffie, who is president-elect of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi Paul Menitoff, the recently hired executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

**11th-generation rabbi**

They will be leading a movement which is in the process of redefining itself as something very different than it once was.

"The old question for Reform Judaism was 'How do you make changes in Judaism to adapt to the modern world?'" Zimmerman said in an interview shortly after his selection.

"The question today is 'How do we take modern people who happen to be Jewish and bring them to a living and loving and caring encounter with Torah?'"

Zimmerman, a long-time Reform pulpit rabbi and the father of a son who is a Reform rabbi in Maryland, is an 11th generation rabbi. He was raised as an Orthodox Jew.

He describes himself as "very committed to observance."

In his final interview with the 16-member search committee, he was asked: What changes would you make at the college?

Zimmerman's answer, according to Stanley Gold, the chairman of the search committee, was: "Torah, Torah, Torah."

When asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency what his biggest challenge at the college will be, he said, "Reforming Jews, bringing them home to Torah," though he quickly qualified his response, adding "not in an Orthodox sense."

"I want to have my people base their lives in a Torah tradition which is dynamic and significant," he said.

Zimmerman has long experience as a national leader in the Reform movement; he was president of the denomination's rabbinic arm, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, for two years beginning in 1993.

For the last decade the Toronto native has worked as the senior rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, and was formerly the rabbi of Central Synagogue in New York City.

His close connection to the working rabbinate was regarded as an asset by the selection committee, said Stanley Gold, who also is the chairman of the college's board of governors.

"The way to get to participating, active, committed Jews is through their rabbis," Gold said. "That's going to be a big plus," said Gold. □

**LIVING QUIETLY IN TURKEY [Part 2]  
Once a bustling Jewish center,  
Izmir faces an uncertain future**

By Tom Tugend

IZMIR, Turkey (JTA) — The dire shortage of women of marriageable age is one reason the Jewish population of Izmir keeps shrinking. Young men often leave to seek wives in Istanbul or in other countries.

The community's current population of 2,300 contrasts sharply with its heyday in the 17th century, when some 55,000 Jews lived in the city after the reigning sultan resettled Jews from Constantinople and the Balkans.

In those days, the Jews represented one-quarter of the total population in this port city on the Aegean Sea, once known as Smyrna.

They formed numerous subcommunities, according to their ancestral towns of origin, with each erecting its own synagogue. Then, Izmir boasted no less than 55 synagogues.

During the same period, Izmir became a major center of kabalistic study. One native son, Shabbetai Zevi, spread his claim to be the Messiah from here throughout the Ottoman Empire. The ruins of his home can still be found near the entrance of the bazaar.

Around World War I, the Jewish community had some 40,000 members. However, small waves of emigration to the Americas in the 1920s and Palestine in the 1930s, followed by a massive exodus of predominantly poor Jews to Israel between 1948 and 1955, have drastically reduced the Jewish population.

The small remnant, however, is proving that it takes only a small critical mass of Jews to trigger a chain reaction of Jewish institutions and social life.

**'Little bit of religion and tradition'**

Some 110 students, representing 80 percent of the Jewish children between the ages 5 and 11, attend the Jewish elementary school, said to be the best in town.

At the school, which goes up to fifth grade, the youngsters have daily classes in Hebrew and English, and "a little bit of religion and tradition" besides, according to one teacher.

Eight synagogues in the city still exist, though only three are in regular use.

The Beit Israel Synagogue, which local patriots claim is the most beautiful in Turkey, was built in the Italian style in 1915. A large candelabrum is topped by both a Magen David and the Turkish crescent and star, a common sight in Jewish institutions used to express the community's gratitude for centuries of peaceful existence in the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

All the community's Bar Mitzvahs are celebrated at Beit Israel, though a short-lived experiment to introduce Bat Mitzvahs did not pan out.

Daily afternoon Minchah services are held at the airy Senora Synagogue, whose walls feature framed prayers, in the tradition of Ottoman mosques.

The synagogue is named in honor of Dona Gracia Nassi, a remarkable Marrano woman of the 16th century who tried to persuade the reigning sultan to turn Cyprus into a homeland for the Jews. She eventually became a kabalist and settled in Tiberias.

The colorful Shalom Synagogue is currently undergoing repairs. The newest synagogue is Shir HaShamayim, the only one in the new section of Izmir, to which most Jews have moved over the years.

All the synagogues are Sephardi and, at least nominally, Orthodox, though few Izmir Jews are punctilious in their observances. The attitude is shared by the Islamic population — Izmir bears the appellation of "the

city without faith" — and Islamic fundamentalism has relatively few adherents here.

Nevertheless, in keeping with the extreme caution and low profile typical of Turkish Jews, there are no outside markings to identify any of the synagogues.

A visitor has to know the exact street addresses to find them.

Currently, Silvia Franko, the only woman among the 11 members of the Jewish Community Council here, has embarked on a project to restore the Street of the Synagogues in the old Havra Sokah quarter to its 17th century glory.

Although the small but relatively affluent Izmir community supports a range of charitable institutions, Franko believes that outside help will be needed for the restoration project.

There have been Jews in the Izmir region possibly from the time of the Persian Empire in the 5th century B.C.E. Proof of their presence, size and wealth is found in the excavation of the giant synagogue at Sardis, an hour's drive east of Izmir.

Built in the 2nd century C.E., when the region was part of the Roman Empire, this behemoth of a shul covered the length of a football field.

With such a historic past, is there a future for the Jews of Izmir? Given a balance of 100 deaths and only 50 births during the past two years, the demographics are not very promising.

Much will depend on the long-range economic situation, now quite depressed, especially among the younger people. Intermarriage runs at a low 5 percent, compared to 20 percent in the 10 times larger Istanbul community, but is likely to rise.

In addition, Israel, where almost every Izmir Jew has relatives, keeps beckoning.

The community's president, Moris Bencuya, sighed when he considered future prospects.

"It is difficult to maintain our institutions with only 2,000 Jews," he said. "After many hundreds of years, the time may come when the Jewish community of Izmir is no more." □

(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend recently visited Turkey as a guest of its National Tourist Office.)

**Canada: Accused Nazi cannot  
be deported, even if he lied**

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO (JTA) — A Canadian immigration adjudicator has ruled that an accused Nazi war criminal cannot be deported, even if he lied to immigration officers in 1950 about his wartime activities.

The ruling by the Immigration and Refugee Board in mid-July may make it more difficult to expel Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

Adjudicator Ed MacNamara ruled that Josef Nemsila, 82, effectively obtained "domicile" status after living in Canada for five years and thus could not be deported, even for reasons that would have made him ineligible for entry into Canada in the first place.

Nemsila's 1950 entry documents list him as a farmer. He is a citizen of the former Czechoslovakia with permanent-resident status in Canada.

Nemsila was allegedly a district commander in the notorious Hlinka Guard in the Nazi vassal state of Slovakia.

He also allegedly participated in the roundup of the country's 100,000 Jews and their deportation to Auschwitz and other death camps in Poland.

Prosecutor Christopher Amerasinghe said the Justice Department would appeal the ruling. □