

NEWS AT A GLANCE**Ambitious partnership program changing UJA philanthropic style**

By Larry Yudelson

■ **Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Authority leader Yasser Arafat failed to make any significant progress as they met to hammer out details for a new agreement on self-rule. As they met, demonstrators renewed their protests against Israel's ongoing negotiations with the Palestinians. [Page 3]**

■ **Seven Lebanese and Brazilian nationals who had been suspected of links to bombings of Jewish buildings in Buenos Aires filed suit against Paraguay because of their recent extradition to Argentina. They charged that their extradition was "a political favor to the Argentine government." [Page 2]**

■ **The Israeli right-wing pirate radio station, Channel Seven, resumed operation after being shut down last week. Staff at the radio station said they were able to get back on the air because supporters from abroad had donated money and equipment.**

■ **Dozens of acres of woodland in the Jerusalem hills were destroyed in a fire believed to be caused by arson. The fire erupted near the site of a massive blaze last month that destroyed millions of trees.**

■ **Five members of an Israeli soccer team were released from police custody in London after being questioned about their alleged rowdy behavior on a flight from Germany to England. Members of the team said they were provoked by a flight attendant, who referred to kosher food as "disgusting."**

■ **A British university expert on international crime went before a parliamentary panel to present claims of Jewish involvement in organized crime in England. The Cambridge law lecturer made statements to the Home Affairs Select Committee about local Jewish racketeering and money laundering. The Board of Deputies dismissed his remarks.**

■ **Some Jews in Amsterdam voiced opposition to an outdoor advertisement campaign against AIDS. The ad in question features a white woman, in her underwear and holding a condom, and a nude black man.**

NEW YORK (JTA) — If Israel is no longer the needy cousin of the Diaspora, can a new relationship based on mutuality continue to attract hundreds of millions of dollars annually in philanthropy?

With Partnership 2000, the United Jewish Appeal is making a limited gamble that the answer will be yes.

The program, launched last year, twins American communities and Israeli regions.

Working together, the Israeli and American partners will allocate roughly a sixth of the money sent to Israel by each American federation to help its matched Israeli locality.

But in keeping with the emerging new Israeli-Diaspora relationship, and in marked distinction from the Project Renewal program launched in the 1970s by then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin, helping Israel's impoverished citizens is not the central goal of the UJA program.

Instead, as the name indicates, it is about partnership.

In Baltimore, which is matched with the central Galilee town of Karmiel and the surrounding region, the federation's Partnership 2000 committee has identified six areas of action.

They include job creation and economic development; education; peer relationships between Israelis and Americans; regional cooperation between Karmiel and its rural neighbors; and promoting good relations between the area's 50,000 Jews and 150,000 Arabs.

Social services also are a concern, but under the Partnership 2000 program they are treated differently from the Project Renewal experience.

"These are not Project Renewal neighborhoods," said Martin Waxman, who serves as a consultant to both the national UJA and the Baltimore federation for the Partnership 2000 program. "These are largely successful people."

Broad communitywide partnership

Recognizing that both Israeli and American communities have social problems, Waxman said, "We think we can learn from their [social service] professionals, and they can learn from ours." He noted the potential of exporting Baltimore's Big Brother-Big Sister League to Israel and of looking to Karmiel's expertise for Baltimore's new domestic violence initiative.

Waxman summed up the Partnership 2000 concept as "equal partners with both sides gaining and both sides gaining. No longer are the Diaspora partners simply the benefactor; we should be the beneficiary as well."

Arik Raz, who as head of the Misgav Regional Council near Karmiel, is one of Baltimore's partners, agrees.

"For the first time we see a place where we can help the Jewish community in the U.S., in programs where we build together," Raz said in a telephone interview from Baltimore, which he visited in July.

Waxman said the Diaspora benefit would come through personal, family and community friendships created with the residents of the Karmiel region. Baltimore youth on Israel programs will spend time in Karmiel and Israeli youth will come to Baltimore, enhancing "the Jewish identity of our children for continuity," he said.

Reflecting the hope of a broad communitywide partnership, Baltimore is involving heads of member agencies, such as Jewish Family and Children Services and the Jewish education bureau, in the process.

So far, \$600,000 has been allotted by the Jewish Agency for the Baltimore-Karmiel programs, reflecting the size of past Baltimore UJA campaigns.

The actual spending decisions are made by a joint committee of the twinned Israeli and American communities.

More than a third was devoted to economic development programs, such as funding for business development centers and high-technology "incubators" designed to help fledgling commercial concerns in Karmiel and the surrounding region.

A medical service program, aimed at turning Karmiel into a major regional medical center, was allocated \$85,000. A program to help with the

absorption of elderly immigrants received \$50,000. And \$30,000 was allocated to bring kids from Pittsburgh and Baltimore up to the region when they visit Israel. Another \$15,000 was allocated to a Jewish-Arab youth choir.

So far, the allocations process has followed along the lines of that in Project Renewal — the Diaspora partners participate with the steering committees of local officials.

Waxman hopes, however, that Partnership 2000 will incorporate programming suggested by the Diaspora partners as well.

One idea that has come up: a program of e-mail communication between schoolchildren in both countries.

In Detroit, similarly, the Partnership 2000 program has already involved parts of the community not usually affected by UJA programs.

Detroit chose to twin with a nearby Galilee region that includes the towns of Upper Nazareth and Migdal Ha'emek.

The region can claim the title of Israel's automotive capital on the basis of the country's sole Jeep assembly plant.

But the regional leaders have not been on the forefront of the UJA and Israel Bonds lecture circuits.

Crash course needed

After an initial visit to Israel last year, Detroit's Partnership 2000 committee decided that its Israeli partners needed a crash course in American Jewry.

The Detroit federation sponsored a weeklong, fact-finding tour of Michigan. The nine-member Israeli delegation included three mayors and one regional council head.

"They basically were taken on a mission," said Tova Dorfman, director of Partnership 2000 for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

The first goal of the visit was "to spend time in our agencies and understand how federation functions," Dorfman said.

After that came a focus on economic development and partnerships. The Israelis visited local universities and met with city officials and dozens of prominent business leaders.

"The president of General Motors' international division came and was very excited about the possibility of pursuing a relationship," said Dorfman.

And there was a social component to the delegation, the beginning of the person-to-person connection seen as crucial to Partnership 2000.

"It energized the community in terms of feeling connected," Dorfman said.

All this activity is being seen by many within the UJA and Jewish Agency as just the beginning. These people hope the program will outgrow its remaining connections to Partnership 2000 and old-style philanthropy.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, for example, does not like the program's emphasis on outlying regions.

Building up and populating the Negev and Galilee are seen as vital by Israeli policy-makers. Developing areas on Israel's periphery is the mandate of the Jewish Agency's Department of Rural and Urban Development, under whose auspices Partnership 2000 is being carried out.

Speaking to the Council of Jewish Federations earlier this year, Burg said the importance of Partnership 2000 is less the actual projects it sponsors, but the bridges it creates between Israel and the Diaspora.

"Since I'm looking for [Israel-Diaspora] contact, it's not enough to have Jerusalem, the Negev and Galilee" in the program, Burg said.

"We need to have it in places that will be grateful for the partnership," he said.

Along those lines, the Jewish Agency Assembly in June passed a resolution hailing Partnership 2000 and calling for its expansion.

Because "many programs appropriate for twinning are outside the scope of the Department of Rural and Urban Development," the agency assembly "resolved that the Department of Rural and Urban Development should make opportunities to participate in Partnership 2000 for all JAFI departments, the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education and other organizations providing facilities in Israel."

"Partnership 2000 is one of the first programs the Jewish Agency is implementing on Israel-Diaspora relations," said Judith Stern Peck, chairwoman of the UJA's national Partnership 2000 committee. "It's in the forefront, the forerunner of this becoming a stated mission of the Jewish Agency." □

Seven extradited to Argentina sue government of Paraguay

By Sergio Kiernan

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Seven Lebanese and Brazilian nationals who had been suspected of links to bombings of Jewish buildings in Buenos Aires are suing the Paraguayan government because of their recent extradition to Argentina.

The seven — six Lebanese and one Brazilian — were extradited from Paraguay on July 23 in connection with an 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 in Buenos Aires as well as the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy there.

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

Marquevich said the information he had was not sufficient to bring a case.

The seven are now bringing suit against the Paraguayan government for what they said was a "miscarriage of justice."

They further charged that their extradition was "a political favor to the Argentine government," adding that because Argentina has so far been unable to find those responsible for last year's bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish headquarters, "We were arrested as scapegoats because we are Arabs."

Meanwhile, Lebanon's ambassador to Argentina, Riad Kantar, accused Argentina of "discrimination against Arabs in general and Lebanese in particular."

"Every time there is a terrorist attack in Argentina, the government rounds up Lebanese nationals and charges them with being Islamic terrorists. And every time they are released for lack of any proof whatsoever," Kantar said.

Further charges against Lebanese nationals living in Paraguay were leveled by the country's foreign minister during an international conference on terrorism that convened in Buenos Aires last week.

Interior Minister Carlos Podesta told the gathering that there were residing in the eastern Paraguayan city of Ciudad del Este "at least 100 Lebanese young men who were militants in Islamic terrorist organizations, but are retired now."

Podesta refused to elaborate. Nor did he substantiate his allegations.

Ciudad del Este, from where the seven Lebanese and Brazilian nationals were extradited to Argentina, is a well-known smuggling point and a suspected money-laundering base for Latin American drug dealers. □

**Protesters revive actions
as Peres, Arafat renew talks***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Demonstrators renewed their protests against Israel's ongoing negotiations with the Palestinians as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Authority leader Yasser Arafat failed to make any significant progress in their talks.

Demonstrators who on Sunday had staked out a hillside near Nebi Samuel, located north of Jerusalem, were cleared out by security forces on Monday.

The evacuation took five minutes and there were no serious clashes, according to local news reports.

The protest at Nebi Samuel — and another on a hilltop near the West Bank settlement of Beit El — marked the resumption of four days of often stormy protests launched last week by settler groups opposed to ceding West Bank land in any future peace deal with the Palestinians.

The protests were suspended for three days in response to an appeal from President Ezer Weizman.

Most of those at the Nebi Samuel protests were residents of Jerusalem and nearby communities.

"We are not 'settlers' in the understanding of the word as it has been used here," said protester Tami Quinn. "We have our homes in Jerusalem, but we do support the idea that the land of Israel belongs to the people of Israel. We could not sit silently." The demonstrators said the site near Nebi Samuel was state land that, under the terms of the Palestinian self-rule accord, would be handed over to the Palestinian Authority.

Meanwhile, the right-wing group Zu Artzenu, or "This is Our Land," announced Monday that it was launching a nationwide effort against Israel's peace policies with the Palestinians. Members of the group said at a news conference that they planned to block major highways and intersections throughout Israel this week as part of the settlers campaign of civil disobedience.

The protests and threats of disruptions came as Peres and Arafat met in the Egyptian resort of Taba. At the same time, Israeli and Palestinian negotiating teams resumed their talks across the border in nearby Eilat.

'A delay would not be the worst thing'

The Peres-Arafat meeting was held in an attempt to overcome differences holding up an agreement for the extension of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Among the main issues of contention are: security, water rights, electricity and the participation of residents of eastern Jerusalem in Palestinian elections. Another issue is a Palestinian demand for the transfer of state land in the West Bank. Israel Radio quoted Peres as saying that Israel is ready to transfer authority over the areas to the Palestinians, but not actual sovereign rights to the land.

Before attending the Taba meeting, Peres told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he hoped that the talks with Arafat would help resolve those issues. Peres was quoted as telling committee members that an agreement could be wrapped up soon.

But sources at the meeting also quoted Peres as saying that if there is a delay, it would not be the worst thing.

Peres, in an interview with Israel Radio, dismissed settlers' demands that the next phase of the self-rule agreement be put before the Israeli electorate in a national referendum. "The settlers are like any other citizens of Israel who can come to discuss things concerning them," Peres said. "But if they come like a parliament and say we have to stop the negotiations, or go to a referendum, well, there is not two parliaments, but one."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expressed similar sentiments during a visit Monday to an army induction base. "I am ready to maintain contact, to discuss with them issues, but by no means to change the basic elements of the policy of the government," he told Israel Radio. □

**Immigrant unemployment
drops below national level***By Uriel Masad*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The number of recent immigrants to Israel who are unemployed has declined significantly and compares favorably with the national unemployment rate, according to Yair Tsaban, Israel's minister of absorption.

Addressing a special Cabinet session last week devoted entirely to issues regarding aliyah, Tsaban reported that unemployment among recent immigrants declined in 1995 to 6.5 percent. The figure was 33 percent in 1992.

The current national unemployment rate is 6.9 percent, Tsaban said.

But the minister pointed out that the full potential of the immigrants is not being utilized, because many of them are still not employed in the professions for which they had trained. Tsaban also identified two serious problems still confronting the immigrants, most of whom are from the former Soviet Union.

Although 70 percent of all new immigrant families have purchased their own homes, there are more than 40,000 families who cannot afford to do so, he said.

These families are in desperate need of government-subsidized, low-rent housing, he said, adding that the problem is particularly acute for 12,000 elderly olim couples. Tsaban called upon the government to quickly build low-rent apartments to rectify the situation.

The second problem is the negative stereotypes that Israelis associate with immigrants from the former Soviet Union, he said. Some Israelis associate those immigrants with prostitution, drunkenness and crime, he said.

Last week's Cabinet session also was the scene of a stormy exchange between Tsaban and Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Department of Immigration. Tsaban criticized the Jewish Agency for reneging on its commitments to co-sponsor several absorption programs, including the establishment of an artists absorption center and the running of the immigrants Student Authority. Similar accusations were also made by Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman.

But Gordon, describing Tsaban's claims as "scandalous," said that despite the agency's financial difficulties, there will be no cuts in its immigration or Jewish education budgets. Gordon blamed the agency's financial difficulties on the decline in funds transferred to Israel by Diaspora campaigns. Gordon added that the agency and the government are now examining the possibilities for increased cooperation, a process that will result in a new order of priorities for the agency.

In April, the Jewish Agency, confronted with a \$30 million budget deficit, announced across-the-board budget cuts. During its recent assembly in Jerusalem, the agency approved a budget of \$519 million for 1995. The agency also called upon Diaspora Jewish federations to upgrade their annual donations to Israel.

Also last week, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced that since January of this year, 34,500 new immigrants arrived in Israel. This represented a 2 percent increase over last year's similar period, the bureau said.

Of this year's new immigrants, 29,800 came from the former Soviet Union, 1,600 from Europe, 550 from Asia, 850 from African countries and 1,700 from the United States and countries in the Pacific. □

Liberal synagogue in London to welcome non-Jewish members

*By Lorraine Kirk
London Jewish Chronicle*

LONDON (JTA) — With British Jewry struggling like its American counterpart to reach out to the growing number of intermarrieds, a Liberal synagogue here is introducing a new form of membership for non-Jews.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St. John's Wood is establishing a Friends of LJS category aimed at non-Jewish spouses and partners of members as well as visitors sympathetic to the synagogue's philosophy.

"I find it extraordinary that there are so many obstacles in the way of well-meaning non-Jews who would like to participate more fully with us," said Rabbi David Goldberg, spiritual leader of the synagogue.

The rabbi said the community had to do everything possible to encourage non-Jewish partners to feel welcome, in the hope that they would want their children to receive a Jewish education.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for non-Jews to join us," Goldberg said.

To date, 10 people have expressed an interest in becoming friends. The main tangible benefit for the friends would be a seat at High Holy Day services.

The senior vice president of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues, Rabbi Sidney Brichto, stressed that the synagogue's initiative should not be viewed as condoning intermarriage.

Speaking personally, he said the synagogue had taken a brave step in recognizing a situation that affects many people. □

Investigation of accused Nazi ends after more than a decade

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS (JTA) — After more than a decade of delays, the investigation of a World War II French official — accused of handing over 1,400 Jews to the Nazis — has ended.

Maurice Papon, 86, will know this fall whether he will stand trial.

Papon, the former secretary-general of the Bordeaux regional administration, reputedly ordered the arrest of the Jews in 1942 and turned them in to the Nazi occupiers. He was indicted on charges of being an accessory to crimes against humanity.

French Nazi hunter and lawyer Serge Klarsfeld, who represents relatives of the victims, said the completion of the investigation is a turning point. "Law is in process," he said.

The investigation did not start until 1983, which partly accounts for why Papon was able to work in the French government until retirement. Until the early 1960s, he was Paris' police chief and he was a minister in President Giscard d'Estaing's cabinet.

Papon's lawyers succeeded in delaying the case for 12 years. □

French official's book results in charge of racial incitement

By Helene Mayer

PARIS (JTA) — A French official will appear before a court here in September on charges that his book contains language that will incite others to hate and discriminate against Arabs, Jews and blacks.

Jean de Boishue, secretary of state in charge of universities, published "Suburb My Love" in May.

The book is "full of totally racist ideas freely expressed," said the lawyers of both SOS-Racisme, the nationally known association fighting against racism, and a young West Indian man living in Breigny, a suburb of Paris administered by de Boishue.

In a chapter titled "The New Castaways," de Boishue writes about the travels of a Jewish couple, Vital and Louise, who constantly are on the move. Of Vital, also called "the Wandering Jew," de Boishue writes that he "was perpetuating the fate of his forebears," that "his six brothers and sisters were already colonizing all the planet" and that if he chose Paris, it was because "in a real city there is always some space for a merchant; for a Jew there will always be a street belonging to Jews." □

Appeal in Australia: Denier of Holocaust still wants visa

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — An appeal is under way here to reverse a decision banning British writer and Holocaust denier David Irving from the country.

The appeal involves a May 1994 decision made by Nick Bolkus, a senator and federal minister for immigration, not to approve a visa for Irving. Bolkus' decision reaffirmed a 1993 decision by then-Immigration Minister Gerry Hand.

In a federal court recently, the prosecution said Irving had been refused a visa to Australia because he was considered a liar, unreliable and a threat to the national security of another country, rather than because of the views he espouses in his lectures.

"The deportation order was in fact a culmination of a series of events indicative of Mr. Irving's bad character," said Stephen Owen-Conway, representing the government. He was referring to Irving's deportation from Canada, expulsion from Germany and lying to British and Canadian authorities.

Irving, whose books are available in Australia, has said the facts of the Nazi Holocaust are myths created by the Diaspora and the State of Israel for propaganda purposes. The Australian Jewish community has strongly protested Irving's entry into the country. □

Manchester Jews and Muslims battle over religious education

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — The Middle East appears to have had a negative effect as of late on the community of Manchester, England.

There, representatives of the Jewish and Islamic communities who serve on a local committee are at odds over the approval of a religious education curriculum for the city's schools.

Model religious education syllabi for schools drawn up by the national Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority refer to Israel as "a special place for Jews." Umar Hegedus, a Muslim educator consulted by the authority, said he did not have a problem with this model.

But this is not the case in Manchester.

Jewish committee member Henry Guterman said the Muslims protested Jewish references to "the land of Israel, Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple." Guterman added that the Muslims had responded with a "highly objectionable" syllabus of their own.

In reference to contemporary Muslim causes, it included "Palestine under Zionist occupation, where illegal Russian Jewish settlers fire randomly, killing scores of children." Similar disputes do not seem to have occurred in other communities in England. □