



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Five Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded in a Hezbollah attack in southern Lebanon. The clash was the deadliest in the area since a U.S.-brokered cease-fire two months ago halted cross-border fighting between the two groups. [Page 4]

■ Thousands of Israelis attended the funerals of Efrat and Yaron Unger, the Kiryat Arba couple killed in a drive-by shooting in central Israel. Israeli security forces were continuing their search for the attackers. [Page 4]

■ Pope John Paul II honored the victims of Auschwitz, urging future generations to infuse national pride with religious values. The pontiff met with representatives of a group dedicated to caring for the memory of the Nazi death camp, located in his native Poland.

■ A special plenary session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council adopted the agency's strategic plan. The plan calls for the umbrella body to establish a Washington presence, among other steps, to enhance its services to community members.

■ A Paris gathering of Jewish relief groups aiding Bosnia marked the shift away from rescue efforts to helping the war-torn nation rebuild. The conference was sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in conjunction with the Sarajevo Jewish community's humanitarian aid society La Benevolencija. [Page 4]

■ Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu tentatively settled on former rival David Levy as his foreign minister and hard-liner Rafael Eitan as minister of internal security, Israeli media reported. Netanyahu has not yet announced any Cabinet appointments.

■ Turkey said its air force planes took part in training flights in Israel last month as part of a military pact that has drawn sharp criticism from Islamic countries. The leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia called on Turkey to reconsider its pact with Israel in light of the election of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### From generation to generation: Reform leader hands over reins

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — The walls of the modest office with the spectacular view of Central Park are bare now.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler has taken down the school photos of his five children and the picture of the Western Wall, and has relegated them to boxes in the corner.

The man who led the Reform movement for 23 years and turned it into the largest synagogue movement in American life is vacating the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' presidential office to make room for his successor, Rabbi Eric Yoffie.

Sitting at his now-bare desk, Schindler is as he has been since he stepped up to lead the Reform movement's flagship organization — thoughtful, philosophical and strongly opinionated.

Schindler leaves as the movement is in the early stages of re-inventing itself, while Yoffie tries to fashion a future for Reform Judaism that is focused more on the core values of Jewish living than in the past.

The central message the new president delivered in his first official sermon, at his installation at Manhattan's Temple Shaaray Tefila on June 8, was "Torah, Torah, Torah. And our program will be: educate, educate, educate."

When he stepped up to the presidency in 1973, Schindler became a lightning rod for controversial positions and policies. Under his stewardship, the programs and policies of the UAHC focused largely on the liberal aspects of liberal Judaism. At Schindler's behest, beginning in 1978, the UAHC launched an outreach program to intermarried and unaffiliated Jews that is unmatched in scope in the Jewish community.

The movement also opened its doors to female rabbis and cantors as well as to gay and lesbian Jews. It developed formal mechanisms for social action through the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, which has offices in Washington and Jerusalem, and through the New York-based Association of Reform Zionists of America.

In the process, the UAHC grew under Schindler's tenure from 400 member congregations to 870. In the past two decades, the number of congregants connected to Reform temples has also grown by about 25 percent, to some 1.25 million people, said the retiring president.

In speech after speech during the past year as president-elect, Yoffie has made clear his intent not to neglect any of the programs that reach out from the Jewish community, whether through social action or by attending to the needs of intermarried families. But he has already developed new departments and programs indicating that his vision of Reform Judaism will be emphasizing the "Judaism" in liberal Judaism.

Already in place at the UAHC is a new department of Adult Jewish Growth, which will establish a network of Reform study retreats targeting different populations, from young unaffiliated Jews to senior citizens to families with young children.

Yoffie is also expanding the UAHC's education department. The department of interreligious affairs has been axed and the social action budget has been cut back, though veteran liberal activist and commentator Leonard Fein has been hired part time to run the UAHC's social action commission.

### A very personal imprint

Schindler leaves the UAHC with the organization indelibly marked with a very personal imprint that has, at times, proven revolutionary within Reform Judaism and within the larger American Jewish community.

He put outreach to intermarried and unaffiliated Jews at the top of the Reform movement's agenda. Today, with all its complex ramifications, outreach has become perhaps the best-known element of the Reform approach to Judaism. The result has been an influx of hundreds of thousands of intermarried couples and their children through Reform temple doors, where they have had more contact with Jewish life than they would likely have gotten anywhere else.

"On intermarriage, damn it, let's confront it, let's do something about

it. Let's not count the casualties before the battle is over," said Schindler in an interview last week as he packed up the contents of his UAHC office.

"Anything else is literally suicide," he said, admitting frustration with the view of some prominent Jewish sociologists that limited communal funds are best spent strengthening the experiences of Jews already committed to leading Jewish lives, rather than using them to try to attract the intermarried and unaffiliated.

Just one-third of the children in American intermarried families are being raised as Jews, he said, but 90 percent to 95 percent of children of intermarried parents who belong to synagogues are being raised as Jews.

He also cited as evidence of the success of his philosophy the experience of Seattle Reform congregations, which last month advertised in the secular press a brief Introduction to Judaism course, inviting intermarried and unaffiliated Jews, and non-Jews, to sign up.

The organizers "got 700 phone calls from people who said, 'I didn't think you were interested in me,'" Schindler said.

Another result of Reform doors being flung open wide to accommodate the intermarried was the 1983 adoption of patrilineal descent, a policy that deems Jewish the children of a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother as long as they receive a Jewish education.

It was a move that even the most moderate Orthodox leaders continue to decry, describing it as an irreparable break with Jewish tradition, which requires that Jewishness be transmitted along the matrilineal line, and a schismatic break with the rest of the Jewish people.

Schindler dismisses the notion that patrilineal descent has caused any kind of rupture in the Jewish people and says outreach is the initiative of which he is proudest, the effort for which he hopes to be most remembered.

Not all of his provocative proposals have been adopted, however. In an earlier era, at a time when the emphasis of Reform Judaism was on social action, his initiatives to strengthen the Jewish part of Reform Judaism did not always succeed.

#### **Committed to Jewish education**

Years ago, when Schindler floated the idea of establishing an elite day school for the best and brightest Reform students, his constituents were not very interested.

That he was not able to establish such a "prep school" for Jewish leadership, "so that when kids go to college or seminary we don't have to start [teaching them] with the Aleph Bais" is his biggest regret, he said.

Committed to Jewish education, Schindler oversaw a marked increase in the number of Reform Jewish day schools and an expansion of the Reform youth movement.

Five years ago, when Schindler was concerned that the Reform emphasis on individual religious autonomy had become too extreme, he called for the establishment of a synod of rabbis, "like a Sanhedrin," to guide the movement's religious boundaries.

The proposal "didn't get to first base," he said.

Schindler has been an ardent and articulate proponent of liberal political policies for both the United States and Israel, and said he would "miss the heady days of running from president to prime minister." The day before sitting down to talk with a reporter, he spoke with former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who Schindler described as "pretty disconsolate" over his loss.

Despite his liberal political views, Schindler was a confidante of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's, who was elected to office while Schindler was chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The 70-year-old rabbi, whose evocative rhetoric might earn him the title of American Jewry's poet laureate, if there were such a position, was raised in the bosom of Europe's Jewish enlightenment and rich religious diversity.

As a child, Schindler attended an Orthodox day school but worshiped with his family at a Reform temple in his native Munich, Germany.

When his family came to New York when Schindler was 12, he became a Bar Mitzvah in an Orthodox synagogue. His father, a Yiddish poet, would take him to Carnegie Hall on Sunday mornings to hear Stephen Wise preach, and then to the Lower East Side to listen to the anti-religious writer Abraham Cahan.

"My father taught me to love all Jews," said Schindler, whose early religious experiences focused on fashioning a modern Judaism suited to an age of intellectual incredulity.

And in the same inevitable way, Yoffie's leadership reflects his upbringing as an American Reform Jew.

Raised in a Worcester, Mass., congregation that was led for a time by Schindler, the young Yoffie was a regional president and national vice president of the Reform youth movement.

Born at the very start of the baby boom, Yoffie, who rose through the professional ranks of the Reform movement, wants to shape the Reform movement to better respond to the needs of his spiritually hungry peers.

"The dry bones of North American Judaism are stirring," he said in his inaugural address on Shabbat that made clear his vision of Reform Judaism. "Sparks are visible to the naked eye, ready to leap into flame; what is happening is nothing less than a revolution, smoldering from below rather than ignited from above."

Jews "are reacting to the boredom, the emptiness, the lack of meaning in their lives," he said.

"They are searching for the poetry of faith, because the need for transcendental meaning is as present as an open sore. This is a generation that wants to believe, that is seeking a modicum of decency, that is yearning for the sacred.

"The modern Jew — so successful and sophisticated, so cynical and skeptical — is yearning, knowingly or not, for God," he said.

Yoffie's challenge will be to get more Reform Jews to commit not just to wanting a more Jewish life, but to creating it for themselves. □

#### **Roman mosaic floors archaeologists**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Archaeologists have discovered a 216-square-yard Roman mosaic in the Israeli city of Lod.

The Roman mosaic, which dates back to the third or fourth century and which is the largest ever found in Israel, was uncovered in excavations preceding work to widen a road.

The mosaic was found in near-perfect condition.

Animal and fish motifs appear in the mosaic, leading archaeologists to believe that it was the decorative part of a floor in a private villa.

"There were no inscriptions found at all," said Miriam Avissar, one of the archaeologists who worked at the site. "The floor itself is extraordinary. There are images of all kinds of animals: giraffes, lions, gazelles, different animals attacking others, and fish from the Mediterranean region."

Avissar added that the Israeli Antiquities Authority recommended that the site be turned into a museum.

"But until some source of funding is found for that, nothing can be done," she said. □

# NEWS ANALYSIS

## Golan residents see Netanyahu keeping Syria on peace agenda

By Gil Sedan

KATZRIN, Golan Heights, Israel (JTA) — During Shavuot, the narrow roads leading up to the Golan Heights were filled with one long traffic jam.

At the time, it seemed as if all of Israel were coming to bid farewell to the region before the Israeli government handed over the Golan as part of a peace deal with the Syrians.

But last weekend, after Shimon Peres failed to win the race for prime minister, the Golan roads were nearly empty.

The beautiful stretch of strategic land that overlooks the Hula Valley and the Galilee was once again a remote extension of Israel.

With the victory of Prime Minister-elect Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, who has voiced his staunch opposition to turning over the Golan in a land-for-peace deal with Syria, few believe that the Golan will be under the control of Damascus anytime soon.

While Likud supporters throughout Israel were euphoric about Netanyahu's razor-edge victory over Peres, however, there was no celebratory atmosphere in the Golan.

Residents here believe that the area's future will not top the agenda of the incoming government.

But they also feel that the Golan question will not soon evaporate from the national agenda — not as long as there is any hope for peace with Syria.

Some here question how the hard-line stances Netanyahu expressed during his campaign could ever lead to a peace agreement with Syria.

But some, such as Sami Bar-Lev, for 16 years the Likud mayor of Katzrin, the largest town on the Golan, believe that Netanyahu will seek a deal with Damascus, but not in the same way that Peres did. "Of course, Bibi wants to make peace with Syria," said Bar-Lev, 53. "But we trust that he will follow the line of peace for peace, rather than Labor's line of peace for land."

Bar-Lev was echoing statements by Netanyahu aides in the wake of the elections that the new prime minister would first seek a series of initial agreements with Syria that would demonstrate Damascus' willingness to achieve warm ties with Israel before aiming for a full-blown peace accord.

### 'Explanation is simple'

Although the 14,000 Jews who live in 32 settlements on the Golan share the desire to stay there, the region is far from being a Likud stronghold.

Peres led in the Golan with 50.2 percent of the vote. Some 49.7 percent cast their ballots for Netanyahu.

And in the separate race for the incoming Knesset, Labor had the strongest showing of all the parties, with 31.2 percent of the vote.

By comparison, Likud parliamentary hopefuls garnered 16.3 percent. The Third Way, which entered the Israeli political landscape last year to lead the nationwide campaign against any territorial concessions on the Golan, won 17.7 percent.

It was one of the oddities of a surprise-filled election that the Golan residents backed Peres and Labor when they were avowedly ready to give up the Golan to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

"The explanation is simple," said Yigal Kipnis, 47, a farmer at Ma'aleh Gamla. "People voted here as Israeli citizens, and not as residents of the Golan."

"We had four very good years with the outgoing

government, and half of our people — just like in the rest of the country — wanted Peres to proceed with the peace process."

Kipnis is one of the founders of "The Way to Peace," an organization of Golan residents formed two days after the Nov. 4 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin to back the peace process, even if it led to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Bar-Lev agreed with Kipnis that the fate of the Golan had not shaped the voting patterns of the region's residents. This was particularly true, Bar-Lev said, because Labor had promised that any agreement involving giving up the Golan would require a national referendum.

Because of this, he said, even those who were determined to vote in an eventual referendum against giving up the Golan allowed themselves the luxury of voting for Peres and Labor, because they felt ideologically closer to them than to Netanyahu and Likud.

"The Way to Peace" was not dismantled after Peres lost the election. In fact, it may soon serve to pressure the Netanyahu government to exercise flexibility if and when there is a resumption of negotiations with Syria. Those talks were suspended in March after Syria failed to condemn the latest series of Hamas suicide bombings carried out in Israel.

While Golan hawks such as Bar-Lev put their trust in the policies of Netanyahu, others here are hoping that Assad's intransigence in the talks with Israel will serve as a guarantee for a continued Israeli presence on the Golan. As long as Assad remains in power, they feel, there will be little chance of progress on the Golan question.

Bar-Lev believes that after 20 years of staunch anti-Zionism, Assad simply cannot bring himself to make the ideological change of heart that will be needed for a full peace agreement with Israel.

While many Jewish residents here hope that Assad's inflexibility will give them many more long and happy years on the Golan, some of the area's 16,000 Druse residents, who are part of a centuries-old offshoot of Islam, are hoping that Netanyahu will prove to be a pragmatic negotiator.

"They say Bibi is tough, but they used to say the same about [former Prime Minister Menachem] Begin," said Ali Mar'i, of Majdal Shams, the largest Druse village in the Golan. If the Likud knew how to make peace with Egypt in 1979, he suggested, the party will also find a way for compromise with Syria.

"I have tried both war and peace," said Mar'i, pointing at his house in the middle of the village. "My house was destroyed in the Yom Kippur War. It took me two days to dig my mother from underneath the ruins."

"I know how important peace is."

### Psychological barrier

There is one question that Jews and Druse alike were unable to answer: Why did Assad fail to reach an agreement with Peres when it was clear that Peres was willing to give up almost the entire Golan?

"This is a question that one should ask Assad," said Mar'i. "I don't know the answer."

Kipnis felt that it comes down to a matter of trust. "I believe that the only problem is mutual suspicion," said Kipnis. "Assad does not trust Israel any more than Israel trusts him. Once that psychological barrier is lifted, nothing will stand in the way of a peace agreement."

In the meantime, the Golan continues to thrive.

There are no apartments available in Katzrin and more are now being built.

"The prices of flats have doubled in the last year," said Bar-Lev. "A three-bedroom flat, which cost last year \$30,000, is now being offered for \$60,000." □

## Netanyahu faces prospects of violence against Israelis

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — While Israel has elected a new leader, events this week demonstrated that the old problem of violence remains.

The terror slaying of an Israeli couple Sunday night and a deadly ambush the next day of Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon proved that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu will face tough challenges as he attempts to fulfill his campaign pledge to maintain the security of all Israelis.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal said Sunday's attack underscored the need for the separation plan between Israelis and Palestinians that was a frequent subject of discussion in the outgoing government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres. The plan, which called for a border of electronic fences and patrols between Israel and the territories, became bogged down amid budgetary concerns.

But Shahal said Monday that there was no other alternative for ensuring the security of Israelis, adding that he planned to persuade his successor in the incoming Likud-led government to pursue the plan.

Shahal's comments came after Yaron Unger, 26, and his wife, Efrat Unger, 25, of Kiryat Arba, were killed when terrorists riddled their car with bullets as they were driving home from a wedding late Sunday night.

The attack occurred near Zecharya, a few miles from the West Bank, on an isolated section of the east-bound road between Ashkelon and Beit Shemesh.

Efrat Unger was in her eighth week of pregnancy. The couple's 9-month-old son, Yishai, who was strapped into a baby seat in the back, was not hurt. The couple also had a 2-year-old son, Dvir, who was not with them.

Thousands of mourners attended the couple's funeral Monday afternoon, including Israel's Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Yisrael Meir Lau, senior army officers and Knesset members.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

In southern Lebanon the next morning, five Israeli army soldiers were killed and eight wounded, three of them seriously, in a Hezbollah ambush in the central sector of the southern Lebanon security zone.

Peres said Israel regarded the incident as "a serious attack" and that it would respond to it in "a manner, time and place that it deems appropriate."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns called on Hezbollah to "cease and desist its attacks on Israeli soldiers." The attacks were "the last thing that we need now" in the uncertain political climate generated by Netanyahu's election victory, Burns added.

Soon after the ambush, Israeli forces retaliated with tank and artillery fire near the Lebanese town of Nabatiya.

The death toll from the ambush was the highest since the U.S.-brokered cease-fire in late April to the cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. □

## Communist figure wants Jews banned from Russian television

By Lev Krichinsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The leader of a Russian pro-Communist party said this week in a televised interview that Russian television must be freed from the Jews.

Victor Anpilov, leader of the Working Russia Party, said that "most of those who appear on Russian television are people of Jewish descent."

Anpilov may become part of the Russian Cabinet if Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov is successful

in Sunday's presidential elections. Zyuganov has not yet made his Cabinet list known, but people both inside and outside the party say Zyuganov wants Anpilov to head Russian television.

President Boris Yeltsin is expected to garner 35 percent to 37 percent of the vote, while Zyuganov, according to recent polls, is expected to win 23 percent to 26 percent in a race that includes eight other presidential contenders.

In December's parliamentary elections, Anpilov's party won about 5 percent of the vote. Anpilov, a former journalist, spent several years in the 1980s as a correspondent in Nicaragua.

When asked what steps he would take if he is named to head Russian television, he said he would "first of all raise the [Russian] national spirit of country's television."

"There should be people of indigenous origin" who include those "who pronounce [the letter] 'r' correctly and whose faces represent the most typical [ethnic] Russian features," Anpilov said, adding that no "Russians" had been seen on national television for a long time. □

## Jewish relief groups shift focus to help rebuild Bosnia

By Edward Serotta

PARIS (JTA) — Donors around the world should move away from rescue efforts and toward the rebuilding of Bosnia, the hosts of a recent Paris gathering stressed.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in conjunction with the Sarajevo Jewish community's humanitarian aid society La Benevolencija, sponsored the one-day conference here last week.

Both La Benevolencija and the JDC remained neutral during the war in the former Yugoslavia, which allowed them to provide food, medicine and equipment to people of every ethnic background during the fighting.

In addition, Sarajevo's sole operating synagogue became a symbol of hope for the city during the 43-month war, halted late last year by an accord reached in Dayton, Ohio, under the watch of the United States.

Jacob Finci, president of La Benevolencija, headed the Paris meeting, attended by representatives of similar aid organizations from across Europe, among other groups.

Proposed reconstruction projects include:

- The training of members of the Jewish women's club of Sarajevo who have been making hundreds of "house calls" to those traumatized by the war. Some of these women are Holocaust survivors and have been particularly effective in helping those who have lost family in the war.

- A small-business development program in which Bosnians can learn how to set up and run businesses. The JDC created a similar program in Israel for Russian and Ethiopian immigrants, and JDC trainers will be sent from Israel to Bosnia.

- A center for senior citizens, many of whom remained in Sarajevo during the war and have few social contacts.

- A small pharmaceutical laboratory that can manufacture basic drugs. Several Jewish community members are professors of pharmacology in Sarajevo and have already assembled a team of chemists anxious to work.

Problems for Bosnians who live in various European countries and who do not wish to return home were also discussed.

For instance, Switzerland is about to end the refugee status it gave to about 20,000 Bosnians. Other countries may not be far behind. □