

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ Jews around the world marked the **yahrzeit** of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. At a special session in the Knesset, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed that peace must begin at home. Tributes were also held in New York, Washington and other U.S. cities. [Page 2]

■ Members of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Board of Governors gathered in Jerusalem to adopt its 1997 budget. The agency is in the middle of a five-year fiscal recovery plan.

■ All nine Jewish Democratic senators and 16 of their Jewish House colleagues released an open letter praising the pro-Israel and anti-terrorism agenda of Rep. Bob Torricelli (D-N.J.), who is running for the Senate. U.S. Rep. Dick Zimmer, the Jewish Republican challenger, has criticized Torricelli as unreliable on Mideast policy, citing a 1993 speech to a group that included militant Islamic leaders.

■ New York state's Court of Appeals ruled that an employer is obligated to make more than a nominal effort to accommodate an employee's Sabbath observance in assigning work schedules. The American Jewish Congress represented the plaintiff, a Seventh-day Adventist bus driver who was fired because she refused to work on the Sabbath.

■ Israel closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to warnings that Islamic fundamentalists were planning suicide attacks. An Israeli police officer shot and wounded a Palestinian who left a checkpoint after refusing to show an identity card.

■ Israel's High Court of Justice instructed the government to come up with an appropriate arrangement to enable the Women of the Wall to hold services at the Western Wall. [Page 3]

■ About 200 neo-Nazis rallied in Budapest to protest a government commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising. Albert Szabo, a Hungarian neo-Nazi leader, said in a speech, "Hungary will soon be handed over to the caftan-robed and kippah-wearing Zionists."

**A YEAR AFTER RABIN'S DEATH [Part 3]****Murder spurred Israeli teens to be more active in politics**

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For 14-year-old Gavriella Lazar of Jerusalem, life has never been quite the same since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin one year ago.

"I've become more active politically," says Lazar, the daughter of a Conservative rabbi who describes her political views as left wing.

"Before the assassination, I was somewhat involved, but since then I've started going to more demonstrations. I'm a member of Peace Now Youth, and I pay a lot more attention to what's going on in the country."

Convinced that intolerance and an atmosphere of hate led to the assassination of Rabin by Yigal Amir, Lazar says, "Now, instead of saying the first thing that comes to mind, I think about the repercussions. A lot of kids I know are more careful now."

This week marked the first **yahrzeit** of Rabin's death, who was gunned down Nov. 4, 1995, after a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

According to a new survey — and what emerged from interviews with youths across the political and religious spectrum — the Rabin assassination left a strong imprint on the lives of most Israeli teen-agers.

"The vast majority of teen-agers were affected by the assassination in one way or another," says Amiram Raviv, a psychology professor and researcher at Tel Aviv University, who conducted the survey before the May elections.

Looking at a political and religious cross-section of youths from 12 to 18 years old, Raviv found that all but a tiny percentage of those surveyed "were really sad and felt sorrow, some more, some less" in the days and weeks after the slaying.

While the survey revealed that those who supported the peace process were more upset than those who opposed it — a finding that surprised no one — it also found that supporters and opponents alike were shocked, first and foremost, by the fact that a political murder had taken place in Israel.

The next most shocking thing, members of both camps stated, was the fact that Rabin was killed by another Jew.

"The assassination showed, contrary to the popular assumption that only an Arab would kill a Jewish leader, that such a thing could happen here," Raviv says.

"This revelation was shocking because the nation's solidarity, or perceived solidarity, was suddenly shattered."

Bernie Stein, chief psychologist at the Ministry of Education, says, "Contrary to our worst fears, the kids have not been permanently traumatized. We were afraid they might overly mythologize Rabin, but that didn't happen."

Experts agree that the mass outpouring of grief from Israeli youth during the "shloshim," or 30 days of national mourning after the slaying, contributed greatly to their long-term well-being.

Israeli youth "found a collective way to mourn," says Stein. "They lit candles, they sat together and wept, and found a way to express their feelings. It was a bit like sitting shiva."

**Not much political movement**

In the year since the assassination, Raviv says, "kids have become more involved."

"They are reading more, watching more TV news and are more open to discussion," Raviv says. "On the other hand, there has not been much political movement. Very few of those who opposed the peace process became neutral, but some people who were neutral became supporters and more involved in politics."

Just how individual teens have coped in the year since the assassination has depended on their political and religious identities, Raviv says.

Before the assassination, he says, right-wing teens had a stronger sense of ideological identity than their left-wing counterparts.

"The assassination helped the doves define their identity, and served as a catalyst for group identification. Once the initial grief wore off, they

experienced a relative sense of optimism because they felt they had a cause, a legacy to fulfill."

Conversely, teens who opposed Rabin's policies "felt very pessimistic. They thought that the assassination would ruin them as a cause. It weakened their identity because they didn't want to belong to what some people called a 'camp of killers.'"

Regardless of their political stripe, however, all the teens interviewed for this article said their lives had been personally touched by Rabin's death.

"It was the worst day of my life," says Ari, a soldier from Haifa. "I was too young to vote for Rabin during the previous election, but I supported his peace process 100 percent."

Since the assassination, he says, "I've found it especially hard to be in the army. I hear motivation among soldiers is down drastically, which shouldn't surprise anyone. At least with Rabin we had the hope that we might not have to do reserve duty till we're 50."

With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "at the helm, it feels like the intifada might start all over again. I can't wait to be demobilized, so I can get out of this country, at least for a while."

Mahmed, a young Israeli Arab from Acre who also declined to give his last name, says, "The Arabs in Israel were just as affected as the Jews, perhaps even more so."

"Rabin gave us the first glimmer of hope that Israelis and Palestinians could one day live together in peace. I'm a Palestinian, but also an Israeli, and Rabin made it seem like the two aren't mutually exclusive. He treated us with respect."

"I want Jews to know that we are hurting, too."

Yonatan, a 19-year-old yeshiva student, says, "The worst part was recalling all the bad things I'd said during [right-wing] demonstrations. Sometimes, I said things out of anger and frustration, not realizing that a fanatic like Yigal Amir would be stirred by all the shouting."

"Don't get me wrong, I'm as opposed to the peace process today as I was a year ago. The difference is, I keep my opinions to myself. If only the peaceniks in the opposition would do the same."

Hadas Shroeder, a 17-year-old Jerusalemite, says the assassination was "a big shock, especially because I'm religious. I was so humiliated that someone religious could be a murderer."

Shroeder, who describes herself as "politically centrist," says that one year later, "I feel as if a cloud overshadows everything we do in Israel. Whatever we say, we try to think twice before we say it, we think twice before we do it. No one just yells out loud what they think inside."

"I think that's the one positive thing that's come out of all this," says Shroeder. "We have learned from it." □

## Israelis, U.S. Jews honor Rabin on anniversary of assassination

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israelis across the country gathered to light memorial candles, pray and leave flowers for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated one year ago by a religious Jew opposed to his peace policies.

Speaking Thursday at a memorial service at Rabin's grave on Mount Herzl, an emotional Yonatan Ben Artzi asked for his grandfather's forgiveness.

"Forgive us for believing in you, for being enchanted by your magic, for closing our eyes and not looking after you as we should have," he said. "A year has gone by and it's as if nothing has happened. We stood

here stunned, looking for the light at the end of this horrible nightmare, and the light never came."

Along with expressions of sorrow and calls for national unity, there were warnings that the political rifts the murder exposed had only deepened since the Nov. 4 assassination.

In an address before students in Tel Aviv, Rabin's son, Yuval, said the nation had not done enough soul-searching over the past year.

Referring to an incident this week in which a religious Jew allegedly threw hot tea on Labor Knesset member Yael Dayan in Hebron, Rabin said, "The boiling tea will turn again into deadly bullets, and the next political murder will cover us all in blood."

At a special session in the Knesset, President Ezer Weizman called on the nation to quickly uproot the weeds that spread on the eve of Rabin's assassination.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom some members of the Labor Party have accused of bearing responsibility for the violent rhetoric that preceded Rabin's murder, stressed that peace must first begin at home.

"Yitzhak Rabin symbolized what unified and brought together a people," the premier said. "He was able to unite the nation around common issues."

### 'We must continue on the path of peace'

Opposition leader Shimon Peres said that even before Rabin was killed, there were efforts by those opposed to his peace policies to "murder his character" through verbal attacks in which he was called a murderer and a traitor.

"If we want to truly preserve your memory," Peres said, "we must continue on the path of peace you started."

The period leading up to Thursday's memorials, which were held on the anniversary of the assassination according to the Jewish calendar, was also marked by controversy over a governmental decision not to declare the anniversary of Rabin's death a national day of mourning.

A petition to reverse that decision was rejected Thursday by the High Court of Justice. The court chastised the petitioner for suggesting that the government action was based on political considerations.

Thousands of people gathered at the Tel Aviv square where Rabin was shot to light memorial candles.

Television and radio broadcast special programs and songs that were played in the days after Rabin's murder.

In many ways, the scenes seemed an eerie repetition of those days, when groups of young people gathered in circles to light candles, cry and sing quiet songs.

But there was an edge of anger, as well.

"It's not enough, just to light a candle," one young woman told Israel Radio. "We must preserve Rabin's memory every day. Every day he is with us."

Meanwhile, hundreds of people gathered for a memorial in New York where speakers paid tribute to Rabin's leadership, courage and compassion and called for a rededication to his values and his dream of peace.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and New York's Israeli Consul General Colette Avital were among the notables honoring Rabin.

The tribute, sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and the Israeli Consulate in New York, mirrored other memorials across the nation.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington was to hold a tribute to Rabin Thursday night and Rabin supporters were planning to hold a candlelight vigil outside the embassy to reaffirm his vision for peace. □

## Settlers warn of violence after IDF redeploys in Hebron

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continued their talks for implementing an Israeli redeployment in Hebron, Jewish settlers warned of an eruption of violence after the planned Israeli troop pull-back.

The warnings were prompted by an Israel Radio interview Wednesday with a man identified as a Palestinian from the Hebron area who said Palestinians were stockpiling arms, including automatic weapons.

Should clashes break out with Jewish settlers, he said, "they will be in for a surprise."

The interview prompted a flurry of reaction from Jewish settlers in Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement adjacent to Hebron, who informed their local council head they would return fire if fired upon.

"We view this as a very grave matter," Kiryat Arba council head Zvi Katzover told Israel Radio. "Dozens of people called my office, telling me they would not be sitting ducks."

Representatives of the Jewish settlement in Hebron said the radio interview with the Palestinian only confirmed what they had been saying all the time — that an Israeli redeployment would result in bloodshed.

Palestinian officials denied the claims made by the Palestinian interviewee.

Sufian Abu Zaide, the head of the Israel desk in the Palestinian Authority, suggested that the radio reporter had been duped by a Palestinian opposition member, or someone posing as a Palestinian, who hoped to heat up the atmosphere at a crucial point in the negotiations.

Meanwhile, Palestinian trucks were barred Wednesday from entering Israel via the Erez crossing after Israeli intelligence warned of possible terror attacks.

The Karni crossing continued to operate.

However, Israeli security forces were carrying out thorough checks of Palestinian vehicles.

Yigal Pressler, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, warned that terrorist groups might try to carry out attacks over the weekend, when the Islamic Jihad marks the anniversary of the killing of its leader, Dr. Fathi Shakaki.

Shakaki was killed last year in Malta.

Islamic Jihad officials hold Israel responsible for the slaying and have vowed revenge.

Israel declined to comment on whether it was behind the shooting. □

## Two Palestinians killed; Israel denies involvement

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has denied involvement in the deaths of two Palestinians this week in the West Bank.

The Israel Defense Force said it was investigating the death of a 19-year-old Palestinian who was killed Tuesday during stone-throwing incidents in the village of Sinjil, north of Ramallah.

Palestinians charged that Abdallah Qarage was shot by Israeli soldiers or a settler.

Tuesday's demonstrations were prompted by the death Monday of another Sinjil resident.

That person was killed on the Ramallah bypass road.

Palestinians said he was shot by a settler, but the IDF said questioning of the dead man's cousin revealed that he had died as a result of a blow from a stone. □

## Israeli Supreme Court head responds to Orthodox attack

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Supreme Court President Aharon Barak responded this week to the harsh attacks that members of Israel's fervently Orthodox community recently launched against him and the court itself.

In speeches and in recent articles in the fervently Orthodox press, leaders of the community have attacked the court for excessive activism and for rulings that threaten the community's way of life and religious values.

Many of the attacks were prompted by the ongoing legal battle over whether to close Bar Ilan Street, a main Jerusalem thoroughfare, to traffic on the Sabbath and religious holidays.

"This criticism does not affect our judgment," Barak told the Knesset Law Committee this week. "We will continue to defend the same principles which we have protected until now."

"There is room for criticism, even harsh criticism, but there is not room for an attack on the judicial system, which damages the delicate weave of Israeli society," Barak added.

"Ours is a state whose democratic roots are not deep enough. We are all in the same boat, sailing on an open sea, religious and secular, right and left."

"These attacks reflect a lack of understanding of the democratic process."

During the committee session, Knesset member Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party criticized the judicial activism of the court.

He said many members of the Orthodox community feared that the status quo governing religious life in Israel would be changed by the court. □

## Court: Women entitled to equal worship at Wall

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's High Court of Justice has instructed the government to come up with an appropriate arrangement to enable a group of women to hold egalitarian services at the Western Wall.

The grass-roots group, Women of the Wall, had petitioned the court for the right to conduct services there that would include women reading from the Torah and wearing tallitot.

During the group's previous attempts to worship at the Western Wall plaza, the women were assaulted by fervently Orthodox men and women. □

## High Court: End gender bias in grants for yeshiva students

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's High Court of Justice has ordered the Ministry of Religious Affairs to take steps to eliminate gender discrimination in granting stipends to yeshiva students.

Sunday's ruling came in response to a petition by Nishmat, a women's studies center in Jerusalem, which said the ministry allots single female yeshiva students living in dormitories \$45 per month, while granting \$125 to single male yeshiva students.

The petition said male students who are married and do not live in dormitories receive about \$163 monthly, while married women students receive just \$40.

Nishmat also pointed out that women students are funded until the age of 30, while male students are eligible to receive a stipend until the age of 65. □

## Georgian court sentences author of anti-Semitic article to one year

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — A court in the former Soviet republic of Georgia has given a one-year jail sentence to the author of an anti-Semitic article that appeared in a Georgian newspaper in August.

Givi Alaznispireli, editor and publisher of Noah, an independent newspaper published in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, this week was sentenced for inciting racial and ethnic hatred.

The article, titled "Watch Out, Jews Ahead," said Jews were responsible for the high level of unemployment and other economic ills besetting the country after Georgia declared its independence in 1991 from Soviet rule.

The article referred to Jews as "vampires" who have been pumping the natural and intellectual wealth out of Georgia.

At the time of its publication, the article elicited a swift condemnation from Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who described it as full of "fascism and bigotry."

The article also prompted Georgian officials and intellectuals to speak out against the anti-Semitic publication.

Georgia, which is located in the Caucasus Mountains, is known as a country with a relatively low level of anti-Semitism.

During the Soviet era, Jews in Georgia enjoyed religious freedom to a greater extent than in any other republic of the Soviet Union.

In 1989, about 100,000 Jews lived in Georgia. The republic has a general population of some 5.7 million.

But many of the country's Jews emigrated during a civil war that broke out after Georgia declared its independence in 1991.

During Alaznispireli's trial, the government daily newspaper Republic of Georgia published a series of articles describing the traditionally friendly relations between Jews and Georgians, Jemal Adjashvili, a Georgian Jewish leader, said in a telephone interview.

Adjashvili, the only Jewish member of the 226-seat Georgian Parliament, said the editors of another Georgian tabloid would be put on trial by the end of the year.

The tabloid has recently published several articles describing what it alleged was a series of Jewish ritual murders. □

## Lutheran Church in Australia speaks positively about Jews

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — The Lutheran Church in Australia has issued a statement about Jews and Israel that was hailed by Australia's Jewish community for its sympathy and understanding of Jewish concerns.

The Statement on Lutherans and Jews, issued by the Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church of Australia, recognizes Judaism as a living religion and the State of Israel and the city of Jerusalem as holding "a central place in the faith and life of most Jews."

The thrust of the document deals with anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, acknowledging that "Christians over the centuries have often mistreated and persecuted the followers of Judaism and so have failed to live by the faith they profess."

The Lutheran Church press, before and during World War II, was criticized in the statement for its role in publishing anti-Jewish propaganda. The statement also

criticized Lutherans who may "through ignorance, envy or fear, accept bigoted information put out by extreme right-wing groups about Jews."

Diane Shteinman, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said, "This statement confirms the depth of commitment for a relationship based on understanding and honesty."

In 1992, the Catholic Church in Australia issued a major statement on building a constructive relationship with Jews, which was followed by the Anglican Church issuing guidelines to its members for strengthening the relationship. □

## Ceremony held to commemorate synagogue's 300th anniversary

By Randi Druzin

PRAGUE (JTA) — A small Czech town that once housed one of the largest Jewish communities in the region celebrated last week the 300th anniversary of its synagogue.

Czech political and religious leaders joined British, Israeli and Czech Jews to mark the anniversary of the dilapidated temple in Kolin, a central Bohemian town east of Prague that the Germans settled in the 13th century and plundered during World War II.

Some 200 to 400 guests visited the renowned cathedral of St. Bartholomew and the town's two Jewish cemeteries.

They also attended a commemorative ceremony in the synagogue, which featured the presence of Torah scrolls brought from a London synagogue.

After World War II, the British temple inherited the Torah scrolls from Kolin's ruined synagogue and also the decorative arch from the town's Jewish cemetery.

About 20 Holocaust survivors attended the event, including a handful who once lived in Kolin.

One of them, Hana Greenfield, described the event as "very poignant. There has not been a service in that synagogue in over 50 years."

"There are no Jews left in Kolin," she added.

The day ended with a performance of "Stones of Kolin," a play about six centuries of Jewish life in the town.

Author Judi Herman, who is a member of the London synagogue, said she found the inspiration for the play on a visit to Kolin's medieval graveyard last year. □

## Kibbutz company delays stock offering

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — A kibbutz-owned company has postponed plans to publicly offer its shares on the main London stock market because of the recent violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Plasson, operated by Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, which is situated between Tel Aviv and Haifa, was due to begin trading earlier this month. It would have become the first Israeli company on the main stock exchange.

But 10 of the 35 institutions backing the issue pulled out in the wake of the violence last month sparked by Israel's opening of a new entrance to a tunnel adjacent to Jerusalem's Temple Mount. As a result of the violence that ensued, a total of 76 people were killed.

David Cohen, who is with Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull and who is a financial adviser for the stock offering, said, "I only hope that politicians in Israel recognize that the effects of the volatile situation are financial and commercial, as well as political — and that in a small way, it may help the Netanyahu government to clarify its thinking about the costs of peace." □