



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 77, No. 67

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fund-raising entity gets name

United Jewish Communities will be the name of North American Jewry's newly created central fund-raising and social-service agency. Delegates attending the new entity's "Founders Forum" in Washington favored that name over an alternative by a vote of 73-59 after a passionate debate Monday afternoon.

The decision must be ratified by a not-yet-elected board of trustees of the new entity, which was formed by the merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal.

Meanwhile, Stephen Solender, the executive vice president of UJA-Federation of New York, was named acting president of the new entity. Solender will serve in his new capacity for up to six months, while retaining his permanent job. [Page 1]

### Kosovar Albanians arrive in Israel

A flight carrying 112 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo touched down in Israel on Monday afternoon. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the dignitaries who welcomed the flight, organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel. [Page 3]

### Official criticizes Sharon's timing

The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs reportedly criticized the timing of Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's current trip to Moscow. Martin Indyk, who is visiting Israel, conveyed the U.S. displeasure after Sharon had stated his trip was made in "full coordination" with American officials. Sharon's trip comes amid criticism from Moscow over the continued U.S.-led NATO air campaign against Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, in meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Indyk criticized continued Israeli settlement activity, repeating American concerns that such activity could hamper peace efforts with the Palestinians.

### Austria to hold war crimes trial

A former Nazi doctor who allegedly conducted experiments on children and went on to become a celebrated Austrian neurologist was expected to be charged this week with the murder of at least five children during World War II.

The decision to try Dr. Heinrich Gross, 83, marks the first time in 20 years that Austria has authorized a war crimes trial. [Page 2]

## New communal entity chooses name, appoints temporary head

By Julia Goldman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Leaders of the Jewish community's central fund-raising bodies have turned to a veteran Jewish professional to temporarily head the new national entity formed from the merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal.

Stephen Solender, the executive vice president of the UJA-Federation of New York, will serve as the acting president of the new organization, which this week was given an official name — United Jewish Communities.

Delegates attending the new entity's "Founders Forum" in Washington this week favored that name over an alternative by a vote of 73-59 after a passionate debate Monday afternoon. The decision must be ratified by a not-yet-elected board of trustees of the new entity, but officials say the organization, known until now as "Newco," will begin using the new name immediately.

Charles Bronfman, the entity's chairman of the board, announced Monday at a meeting of federation leaders in Washington that Solender was "on loan" to the new body, effective immediately.

Solender will continue in his role as executive vice president of the UJA-Federation of New York while working as the chief professional officer of the United Jewish Communities for up to six months.

Solender is assuming day-to-day management of the organization, including organizing staff and overseeing the operating budget, which totals some \$37 million.

He said one of his main objectives will be to make the new structure "as lean and cost-effective an operation as we can in the shortest time possible."

Meanwhile, the search for a permanent president continues.

Solender said that while he is not interested in filling the position on a long-term basis, he agreed to step in to the role because "I felt we were at the most sensitive stage" in the creation of the new entity.

"If a chief did not come forward quickly, I felt our potential would be seriously jeopardized," Solender said in an interview shortly after the announcement was met with rousing applause in the ballroom of the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel.

This week's three-day Washington meeting marked the end of nearly six years of planning for the merger.

Under the new system, local federation leaders will play a larger role in the governance of the Jewish community's most broad-based fund-raising and service organization. But significant features of the new entity have yet to be resolved, including the appointment of all permanent governing bodies and the appointment of a long-term president.

Indeed, the search committee, chaired by Richard Pearlstone of Aspen, Colo., and Baltimore and Daniel Shapiro of New York, has been at work for six months in the delicate process of identifying federation professionals and other leaders qualified for the top professional post.

But until now, no one has agreed to take the reins of the organization-in-formation.

The search process has been closely guarded in the past.

But one prospective president, Steven Nasatir, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, formally declared last month that he would not take the national post.

Robert Aronson, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israeli soldier killed in Lebanon

An Israeli soldier was reported killed Monday in the southern Lebanon security zone. Noam Barnea, 21, of Mevasseret Zion, was on patrol in the eastern sector of the zone when he was killed by a roadside bomb planted by Hezbollah gunmen.

### Yad Vashem seeks more names

As part of Holocaust Remembrance Day events in Israel, officials with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial are continuing their campaign to document all the names of the victims. After publishing "testimony sheets" requesting data about the victims in last Friday's Israeli newspapers, the officials said they had received requests from thousands of people for forms on which to list the names of lost relatives.

### Barak pledges referendum

Israel's Labor Party candidate for prime minister promised that if elected, he would hold a national referendum on any final-status agreement with the Palestinians. During a television interview Sunday, Ehud Barak said he had already requested a team of legal advisers to begin drawing up draft legislation requiring such a referendum, which he would submit to the Knesset within two months of assuming office.

Political observers said Barak's promise is aimed at undecided voters who are currently vacillating between Barak and incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Meanwhile, Netanyahu ridiculed Barak's promise, saying that the May 17 elections are themselves a referendum on the peace process.

### Navy fires at fishing boat

An Israeli naval vessel opened fire Saturday on a Palestinian fishing boat off the coast of the Gaza Strip, wounding two people aboard the boat. Israeli officials said the ship opened fire after the fisherman ignored orders to stop after entering a restricted area where sea traffic is prohibited.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Detroit, was another serious contender who declined the move to national headquarters in New York.

Pearlstone said Solender's interim appointment "gives us more time to continue the search" for potential candidates.

"The fact that we have an organization and top volunteer officers should make the search easier," said Pearlstone, a past president of UJA.

In February, Seagram's company executive Charles Bronfman agreed to come on board as the organization's top lay leader and Detroit businessman Joel Tauber agreed to serve as its executive committee chair.

Solender, who became executive vice president of New York's federation in 1986, helped oversee the merger 13 years ago of that city's UJA and federation.

Today, the New York UJA-Federation is one of the country's largest private philanthropies, raising some \$250 million annually.

Solender's career includes terms as executive vice president of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and the coordinator for Muslim and Middle Eastern affairs for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

He has also taken a leading role in helping the Jewish Agency for Israel, UJA-Federation's overseas partner, develop a strategic plan.

"My professional experience over the past 30 years," Solender said in an interview, "will be very relevant in helping me bring together both the federations and our sister, international organizations" — the Jewish Agency and the JDC.

A "change of culture" was needed to "get people focused on the fact that we have become one community," Solender said.

One of the first orders of business for the next 60 days, he said, will be the formation of teams to develop practical plans for the four mission platforms undergirding the new entity: Jewish Renaissance and Renewal, Human Services and Social Policy, Israel and Overseas, and Campaign/Financial Resource Development.

Diana Aviv, director of the entity's Washington Action Office and one of the authors of its Human Services and Social Policy platform statement, was one of the first of Solender's many well-wishers to congratulate him.

She said there was "palpable excitement" about the appointment of a man "who has undertaken and been a leader in historic changes."

Aviv remarked on Solender's reputation of giving respect to his colleagues, both lay and professional, and his record of having forged alliances with a variety of Jewish and general organizations in the realm of health and human services.

But he has shown "commitment to all four arenas that are the hallmarks of our new enterprise," she said, referring to the mission platforms. □

## Austria plans war crimes trial, the country's first in two decades

By Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — A former Nazi doctor who allegedly conducted experiments on children and went on to become a celebrated Austrian neurologist was expected to be charged this week with the murder of at least five children.

The move follows a decision by Austria's Justice Ministry that Dr. Heinrich Gross, 83, should stand trial for "participation in the murder of five of the estimated 700 children killed at the Am Spiegelgrund Children's Clinic at Steinhof in Vienna," according to a ministry spokesman. The decision marks the first time in 20 years that Austria has authorized a war crimes trial.

Gross was tried and convicted of a single charge of manslaughter in the 1950s, but the verdict was later overturned by a higher court, which ordered a retrial.

But the retrial was never held and the case was subsequently abandoned. Gross was permitted to return to work and became one of Austria's most eminent neurologists.

The case was reopened after fresh evidence, including declassified papers, was released two years ago from the archives of the former East German secret police.

In a recent interview, Gross admitted to referring children to a euthanasia board, but he denied that he had ever killed anyone. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Survivors make grim comparison

Survivors marked Holocaust Remembrance Day in New York with comparisons between the Nazi genocide of Jews and reports of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

"Ethnic cleansing, genocide, is happening as I speak," the president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Benjamin Meed, said at a ceremony Sunday attended by thousands in Manhattan's Temple Emanu-El.

"It can happen to anyone, to any group of people. The slaughter of Kosovo and in other places must be brought to an end."

### WJC calls remarks an 'obscenity'

The World Jewish Congress is demanding that the head of a French government panel investigating Holocaust assets retract remarks he made saying the Nazis were the ones who drew the distinction between Jews and non-Jews in France — not France's Vichy regime.

The group's executive director, Elan Steinberg, recently called the comments by Jean Matteoli, a concentration camp survivor who heads the commission, "a historical obscenity."

The WJC said it will ask the French government to clarify the comments, and implied that Matteoli should resign unless he corrects or retracts the remarks.

### British delegation visits Israel

A delegation from the British government's investment fund, Commonwealth Development Corporation, is visiting Israel this week to investigate the possibility of embarking on joint ventures with Israeli companies in agricultural projects in the developing world.

Corporation manager Andrew Hamilton, who is among the delegates, said the fund would consider investments ranging from \$250,000 to \$60 million. "We are very impressed with the Israeli companies," he said. "They have a proven technological superiority and vigorous management."

### Judge orders man's deportation

A U.S. immigration judge last week ordered the deportation of a Chicago man if he does not voluntarily leave the United States by June 30.

Under the terms of an agreement reached recently, Vincas Valkavickas agreed to leave the United States voluntarily after he acknowledged that he had failed to disclose his wartime activities when he applied to enter the United States after the war.

He is accused of serving as an armed guard during a two-day massacre in 1941 of more than 3,700 Jews in Lithuania.

## Kosovar refugees arrive in Israel on eve of Holocaust remembrance

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The poignant convergence of Holocaust Remembrance Day and the arrival of 112 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo was not lost on anyone.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the dignitaries who welcomed the flight of refugees on Monday, which was organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Israel agreed to grant the group asylum as part of the humanitarian assistance it has extended to their war-torn region.

The refugees, who came with virtually nothing, were then taken to Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, near Haifa, where the Jewish Agency will provide for their needs for the next six months.

Netanyahu referred to the refugees' plight during his remarks Monday evening at the state Yom Hashoah ceremony held at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

"We have special sensitivity to the suffering of other people, especially those who are uprooted from their homes and transported in trains toward an uncertain future," the premier said.

"Nothing can compare to the Holocaust of our people, but as Jews, we cannot stand opposite the images from Kosovo of thousands of refugees expelled from their homes, of frightened faces peering out of rail cars, of children who lost their parents.

"As Jews, we have a special responsibility to remember, to understand and to act."

The refugees will learn Hebrew and have the opportunity to work. After the six months, they will be given the choice of obtaining Israeli citizenship or returning to their homes.

Accompanying the refugees on their flight was Rana Raslan, who last month was crowned Israel's first Arab Miss Israel.

She traveled with the group, according to a Jewish Agency official, to reassure the refugees, who are Muslim, about coming to the Jewish state.

The arrival of the refugee plane included a reunion of sorts.

Among the refugees was the daughter of an Albanian couple who have been designated Righteous Gentiles because of their efforts to rescue Jews from the Holocaust.

She was met at Ben-Gurion Airport by Dvir Markowitz of Jerusalem, whose mother, Miri, was among the Jews rescued.

The refugees who arrived in Israel were members of 17 families that had told Jewish Agency and Foreign Ministry officials at a camp on the Kosovo border that they were interested in coming to Israel.

Appearing pensive and exhausted, the new arrivals expressed gratitude for the haven Israel had extended to them.

While some said they hoped to eventually be able to return home, others looked forward to a new start in Israel. "We'll try to start a new life," one of the arrivals, Linda Bayerkoti, told reporters. □

## Israelis report on anti-Semitic incidents

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Anti-Semitic incidents worldwide rose slightly in 1998, reversing a trend seen in the past few years, Israeli researchers said Monday.

According to the report, violent anti-Semitic attacks involving weapons dropped from 38 in 1997 to 36 in 1998. By contrast, major unarmed anti-Semitic incidents rose from 116 to 121.

During the past year there were anti-Semitic incidents in countries where they had not been reported in recent years, such as Russia, Argentina and Britain, the report said.

It said Russia's financial crisis, as well as the decision by two Swiss banks to reach a \$1.25 billion settlement of Holocaust-era claims, had motivated some of the anti-Semitism.

Researcher Roni Stauber of Tel Aviv University, which was also involved in the report, also cited the deadlock in the Middle East peace process as a factor. □

**REMEMBERING THE SHOAH****The Holocaust's 'third generation': Grandchildren focus in a new way***By Daniel Kurtzman*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Walking through the quietude at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Jodi Rosensaft felt a chilling familiarity tugging at her.

She had never been there before, but recognized the place all too well from her grandmother's descriptions. Seeing the women's camp, the crematoria and the infirmary in which her grandmother worked, the stories she had been told took on a reality difficult to fathom.

She felt her entire family's experience in the Holocaust pour over her in a flood of emotion — along with the recognition of herself as the sum of that experience.

"It brought everything I had learned full circle, growing up hearing the stories, reading the history books, seeing the movies, but I had never put it together with such a concrete vision," Rosensaft, 21, a junior at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, says of her experience in Poland last year.

Rosensaft's grandmother passed away last year. But her experience, along with that of her other three grandparents who survived the Holocaust, has left an indelible imprint.

Like many grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, Rosensaft carries a strong, even defining connection to her family's past.

The third generation is the generation to which Holocaust survivors, their children and all of those dedicated to Holocaust education and remembrance are increasingly turning their attention.

As the last Holocaust Remembrance Day of the 20th century approaches — Tuesday is Yom Hashoah — reality is taking hold more than ever that theirs will be the last generation to have a direct connection with Holocaust survivors and their experiences.

"It is the generation that is going to demonstrate how successful we have been in transmitting our parents' legacy to our children," said Menachem Rosensaft, Jodi's father, who is the founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

In many ways, the grandchildren may be better prepared to carry forth the legacy than were many of their parents, owing in large part to the openness with which the Holocaust has been discussed in recent years, both publicly and within families.

This new atmosphere indicates a shift from a time when survivors were either reluctant to speak to their children about the horrors they endured or the children were reluctant to ask.

"What is different is the third generation asks, and the survivor has no problem exposing absolutely everything to the third generation," said Rositta Kenigsberg, who chairs the second-generation advisory group at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and serves as executive vice president of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center in North Miami, Fla.

"From that, many from the second generation have begun to learn more about their parents' stories from their children's questions."

Because they are an additional step removed from the survivors' generation, the grandchildren "have been less conflicted about communicating with their grandparents about their experiences and asking them questions," said Eva Fogelman, a New York

psychologist who has worked extensively with survivors' families.

As a result, the Holocaust is "becoming a part of their family history for them" in a way their parents never knew growing up.

For 17-year-old Chava Meed, the Holocaust remains intrinsically linked with her identity.

She grew up in a family in which the Holocaust was always openly discussed — while she studied it in school and attended Holocaust memorial ceremonies.

And she said she has looked to her grandfather, Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and one of the most respected Jewish leaders in the country, with a certain amount of awe for "being strong enough to talk about it and being strong enough to keep telling the story, because it must be so painful."

The Holocaust is "one of the things that defines me and defines my family, and I think it's one of the most important things to carry on — the importance of remembering."

The challenge of remembering, according to Menachem Rosensaft, is essentially the challenge of the Haggadah, which reminds us that in every generation, every Jew must see himself or herself as if he or she came out of Egypt.

"The challenge to our generation and more so to our children's generation is to keep that connection going into a century when unfortunately the time will come when the survivors will no longer be there and it will be up to them to tell the world that each one must be able to relate to the experience," he said.

It is a challenge that his daughter is prepared to meet. Jodi Rosensaft has already devoted herself to the task by creating committees dedicated to Holocaust education and remembrance, first at her high school and now at her university. And she intends to continue drawing on her family's legacy as she looks to the future.

"It was their courage to stand up and let their voice be heard that allows my generation to identify ourselves as grandchildren of Holocaust survivors and let our voice be heard," she said.

And when she tells her own children about the Holocaust, she said, she will speak to them and retell their stories "in my grandparents' words." □

**Teen's WWII diary to be published**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — "The Diary of Anne Frank" may soon have some competition.

A Holocaust-era diary written by a 16-year-old Jewish Dutch girl for her younger sister, documenting in fairy-tale form life in a concentration camp, will soon be published by the Holocaust commemoration center at Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot.

The diary, written while the two girls from Amsterdam were at the Westerbork camp in Holland, tells the tale of a family of forest-dwarves uprooted from their home and forced to a far-away camp in a big city. The author of the story also kept a diary for herself, in which she documented life in the camp.

The journal was found in a box at the Bergen-Belsen camp following the liberation, and preserved for many years by a relative of the two girls, who died in the gas chambers.

The volunteer first revealed the journal to the institution a month ago. After it was authenticated, the museum decided to publish it. □