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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Barak calls for crackdown

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak hinted he would break off negotiations if the Palestinian Authority does not clamp down on terrorism. "The war against terrorism takes precedence over everything else," Barak said Wednesday, a day after two settlers were shot and wounded in Hebron.

Gunmen opened fire on the two settlers as they were driving near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the often volatile West Bank town. After initial reports mistakenly said the victims were women, the two were identified as Ephraim Rosenstein and Baruch Ben-Ya'acov, who was wounded in the shoulder. Rosenstein, who lost two fingers in the attack, called on Barak to do something, "more than just words."

Albright isn't postponing visit

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "has not changed in any way, shape or form" her plans to travel to the Middle East later this month, State Department spokesman James Rubin said Wednesday.

His comments came in reaction to reports that Albright may delay her planned visit to the Middle East because of an impasse in Israeli-Palestinian peace-making.

Russian chief rabbi speaks out

The recent spate of anti-Semitic incidents in Russia were "separate incidents" and were not part of an organized campaign, the nation's chief rabbi was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Just the same, "we want the state to protect us," Adolf Shayelevich said. He added that he did not believe the incidents had caused the recent, dramatic rise in the number of Russian Jews leaving for Israel.

D.C. police gird for neo-Nazi rally

Some 600 police officers are expected to be on duty for a neo-Nazi march in Washington planned for Saturday. The American Nationalist Party plans to march along Pennsylvania Avenue to Lafayette Park in front of the White House.

Police are expecting about 300 people to take part in the march and about 500 to participate in counterdemonstrations, including a vigil in front of the Lincoln Memorial organized by the local chapters of the American Jewish Committee, the NAACP and other civil rights and community groups. [Page 4]

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Looking beyond the numbers: The next frontier in intermarriage

By Julia Goldman

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the Women's Division of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation started a program for the non-Jewish partners of Jewish men, the goal was simply to educate, not to convert.

But the founder of the program says that many of the 50 to 60 participants have converted — an unexpected outcome of the classes covering Jewish holidays and ritual, Israel and tzedakah, as well as issues surrounding interfaith relationships.

Another outcome of the 6-year-old "Geshirim," Hebrew for "bridges," Lourdes Gittelman said, is that many women who have converted have become "very heavily involved" in the Jewish community.

They participate in synagogues, Jewish community centers, and the local federation.

How common the Miami group's experience is nationally has yet to be quantified.

The effect of outreach to interfaith couples is a "new statistic that they hadn't even thought about" exploring in the 1990 National Jewish Population Study, according to Gittelman.

But with the next NJPS right around the millennial corner, researchers have the opportunity to shine a new light on the effects of and responses to intermarriage in the American Jewish community.

The last 1990 study delivered a wallop with its finding that 52 percent of American Jews who had married since 1985 had married non-Jews.

That figure — as well as the determination of who falls into the "core" population of 5.5 million Jews — has been the subject of intense debate among prominent demographers of American Jewry.

The organized Jewish community took the findings as a call to action, spurring a national interest in Jewish "continuity" and the development of programs such as the one in Miami.

How the team of researchers convened by the United Jewish Communities, which is sponsoring the study, will draw its new portrait of American Jewry is not yet clear, as its members are "sworn to secrecy," according to those involved.

UJC's research director, Jim Schwartz, declined to speak to JTA at this point in the preparations.

What is known is that the 2000 study, which plans to survey 5,000 households from January to June, will be the largest to date. And, with its \$4 million budget — provided largely by private donations, but also with funding from community federations — the most expensive.

The 1990 NJPS was sponsored by the Council of Jewish Federations, the umbrella group for Jewish community federations, that together with the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal now forms the United Jewish Communities.

This time around, the survey is bound to produce new insights into the American Jewish profile, including clues about how spirituality and informal Jewish experiences shape Jewish identity.

Regardless of those findings, however, any data related to intermarriage are sure to be among the most closely scrutinized.

Separately, sociologists and demographers are already making plans for new national studies on intermarriage, and particularly the ways interfaith partners are

MIDEAST FOCUS

Palestinian stance questioned

An architect of the Oslo accords called the Palestinian Authority's insistence on immediate implementation of the Wye accord's interim land-for-security deal a mistake.

Fretting over the details of an interim agreement would only make it more difficult to achieve the principle objective, the final-status agreement, Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the chief Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said he would be willing to meet with his Israeli counterparts whenever Israel is ready to implement the Wye agreement. Negotiations between the two sides broke down earlier this week over Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's proposal that Wye be linked to a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Couple questioned about prank

Israeli police detained an elderly Herzliya couple suspected of phoning the Knesset last week and falsely reporting the death of legislator Amnon Rubinstein. Rubinstein, who was in the hospital at the time, was released this week.

Police suspect the husband, 70, had posed as Rubinstein's doctor during the early-morning phone call to the Knesset. The wife, 68, had initially admitted to calling the Knesset at 3 a.m., around the time the false report was made, but said she was trying to reach a legislator. The husband denied any involvement in the prank.

Police began investigating the couple after tracing calls made to the Knesset at that hour.

Arafat celebrates 70th birthday

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat celebrated his 70th birthday Wednesday. Reflecting on his life, he said, "It was a hard journey, but a strong one toward liberation."

He said his birthday wish was to pray one day in Jerusalem, "the capital of Palestine."



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raising their children.

The American Jewish Committee is laying the groundwork for a study aimed at addressing the question, "What's actually happening among mixed marrieds?" according to Steven Bayme, the AJCommittee's director of American Jewish communal affairs.

The results of the study, now in its pilot stage, are slated to surface in 2002 and will draw from qualitative interviews with some 150 intermarried couples.

Sylvia Barack Fishman of Brandeis University is beginning the initial stage of research for the AJCommittee study this month by interviewing 25 Boston-area households, with a focus on families with children under 21 years old.

She says she is interested in discussing with each partner "what aspects of Judaism as a culture, Judaism as a religion, Jewishness as a peoplehood or ethnicity are salient to them."

Building on research conducted in the past, Fishman said, she hopes this kind of systematic "probing discussion," as opposed to only gathering statistics, will "take our knowledge to another stratum."

At the same time, David Gordis, founding director of the Susan and David Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies, an independent research and resource center, is starting a study of intermarried families that will track the same subjects over time, giving a more complete picture of the influences that affect their decisions regarding Jewish life.

Some of the research already done were follow-ups to the 1990 study, including re-examinations of intermarriage by Bruce Phillips, a professor of Jewish communal service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles and a senior fellow of the Wilstein Institute.

Phillips' work includes the 1993 Survey on Mixed Marriage and the 1995 Survey of Non-Jewish Spouses, both of which drew from the survey sample used in the 1990 NJPS.

Phillips was a member of the CJF advisory committee that designed the 1990 NJPS, a role he is repeating for the 2000 survey.

Last year Phillips published a paper reviewing the results of his follow-up studies titled "Children of Intermarriage: How Jewish?"

His answer: Not very.

"Only a minority of the children of intermarriages are being raised both ethnically and religiously as Jews," Phillips writes.

Phillips found that 18 percent of children under 18 in intermarriages are currently Jewish; 34 percent are Christian, and a quarter were being raised as both.

To determine the factors associated with raising Jewish children in intermarriages, Phillips focused on families in which the Jewish partner had two Jewish parents.

He found several factors to be "key predictors":

- The Jewish parent is responsible for undertaking the children's religious upbringing;
- The couple has a network of Jewish friends and wants Jewish neighbors;
- The Jewish parent has siblings married to Jews and the family has little or no contact with the Gentile in-laws;
- The Jewish parent is a college graduate; and
- The religious identification of the Jewish and Gentile parents.

Phillips found that the informal social network is more important even than the Jewish background of the Jewish parent.

The importance of having Jewish friends and neighbors is "an important and overlooked mechanism for connecting the intermarried family with the Jewish community," Phillips writes.

But he also points out that the Jew who wants to raise Jewish children in an intermarriage seeks out Jewish friends or neighbors to "facilitate that process."

In an interview, Phillips said his research indicates that "a lot of the debate" about intermarriage — for example, whether rabbis should officiate at such ceremonies — "is misplaced."

"People marry anyway," he said. "What they do later, on the other hand, does seem to be influenced by friends and neighbors and informal contact." □

JEWISH WORLD

Germany returns drawing

German officials returned a van Gogh drawing to the heir of a Jewish collector forced by the Nazis to sell his art holdings at a fraction of their value.

The drawing, "Olive Trees," has been in Berlin museums since 1935, when owner Max Silberberg was forced to auction off his collection.

Two more paintings from his collection have been identified in the United States and Russia, but terms for obtaining their handover have not been reached, according to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which had identified the van Gogh drawing.

Eichmann family seeks memoirs

The family of Adolf Eichmann is reportedly seeking the memoirs written by his father in prison before he was hanged in Israel in 1962 for Nazi war crimes. Since Eichmann's death, the manuscript has been stored in Israel's national archives.

The national archivist, Avitar Friezel, said Wednesday that the document, which he described as part memoirs, part opinion, should be made available to the public, but that the legal issue of possession must first be resolved.

Torah scroll to be presented

A Torah scroll will be presented later this month at the sole remaining synagogue in the town of Oswiecim, Poland.

Among those participating in the Aug. 30 dedication ceremony will be members of the Cherry Lane Minyon in Long Island, N.Y., which raised funds for the scroll.

After the ceremony, participants will visit the nearby Auschwitz death camp.

Groundbreaking for an educational and cultural center, to be built around the Oswiecim synagogue, is planned for November.

Court bars Christian symbol

The inclusion of a Christian symbol on the official seal of a Missouri town is unconstitutional, a federal court recently ruled.

The town of Republic, Mo., has until Aug. 9 to remove the "Ichthus," a fish symbol representing Jesus, from its seal, according to the Missouri court's ruling.

Charging that the symbol violated the separation of church and state guaranteed by the First Amendment, the American Civil Liberties Union successfully sued the municipality on behalf of a non-Christian resident of the town.

Republic's small Jewish community was not actively involved in the lawsuit, according to local news reports.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Ruling in favor of Christian Coalition not likely to change Jewish advocacy

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A federal judge's ruling that cleared the Christian Coalition of wrongdoing in advocating the election of Republican candidates could prompt other interest groups to engage in more vigorous partisan political activity.

But Jewish groups and other nonprofits that have long been constrained by federal tax law from taking sides in campaigns are not likely to be affected by the ruling.

The Federal Election Commission sued the Christian Coalition in 1996, charging that the conservative Christian lobby's non-partisan posture was bogus and that it illegally promoted the election of Republican candidates through voter guides and activities coordinated with Republican campaigns.

The FEC said the guides, distributed in churches around the country, were blatantly partisan and therefore violated federal law prohibiting tax-exempt groups such as the Christian Coalition from supporting a political party.

But U.S. District Judge Joyce Green ruled on Monday that the guides were not partisan because they were not coordinated with candidates or campaigns. The guides made clear which candidates the coalition preferred, but that was not illegal, she said.

At the same time, Green ordered the coalition to pay a civil penalty because she determined that the group went too far in advocating the re-election of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in 1994 and by sharing its mailing list with the Senate campaign of Oliver North in 1994. The amount will be determined later.

Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson called the ruling "a major victory for free speech in this country."

The decision is separate from an IRS ruling released in June that found the Christian Coalition was not entitled to tax-exempt status because its political activities were too partisan. The group's voter guides, long considered one of its most effective organizing tools, were also the main source of contention in that case.

Many interest groups interpreted the IRS decision as a signal that employing the Christian Coalition's brand of partisan politicking would almost certainly risk their tax-exempt status. But for businesses and corporations that are not constrained by such considerations — including groups such as the AFL-CIO, which sided with the Christian Coalition in the FEC case — Monday's ruling could encourage them to stretch the laws and step up their support for certain candidates, experts say.

For Jewish groups, many of which have long been frustrated that they are prohibited from weighing in on the candidacies of people such as former Ku Klux Klan member David Duke, the ruling does not portend any foreseeable change.

Banned by law from engaging in "substantial political activity," tax-exempt Jewish advocacy groups try to remain non-partisan, with their political activities limited to voter education rather than explicit judgments.

The JAC Education Foundation and the National Jewish Democratic Council, for example, have in the past distributed voter guides to help educate Jewish voters about issues ranging from U.S.-Israel relations to the separation of church and state.

"The constraints that have been there I believe will continue to be there, and the decision by the IRS will only strengthen the reluctance of groups to cross the line," said Jess Hordes, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office.

For the mainstream Jewish community, he added, "it's just not part of the culture of the organizations to get involved politically that way, so I don't think there's going to be any significant change in that regard."

The ruling in favor of the Christian Coalition has provided a boost to an organization that has been beset by financial problems and disarray in the ranks of its leadership. The coalition is currently \$2.5 million in debt and remains strongly organized in only seven states, down from the 48 it claimed last year, The New York Times reported this week.

The group misrepresented its base — many of the 1.8 million people on its books, it turns out, were not real supporters, according to the Times. □

Jewish, civil rights groups to protest neo-Nazi march

By Eric Fingerhut

Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Coming on the heels of a number of recent hate crimes across the country, the planned Washington march of a neo-Nazi group calling itself the American Nationalist Party is spurring multiple responses by area groups.

Activities include an effort to get the city to revoke the group's permit for the march, peaceful vigils and a project in which the neo-Nazi group will indirectly aid the families of hate-crime victims.

The American Nationalist Party, previously known as Knights of Freedom, has obtained a police permit to march from Edward R. Murrow Park, at 19th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, to Lafayette Square, across from the White House, from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

The U.S. Park Police expects about 300 people to participate in the march and about 500 counterdemonstrators to gather in different places around the city.

Between 500 and 600 officers are expected to be on duty to protect against the kind of violence and confrontations that have marked similar demonstrations in the past.

In 1990, a Ku Klux Klan march to the U.S. Capitol resulted in more than 30 arrests, and a 1982 Klan rally ended with rioting and looting by some of those who were demonstrating against it.

The founder of the group is a 20-year-old South Carolina college student who has legally changed his name to Davis Wolfgang Hawke to "pay tribute" to his "long line of English relatives," according to his personal statement on the group's Web site. His original name was Andrew Greenbaum, but Hawke claims to have no Jewish bloodlines.

"My stepfather, Hyman Greenbaum (a one-quarter Jew), is incorrectly listed on my birth certificate," says the statement.

In fact, Hawke claims, his mother had an affair with an unknown man of German descent who is Hawke's biological father.

On his Web site statement, Hawke says the "purpose of my life, and the reason for the existence of this party, is to take back what the liberals and the Jewish ruling elite have swindled from us — White America and its proud history."

According to the Anti-Defamation League, the American Nationalist Party, while being run out of Hawke's college dorm room, has used its Web site to present itself as a rapidly growing organization, although there has been no evidence that the group has a significant off-line presence. The group has launched the "White Pride News Service," which claims to send e-mail newsletters and updates about the group to "1,600 white racialists in 43 countries."

After the bombings of three synagogues, the murder of a gay couple in California and the shootings of minorities in the Midwest during the Fourth of July weekend, many in the Washington area feel that a march through the nation's capital by an organization with a hate-filled ideology cannot be ignored.

The Anti-Defamation League is sponsoring a program called Project Lemonade, which will use the march to raise money for the victims of hate crimes, or "turn a bitter thing sweet," according to ADL regional director David Friedman.

Along with more than a dozen co-sponsoring organizations so far — from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington to the Asian-Pacific American Bar Association — the ADL will ask individuals, businesses and other groups to pledge a few cents for every minute that the Nationalist demonstrates in Washington.

All the money raised will be given to the families of Ricky Byrdson and Won-Joon Yoon, the two men murdered, allegedly by World Church of the Creator adherent Benjamin Smith earlier this month. The ADL also will send an acknowledgment of the donation to the American Nationalist Party.

Friedman believes that Project Lemonade is a "nonviolent, peaceful way to express outrage" at the ANP and what they represent. Friedman is discouraging counterdemonstrations because they have the potential of leading to confrontations and only give hate groups more media attention than they deserve.

Other local organizations, though, are organizing more visible responses. A peaceful vigil from 2 to 4 p.m. in front of the Lincoln Memorial, far removed from the American Nationalist Party march, is being set up by the local chapters of the American Jewish Committee and the National Conference for Community and Justice, along with the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, the Latino Civil Rights Center and Jews United for Justice.

David Bernstein, regional director of the AJCommittee, said that the event will be an affirmation of "democracy, community and respect," and he hopes it will attract representatives of every ethnic, racial and religious group in the area.

Washington Mayor Anthony Williams plans to address the counter-rally, along with various community and civil rights leaders and musicians such as Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary fame.

Elsewhere on the Mall, the People's Movement for Racial Healing, Diversity and Justice — a project of the African American Holiday Association — is holding Unity in Diversity Day from noon to 6 p.m.

Ayo Handy-Clary, founder and director of the group, said her organization's event was planned over a year ago, and she believes the American Nationalist Party picked Aug. 7 in order to "rain on our parade."

Handy-Clary said the goal of Unity in Diversity Day is to "stop the violence and increase the peace, [and] heal from hatred and intolerance." The day's program will include an ecumenical service; a memorial ceremony for hate-crime victims; "racial healing activities that honor our diversity"; forums on various issues; and a cultural marketplace of vendors.

One other group, while denying that it wants confrontation or violence, plans to directly challenge the American Nationalist Party.

Bruce Cooley, a coordinator of D.C. United to Stop the Nazis, said his group will hold a rally in Murrow Park, where the American Nationalist Party will begin its march, from noon to 2 p.m. Then, Cooley said, members of his group will "line the periphery" of the demonstration with signs and chanting.

While "committed to a peaceful counterdemonstration," Cooley said his organization is concerned about violence. Therefore, his group is training some people as "peacekeepers," who will make sure their members are "controlled" and "respond to provocations in a peaceful but effective way." □

(JTA Correspondent Daniel Kurtzman in Washington contributed to this report.)