



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### FOCUS ON ISSUES

## Federations begin to re-examine process of funding needs abroad

By Julia Goldman

### Sites urged to review security

Leaders from the United Jewish Communities and Anti-Defamation League urged Jewish institutions to review their security procedures in light of the recent rash of hate crimes around the country — but not to go overboard.

"We need awareness, rather than armed bunkers or fortresses," Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL, said at a Tuesday news conference in New York.

### Swastikas scrawled at Columbine

Newly scrawled swastikas were found on the walls of two bathrooms and etched into the brick outside Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., on Tuesday. Students returned this week for their first days of classes since the April 20 shooting rampage by Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris that killed 12.

### U.N. won't reschedule session

The United Nations refused a request to move the start of the U.N.'s General Assembly from the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur.

In a response to the American Jewish Congress, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that only the General Assembly itself could revise the Sept. 20 date.

Annan apologized for any "discomfort that the decision of the General Assembly may have caused you and members of the Jewish faith around the world."

President Clinton has agreed to skip the opening session.

### Group helps Turkish victims

The American Jewish Committee donated \$25,000 to aid victims of Tuesday's earthquake in Turkey. The earthquake in northwestern Turkey killed at least 2,000 and injured hundreds more.

Meanwhile, Israel said it would send three planes of emergency aid and personnel to help victims of the earthquake.

### L.A. preschool reopens

The Los Angeles camp and preschool where a white supremacist shot five victims last week reopened Monday amid balloons, downs and increased security.

Meanwhile, California announced the formation of a commission to monitor extremist groups and coordinate responses to hate crimes. [Page 3]

NEW YORK (JTA) — The 11th of August may have seemed like an ordinary Wednesday, but that summer afternoon marked the start of a transformation in the way many American Jews send funds to Israel and other parts of the Jewish world.

Gathered in a hotel in Manhattan were representatives of more than a dozen Jewish community federations from around the country, together with the heads of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The group was there to lay the groundwork for determining how the dollars raised for overseas needs by federations in their annual campaigns will be spent, and by whom.

What made the first meeting of the United Jewish Communities' Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee "historic and dramatic," in the words of UJC's acting President Stephen Solender, was that it turned most of the decision-making power over to the federations. That shift in control was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the UJC, which emerged this spring from the merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal.

Since its "Founders Forum" in April, several significant steps have been taken toward setting up the revamped fund-raising and social service organization.

Other necessary elements of the merger — including hiring a chief professional officer and receiving New York State approval — have yet to be concluded.

Of all the changes, however, the most anticipated — and perhaps the most sensitive — is the creation of the overseas committee, which is known by its acronym, ONAD.

"The critical thing," said Alan Jaffe, a lawyer in New York who chairs ONAD, "is that for the first time since the formation of the UJA in 1939, you have the providers of funds sitting down directly with the major providers of services."

In the past, the JDC and the UIA, on behalf of the Jewish Agency, worked out among themselves how to divvy up the funds raised for the United Jewish Appeal by the federations.

In 1998, local federations raised \$300 million for overseas Jewish needs worldwide, of which about two-thirds went to the Jewish Agency and a little less than one-third to the JDC. The remainder went to NYANA, the New York-based refugee resettlement agency, and to cover overhead costs. By signing on to the merger, federations agreed to maintain for two years their overseas allocations at 1998 levels in order to stabilize JDC and the Jewish Agency while ONAD completes its initial work.

In its first meeting last week, ONAD came up with guidelines for an assessment of global Jewish needs and a plan for the next 10 months. A two-year plan — effective Jan. 1, 2001 — is due from the 25-member committee next June.

Part of the committee's charge is determining what are "core" needs — such as the rescue of Jews in danger — to which all federations will contribute, and what are "elective" needs, which federations can pursue on a selective basis.

Some insiders say the Jewish Agency and the JDC have decades of experience with rescue, relief and education work and should continue to be promoted as the main providers of such services.

Depending on the ONAD committee's allocation plan, however, the Jewish Agency and the JDC may have to compete with other organizations working in those areas that may be desirous of UJC funding.

With the creation of the "federation-owned" allocations process, "they no longer

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Explosives defused in West Bank

Israeli border police safely defused three explosive devices discovered near Israeli-Palestinian liaison offices north of Ramallah overnight Tuesday.

The discovery of the explosive devices in the West Bank was the latest in what is seen as an increase in terrorist activities over the past two weeks.

Israeli military sources believe Hamas, which opposes Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking efforts, has been behind most of the attacks in a bid to undermine the peace process.

### Israeli killed in Lebanon

One Israeli soldier was killed and three wounded in southern Lebanon in a clash with Hezbollah fighters, according to media reports.

The clash in a no-man's land near the Israeli security zone came after the death of a Hezbollah commander in a roadside bombing in the Lebanese port city of Sidon.

Hezbollah is holding Israel responsible for that bombing, but Israel said it had nothing to do with it and suspects it might have been carried out by a rival Lebanese group.

### Jewish settler acquitted

An Israeli court acquitted a Jewish settler of charges he killed a Palestinian boy in 1996. In making the decision in the case of Nahum Korman, the judge cited contradictory evidence given by two children.

### Musicians bare arms in heat

Members of the Israeli Philharmonic shocked concert-goers in Sardinia when they took off their black tuxedo jackets and performed the second half of their concert in shirt sleeves because of the heat.

Italian newspapers quoted Philharmonic director Zubin Mehta as saying he didn't approve of this weekend's breach in protocol, but allowed the musicians to do so because of the circumstances.

have the guarantee that the money is going to come in," said Eva Lynn Gans, the president of the Bergen County, N.J., federation.

"They need us to buy in" to their mission and plans, she said.

The new system may also promote funding for individual projects and programs, rather than for agencies themselves.

Ideas for such innovations in overseas allocations come straight from the experience of federations, whose leaders are eager to respond to the interests of their donors.

"People are tired of throwing money into a big, dark hole, and not knowing exactly where it's going," said Lucy Pruzan, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. "I think we would do better in overseas allocations if we can target specific projects and areas so we know where the money is going."

In fact, it was in part a response to a growing trend among federations to redirect some of their overseas funds to projects in Israel of their own choosing that led to the creation of the new national entity.

"It's hard to raise money when you don't have a real feel for how truly and effectively the money's being used," said James Rosenstein of Philadelphia who, as the Northeast regional chair, is a member of the UJC's Transition Cabinet.

But, he said, there is "real concern on the part of the Jewish Agency and the JDC" that relinquishing control of the distribution of funds will open the way for federations to make "all kinds of arbitrary decisions."

The voluntary nature of the new system has already been made clear.

In June, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston decided to give \$1 million directly to the JDC, deducting that figure from its contribution to UJC.

The move was spurred by what Boston's board saw as the pressing need of feeding hungry Jews in the former Soviet Union and in Ethiopia — needs Boston felt were losing ground on the national agenda.

According to Barry Shrage, the president of the Boston federation, the board felt those needs could not wait two years while the ONAD committee decided what the UJC's funding priorities would be.

Asked by UJC's highest leadership to reconsider the move, Shrage said Boston "won't cut back on allocations to JDC, but we'll see if we can bring that UJC line back up. We respect the national system. They asked us to look at it, we'll look at it."

It is too early to comment on what direction ONAD's eventual prescription for overseas allocations will take, committee members say.

Most of the ONAD committee's members are representatives of 18 federations, selected by city-size groupings.

ONAD's federation representatives must "consult with the federations in their regions. And they've got to constantly be checking back" with similar-sized federations, Solender said.

Other changes afoot this summer include:

- **The four "pillars":** The UJC is based on four areas — Jewish Renaissance and Renewal, Israel/Overseas, Health and Social Policy, and Financial Resource Development. This summer a task force for each pillar worked to develop recommendations for UJC operations in each area. The proposals will be presented to the UJC's Transition Cabinet at an Aug. 29 meeting in Los Angeles.

- **Stakeholders meetings:** In order to increase "bottom-up" involvement by local federations — particularly smaller federations and federations in communities west of the Mississippi — the UJC held four regional meetings with national and local leadership.

- **The search for a CEO:** The yearlong search for a top professional continues in well-guarded secrecy. Stephen Solender, who serves as the executive vice president of the UJA-Federation of New York, took the position on an interim basis in April to fill out the leadership team of Charles Bronfman, board chair, and Joel Tauber, chairman of the executive committee. Solender's term is set to end Oct. 15.

- **Staff changes:** Jay Yoskowitz, former CJF executive vice president, and Harold Adler, former senior associate vice president for administration and management, left the UJC. Steven Ain, executive vice president of UJA Federations Canada was appointed UJC's interim chief operating officer. Meanwhile, James Lodge, the former federation executive in Buffalo, took over the top professional post on the ONAD committee. Barry Swartz, former head of the Southeast region, now oversees all five regions. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Student can't wear Jewish star

A Mississippi school board voted to uphold a policy prohibiting a Jewish student from wearing a Star of David to class.

The parents of the student, Ryan Green, had appealed the decision, saying the star was a religious symbol, but law enforcement officials reportedly told the Harrison County School Board that such symbols could potentially make gang members turn violent.

### Florida voucher program begins

The first statewide school voucher program in the United States began Monday with the start of the school year at five private schools in Florida.

The program, in which 58 students are enrolled at four Catholic schools and one secular private school, enable students at Florida's worst public schools to receive up to \$3,389 a year to pay for private or parochial school expenses.

### Swiss attack called hate crime

The man who attacked an Israeli tourist Tuesday in Zurich admitted he had anti-Semitic motives.

The suspect, who turned himself in to the police, said he had specifically targeted Eli Yehuda Naftali because he was Jewish, according to the Zurich prosecutor.

Naftali, 48, remains in serious but stable condition in a Zurich hospital.

### Australia rejects 'haven' charge

Australia rejected a charge that it was a "haven" for Nazi scientists after World War II.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office made the allegation after a newspaper report was published Monday that said Australia allowed 127 Nazi scientists to immigrate there as part of a plan to prevent Russia from recruiting Nazi scientists.

### Polish history chair created

A chair in Polish history and culture was recently established at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The position is designed to develop dialogue between Polish and Israel scholars and artists.

It was established with private donations from the United States and Poland as well as money from the Polish government.

### Ghetto uprising marked

A dozen people gathered at a monument in Bialystok, Poland, on Monday to mark the 56th anniversary of the second largest revolt in a Jewish ghetto during World War II.

On Aug. 16, 1943, some 300 Jews began fighting after having learned of Nazi plans to liquidate the ghetto's 60,000 residents.

## Iranian Jews could be charged with spying as early as this week

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The fate of 13 Iranian Jews held on charges of spying for Israel could be decided Thursday when prosecutors are scheduled to present their case in an Iranian court.

"The charges will be brought on Thursday," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, citing "official Iranian sources."

But no one knows for sure what will happen on Thursday — if the scheduled court session is held. The most likely scenario, according to knowledgeable sources, is that the charges will be dropped against some of the prisoners, some could be sentenced to time served and others will face capital espionage charges.

Jewish activists have vehemently denied the charges against the 13, who were arrested in March.

Iran has executed 17 Jews on espionage charges, including two in 1997.

Since Iran publicized the arrests this spring, the Jewish community in the United States and in Israel has worked with European diplomats, United Nations officials, clergy and others for the prisoners' release.

After a period of public protests, the activists decided to lay low and focus on diplomatic efforts.

During the past two months, conditions have improved for the detainees. They have been allowed family visits and kosher meals, according to sources in contact with relatives in the United States.

In the wake of reports of the court session later this week, Jewish activists are looking at "contingency plans," Hoenlein said.

For now, Jewish officials are calling on Iran to provide a free trial, with foreign observers, reporters and legal representation for the defendants.

"Our feeling is that the correct way of resolving this issue is the conclusion of investigations," said Sam Kermanian, the secretary-general of the Los Angeles-based American Iranian Jewish Federation.

But if Iranian authorities believe that "the investigations support the continuation of the judicial process for some of these people," Kermanian said, "we would like to see immediately that they are allowed to hire an attorney, that all files be turned over to the attorney and that they are given a reasonable time to prepare a defense." □

(JTA staff writer Julia Goldman in New York contributed to this report.)

## L.A. center filled with young campers again

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The North Valley Jewish Community Center reopened Monday with nearly full attendance, six days after a shooting rampage shocked the nation and wounded three children, a teen-age camp counselor and a receptionist.

One hundred and twenty-eight out of 130 campers and 37 out of 40 preschoolers showed up at the center and were greeted with welcoming banners, a media throng, and heavy police and private security.

To lighten the mood, Monday was designated "funny hair day."

Also on hand was the Rev. Jesse Jackson, joined by a delegation of area clergy. He called for a "coalition of consciousness."

"There is a sense that we are underestimating the number of guns, technical capabilities and the will to injure in our country," Jackson said.

Inside the building, a magician, a clown and a disc jockey entertained participants in the center's preschool, camp and senior citizen programs.

In the lobby, bullet holes had been patched over, walls repainted and new carpeting and walls installed.

"The community center is back on its feet," Jeffrey Rouss, executive vice president of the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Los Angeles, told the Los Angeles Times. "We want to demonstrate to ourselves that evil will not stop us." □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Battle for Jerusalem fought slowly on ground before final-status talks***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Tensions ran high here last Friday.

According to Israeli intelligence reports, radical Muslims intended to stir up trouble during their noon prayers following an Israeli decision to seal off a window the Palestinians had carved out in the southern wall of the Old City.

Police did not take any chances.

A large number of officers were deployed around the Temple Mount to prevent a possible outburst.

Potential troublemakers got the message, the majority of worshipers went home quietly, and another mine had been removed in the battle over Jerusalem.

Although Israel and the Palestinians agreed to leave the sensitive issue of the city to the end of the negotiations, the fact is that both sides are engaged in a race for control on the ground.

Jerusalem is not only the most sensitive issue standing between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel's capital is also the destination of some 4 million pilgrims expected to visit the Holy Land at the turn of the millennium, which raises the possibility of new violence in the "City of Peace."

Less than five months before "M-Day," all sorts of people with personal, religious and political agendas are converging on Jerusalem: Jewish extremists seeking to replace the mosques on the Temple Mount with the Third Temple; Christians dreaming of an Armageddon to speed up the second coming of Jesus; and Palestinians who insist that all of eastern Jerusalem should become the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

From Israel's point of view, it is in the nation's best interest to preserve the status quo in Jerusalem if it wants to overcome the obstacles and the challenges of the millennium.

The Israeli government realizes that it will be very difficult to make peace — and political concessions — if there is unrest in Jerusalem.

On the other hand, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat needs to prove to his supporters that regardless of the ups and downs in Middle East negotiations, his ultimate goal is the establishment of eastern Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Recently, Arafat has made frequent statements that he will not rest until the Palestinians take over "the walls, the mosques and the churches" in eastern Jerusalem.

As he bargains with Barak over a timetable for future Israeli withdrawals from portions of the West Bank, he is also preparing himself for final-status negotiations — in which Jerusalem will be the key issue.

So far, Israelis and Palestinians are maintaining a delicate balance of gains and losses in Jerusalem.

True, Israel has built a network of Jewish neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem — the Palestinians call them settlements — in which some 170,000 Israelis live.

But the Palestinians have succeeded in preserving a clear division between the eastern and western parts of the city.

While the Palestinians had to acquiesce to the opening of the

Western Wall tunnel, they have also conducted massive reconstruction work in the Al-Aksa Mosque.

The opening carved out last week was, in fact, an opening to "ancient Al-Aksa," a reconstructed part of the mosque.

That part of the mosque will soon be inaugurated in a festive ceremony.

The controversial construction at Har Homa, a Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, has continued unimpeded — and the first apartments are being sold — even though the Palestinians previously threatened that it could lead to a renewed intifada, or uprising.

But the Palestinians, too, have continued almost undisturbed, with large-scale private construction throughout the eastern part of the city.

Most of the building is unlicensed, and despite Israel's occasional demolition of illegal housing, by and large the construction cannot be stopped.

Israel had closed off a number of offices of the Palestinian Authority in eastern Jerusalem.

But Orient House continues to operate as the Palestinian Authority's Jerusalem headquarters.

One of the main issues of controversy in recent years has been action by the Jewish state to cut down on the number of Arabs living in Jerusalem, a policy that has been known as "the silent transfer."

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, specifically former Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa, had revoked residency rights from residents of eastern Jerusalem who have not lived in the city for more than seven years.

Although the Interior Ministry claims that the regulation applies to all residents who are not Israeli citizens — regardless of their ethnic origin — the regulation, in practice, discriminated against Arabs.

Whereas Israelis born in Jerusalem who have resided most of their lives overseas can return home any time, their Palestinian neighbors will, at best, receive a tourist visa.

The vast majority of the Arab residents of Jerusalem don't apply for Israeli citizenship as a matter of principle.

Moreover, Palestinians who applied for Israeli citizenship were asked to give up their Jordanian citizenship, a condition that Palestinians reject because of their strong family ties to the West Bank and Jordan — and their desire to travel freely in the Arab world.

Mohammad Alian, 59, left Jerusalem after the Six-Day War to study in Yugoslavia.

The Israeli Arab married a Yugoslav woman and has stayed there ever since, working as an accountant for government agencies.

Last week, Alian came for a family visit with his wife, Lidia, and two children.

The Alian family would have liked to stay here. Past applications by his brother, Adib, for family reunions were all turned down.

The reason: "Jerusalem is no longer the center of life for the family."

The newly appointed interior minister, Natan Sharansky, has promised to review the policy.

"One cannot talk of a united Jerusalem without proper treatment of the residents of east Jerusalem," Sharansky said. □