



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israelis missing in Turkey

At least 10 Israeli tourists vacationing in the Turkish hills are trapped in a building that collapsed after Tuesday's massive earthquake, which killed at least 3,500 people.

Six other Israelis are missing, according to the Israeli Consulate in New York.

No Turkish Jews appear to have been killed or injured in the disaster, and the country's Jewish institutions are unscathed, according to Leon Levy, president of the American Sephardi Federation.

### Iran: Trial won't occur Thursday

Iran said a trial of the 13 Jews arrested there in March would not take place Thursday.

But judiciary spokesman Fotovat Nassiri Savadkuhi, contacted by Reuters, did not elaborate on whether charges would be brought. The statement came after some Jewish officials, citing official sources, said charges would be brought Thursday against the 13.

### Report slams Holocaust museum

The governing council of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was criticized for "excessive involvement" in the museum's day-to-day operations.

A congressionally ordered review of the six-year-old museum also recommended that the museum develop a new strategic plan and hire additional management personnel.

### Suit to be filed against vandal

A German Jewish organization will sue an Israeli who poured black paint into the open grave of a German Jewish leader as it was being lowered into the ground in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

The lawsuit against Meir Mendelssohn for defacing Ignatz Bubis' grave is expected to be filed this week on behalf of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and Bubis' family.

Mendelssohn said Bubis used sympathy for his Jewishness to make real estate deals.

"It is unacceptable that some crazy person could dirty the name and the person of a man like Ignatz Bubis," said Paul Spiegel, vice president of the council.

Bubis had asked to be buried in Israel because he feared his grave would be defaced if he were buried in Germany.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Jewish educators raise their hands to urge more pay, more appreciation

By Julie Wiener

COLUMBUS, Ohio (JTA) — Asked to complete the sentence "As a Jewish educator I feel . . ." a group of teachers and administrators recently volunteered the following: "overwhelmed," "underappreciated," "underpaid," "exhilarated," "hopeful and frustrated" and "a sense of emergency."

With the American Jewish community frightened by gloomy statistics on intermarriage and assimilation, Jewish education has risen to the top of the communal agenda.

But while Jewish educators welcome the new recognition, there is a concern that philanthropists and federation bigwigs are jumping in and dominating the discussion without necessarily consulting — or appreciating — those who have been working in the field for years.

Such sentiments were expressed frequently during the annual conference of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, which was held last week in Columbus, Ohio.

As it prepares for its 25th anniversary, CAJE — best known for its weeklong conventions where teachers and administrators attend sessions ranging from teaching art projects to how to teach Bible stories — is starting to spotlight larger concerns in the field.

Such concerns include notoriously low salaries, the challenges of recruiting new educators, making supplemental schools more effective and strategies for involving entire families in Jewish learning.

Through a process called "Hanukat CAJE," or rededication, CAJE leaders are encouraging educators across the country to speak up and become advocates in their field.

When CAJE was founded in the mid-1970s, Jewish education ranked low in community priorities, and the fledgling group was a "countercultural" effort agitating for system-wide change, said Eliot Spack, the group's executive director.

Over the years, the organization has retained its somewhat irreverent feel. Most board members are directly nominated and elected by the rank-and-file, casual garb is the norm and the bearded, T-shirt-and-shorts-clad executive director wears a name tag bearing only his first name.

The annual conferences take place on college campuses rather than the hotels and convention centers favored by most Jewish organizations.

They are run primarily by volunteers and are described as "nourishing" and "inspiring" by participants.

As it has aged, the coalition has become more mainstream, enjoying warm relations with Jewish federations, changing the "A" in its name from "Alternatives in" to "Advancement of" and helping teachers more with classroom — than systemic — change.

But by stepping up the focus on advocacy, leaders hope to bring a little more of the old fire back.

They devoted an afternoon of the conference last week to "advocacy symposia" and — using a series of provocative articles as a springboard — hope to engage hundreds of members in discussion groups around the country this year.

Spack described the process as "consciousness-raising." He added: "For a long

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel may release prisoners

Israel is considering releasing up to 250 Palestinian political prisoners as part of ongoing talks regarding a timetable for the Wye agreement. The report came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators worked on a memorandum to amend the accord, which was signed last October.

### Minister calls for pullback

An Israeli Cabinet minister called for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Cohen of Shas made his comments to Israel Radio a day after two Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded, three seriously, in clashes with Hezbollah gunmen.

Cohen also said the spiritual mentor of the fervently Orthodox party and all of its legislators share his opinion. Tuesday's deaths brought to 12 the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon since the beginning of 1999.

### German aided Hezbollah

An Israeli court convicted a German citizen of aiding the Hezbollah organization, but dismissed allegations that he planned to carry out a terrorist attack inside Israel.

Stephan Smyrek was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport more than a year ago on suspicion of planning to photograph locations in Israel and pass them on to Hezbollah.

### Arafat's pal plans new casino

A confidante of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is one of the main planners for a casino being developed for the West Bank town of Ramallah, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

Some 95 percent of the players at the first West Bank casino, which opened last year in Jericho, are Israelis. Gambling is illegal in Israel.



## Daily News Bulletin

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time, Jewish educators have allowed other people to call the shots for their field. We want them to raise their voices and concerns."

Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox, one of CAJE's original two founders and an architect of the rededication effort, said she is proud of the group's accomplishments in helping teachers hone their skills, but is frustrated at times by its members' timidity, if not complacency, on the funding and programmatic matters that affect them.

"A lot is on the line here. People need to wake up and stop singing and stop learning how to make things out of felt," she said, presumably referring to a session that day titled "Jewish Holiday Fun With Felt."

Salaries in Jewish education vary widely, with administrators of day schools and supplemental schools generally at the top, and teachers — particularly nursery school teachers and part-timers — at the bottom.

Unlike their counterparts in public schools, few teachers in Jewish institutions — the overwhelming majority of whom are women — are unionized.

A number of teachers interviewed during the conference said they earned less than their synagogues' secretaries.

At a CAJE session led by Koller-Fox, participants wrote their salaries on little pieces of paper and shared them anonymously.

The numbers ranged from \$13,000 per year with no benefits to \$95,000 and a full package; the \$95,000 wage-earner noted in the middle of the session that she had just left her job, however, because it required more than 80 hours a week and left her with no time for her family.

In addition to the financial issues, teachers and administrators said they felt challenged by board politics, time constraints, children with learning disabilities and families with other priorities.

"I'm tired of competing with soccer!" said Sharon Forman-Toll, a Hebrew school director in suburban Philadelphia.

Asked why, given the low salaries and high frustrations, they stayed in the field, almost every teacher started with the word "passion."

"It's my soul work, it's what I believe in," said Sylvia Plotkins, a Hebrew school teacher in California.

"I love the kids," said Gail Katz, a nursery school teacher at a Minneapolis synagogue.

Many were quick to excuse their synagogues or day schools for the low salaries, noting that Jewish institutions face a scarcity of funds all around.

But others questioned why the most affluent Jewish community in history should have to skimp on any program, particularly at a time when education is the stated priority.

At the conference's opening ceremonies, Leslie Wexner, the multimillion dollar philanthropist and retail clothing magnate, suggested the challenge in Jewish education stems from a scarcity of ideas, rather than a scarcity of money.

But his view was widely dismissed, even ridiculed, by conference-goers and presenters in the days that followed.

Educators repeatedly questioned whether trendy innovations could substitute for dedicated teachers backed by supportive parents and lay leaders.

At an advocacy symposium on "Re-envisioning the Supplemental School," author and educator Joel Lurie Grishaver drew loud applause when he said, "My solution is three things: teachers, teachers and teachers, and as far as I'm concerned, nothing else makes a difference. Their consistency, caring and being there is what transforms the world."

Other advocacy symposia addressed the role of lay leaders, early childhood education, needs of disabled students, outreach strategies and "Personnel, Professionalism and the State of the Profession."

Educators interviewed during the conference cautiously welcomed CAJE's new emphasis on advocacy, but said they hoped it would not detract from the organization's professional development sessions and networking opportunities.

"This is timely and good, but I hope they understand that people come to the conferences wanting to grow as professionals," said Mark Baranek, director of a congregational school in Miami Beach. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Aryan Nations cancels march

The Aryan Nations, a group of white supremacists, canceled a planned Labor Day march in Idaho because of last week's attack on a Jewish center in Los Angeles.

Richard Butler, who founded the group to which alleged shooter Buford O'Neal Furrow belonged, said he was canceling the event "in view of the tragedy" and "the attempt of various media to link Buford Furrow to our church."

### Schroeder to attend service

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will attend a Sept. 14 memorial ceremony in Frankfurt for a recently deceased German Jewish leader buried in Israel.

Schroeder was criticized for not attending Ignatz Bubis' funeral this week in Tel Aviv.

### Disney exhibit stirs pot

An Arab American group is calling on Disney World to prevent an upcoming exhibit at Epcot Center in Florida from linking eastern Jerusalem to the Jewish state. The American Committee on Jerusalem also opposes the exhibit's theme, "Jerusalem, Capital of Israel."

### Germany arrests neo-Nazis

German police arrested dozens of neo-Nazis on Wednesday who were commemorating the anniversary of the death of one of Hitler's top deputies.

The anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess, who died in prison in 1987 at the age of 93, has become an important date for neo-Nazis, but this year's rallies were smaller than in past years.

### Soccer chief to get kicked?

Romanian soccer officials are investigating charges that the head of the country's soccer federation published anti-Semitic articles in his tabloid.

Dumitru Dragomir is alleged to have published anonymous articles blaming Romania's ills on a Jewish conspiracy.

Dragomir denied the charges Wednesday, saying, "I'm not linked to any anti-Semitic groups for the simple reason that there are no such groups in Romania."

### Judaism, business ethics linked

A book examining business ethics from a Jewish point of view is slated to be published this fall.

"Case Studies in Jewish Business Ethics," which is intended to serve as a college textbook, relies on Jewish sources such as the Torah and the Mishnah, as well as the works of more contemporary Orthodox rabbis.

## Three Israeli families trapped after deadly earthquake in Turkey

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Three Israeli families — between 10 and 14 people, including children — are trapped in a collapsed building approximately 75 miles from Istanbul, Turkey, as a result of a massive earthquake this week that claimed more than 3,500 lives.

In addition, at least six other Israeli tourists are missing in Turkey, said a spokesperson for the Israeli Consulate in New York.

Before learning today of its own missing citizens, Israel sent a 200-member rescue team to Turkey to help dig through the rubble for survivors.

Several members of that team, along with volunteers organized by the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul, are now en route to help the Israelis.

No Turkish Jews appear to have been killed or injured in the disaster, and none of the country's Jewish institutions has been damaged, said Leon Levy, president of the New York-based American Sephardi Federation.

"Most of the damage was not where Jews normally live," said Levy, who is of Turkish descent and is in frequent contact with the Jewish community there.

Sallai Meridor, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was quoted in the daily Ha'aretz as saying that while none of Turkey's 23,000 Jews was hurt in the quake, many are hesitant to return to their homes in Istanbul for fear of more houses collapsing.

Several American Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and B'nai B'rith International, are collecting disaster relief contributions: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Turkey Earthquake Relief, 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017; the American Jewish World Service, Turkish Earthquake Relief Fund, 989 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10018 800-889-7146; and B'nai B'rith International Center for Community Action Turkish Earthquake Relief, 1640 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Donations can also be made via a secure server at [www.bnaibrith.org](http://www.bnaibrith.org) □

## Jewish student will sue school for banning Star of David display

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A Jewish high school student and his family plan to sue a Mississippi school board that barred him from wearing a Star of David necklace.

Ryan Green, a student at Harrison Central High School in southern Mississippi, wore the pendant to class last week, but school officials told him it was a gang symbol and therefore violated school policy.

The policy forbids students from wearing anything that could be construed as a gang symbol. School officials said he could wear the necklace, but not where it could be seen.

The Harrison County School Board voted on Monday to uphold the policy, rejecting an appeal by Green's parents, who said the star was a symbol of religious expression.

Law enforcement officials told the school board that such symbols could potentially make rival gang members turn violent, according to the Sun Herald, a Mississippi newspaper.

Some gang insignias incorporate six-pointed stars, along with other symbols such as a pitchfork.

The family has agreed to challenge the policy in federal court with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"On the one hand, no one would question a school's ability to assure the safety of its students," said Nathan Diamant, director of the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs.

"On the other hand, you have to be very careful where you draw the line. What would happen if he was wearing tzitzit, which goes even further than the Star of David" because it relates to a specific commandment? □

## Barak tells congressmen to cool it on embassy issue

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has explicitly asked members of Congress to stop trying to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"We do not want to give the Palestinians any pretext for delaying the peace talks or postponing them," Barak told Sen. Jim Bunning (R-Ky) and Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.) on Wednesday in Jerusalem, according to sources who were briefed on the meeting.

The lawmakers are part of a parade of more than two dozen members of Congress scheduled to visit Israel during the August congressional recess.

Barak specifically asked the lawmakers to wait at least six months before taking up any new initiatives on the embassy.

A nearly unanimous House and Senate passed a law in 1995 that required the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem by May of this year. Citing national security interests and Israeli-Palestinian agreements to negotiate the final status of Jerusalem, Clinton has postponed the move.

Angry at the delay, members of Congress have introduced legislation and drafted letters that seek to force the embassy move.

During Barak's July visit to the United States, he carried a similar message to members of Congress.

At the meeting with Jewish lawmakers, Barak asked them to postpone "ill-timed" initiatives, including measures aimed at strengthening Israel's control over Jerusalem, according to participants in the meeting.

"He asked us not to get out in front of him and to let him have the opportunity to bring peace to the Middle East," according to participants. While Barak did not specifically ask that resolutions not be introduced, he did ask members to consider whether resolutions would be counterproductive to his search for peace.

But now that many members of Congress have continued to push the issue, Barak went one step further, asking them to hold their fire on what has been a bread-and-butter issue for lawmakers seeking American Jewish support. And he's getting support from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which has lobbied aggressively on the issue for years.

"We will never, ever abandon the push to move the embassy to Jerusalem. We are going to continue our ongoing consultations with Congress," said Kenneth Bricker, an AIPAC spokesman.

But top AIPAC officials have said they will examine each initiative to see whether it "further the peace process."

AIPAC's top leaders met with Barak this week in advance of two trips the group's educational institute is sponsoring that will bring 11 Republican members of Congress and 20 Democrats to Israel this month. Barak's move to stop congressional initiatives on Jerusalem could slow the rush of candidates who have staked out positions on the issue in recent weeks.

Last week, Republican frontrunner Texas Gov. George W. Bush and former Sen. Bill Bradley, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, both expressed support for moving the embassy. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has launched an all-but-announced Senate bid from New York, has also endorsed the move. □

## Firm that made death camp gas creates fund for ex-slave laborers

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Shareholders of the firm that produced the gas used to killed millions in Nazi death camps have voted overwhelmingly to create a \$1.6 million fund to compensate former slave laborers.

The money will be taken from the remaining assets of IG Farben, which was disbanded by the Allies after World War II.

The fund would pay out on the annual interest — about \$160,000 — from the \$1.6 million principle.

The decision came Wednesday following a stormy debate during which one former slave laborer was forcibly removed from the room, and several other speakers were silenced.

"It is positive that the firm's liquidators have confessed their responsibility for the dealings of IG Farben in the Nazi era," said Peter Heuss, who observed the closed proceedings in Frankfurt as a historian for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

"But it's only a start, because the foundation is very small."

Survivors groups said the fund would be far too small to compensate the 1,000 former IG Farben slave laborers who are still living and the heirs of those who died as slaves.

Some 150 protesters had gathered outside the shareholders meeting to oppose the plan. The survivors group had argued for the complete liquidation of all of the firm's assets — which currently are at least \$15 million and maybe billions more — to be placed in the compensation fund.

Hans Frankenthal, 73, who had been permitted to speak on the floor, was removed after he began reading a 1944 IG Farben document that called for the severe punishment of a slave laborer at the Monowitz factory at Auschwitz. The laborer was later beaten to death.

Frankenthal was also a slave laborer at Monowitz.

According to Heuss, the meeting's chairman, Ernst Krienke, asked Frankenthal to stop speaking when he brought out the letter. When Frankenthal continued, Krienke turned off his microphone and asked security agents to remove the man from the room.

"Frankenthal said there is blood on these shares," Heuss said.

"There was no formal time limit, and he had spoken less than five minutes," said Henry Mathes, who heads the Association of Critical Stockholders in Germany, a watchdog organization that attends company meetings on behalf of protesting shareholders. Mathes called the removal of Frankenthal an example of "IG Farben using force with a former slave worker."

Later, Mathes and other members of the association were stopped from reading testimony written by former IG Farben slave laborers.

Heuss said the firm's liquidators have said they plan to add more money to the fund if they are able to recover billions of dollars placed in a Swiss bank account before the end of the war.

"It's like the hunter saying he will share the bear before the hunt has begun," Heuss said.

He said there was no talk at the meeting of IG Farben joining the current talks for a compensation fund involving several other German companies that employed slave laborers.

These talks are scheduled to continue next week. □