



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 78, No. 80

Monday, May 1, 2000

83rd Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ethnic poll finds U.S. Jews increasingly rooted in society

By J.J. Goldberg  
New Jersey Jewish News

#### Police seek motive for slayings

Police say a note found at the home of the man suspected in the shooting deaths of five people near Pittsburgh may help determine whether the shootings were hate crimes.

Richard Scott Bauhammers, 34, is accused of killing a Jewish woman and other minorities at four separate locations during last Friday's shooting spree. Shots were also fired at two synagogues. [Page 3]

#### 'Iran 13' trial set to resume

Prosecutors are expected to detail the charges against 13 Iranian Jews arrested last year on accusations of spying for Israel when their trial resumes Monday. Legal experts say the court is certain to invoke Iran's national security interests and keep the proceedings behind closed doors.

#### Neo-Nazis target Russian Jews

Russian neo-Nazis are again targeting a Jewish community in the northwestern part of the country, according to reports from Jewish organizations.

Last week, a car owned by the security chief of Borovich's synagogue was set on fire and swastikas were drawn on the cars of two local Jewish leaders who were celebrating Passover inside the synagogue. In the past two years, neo-Nazis have launched several campaigns against the city's Jewish community, which opened the synagogue last year with help from American Jews.

#### U.S. may delay arms to Israel

The United States may delay arms shipments to Israel to pressure Jerusalem to cancel a planned sale of an advanced airborne radar system to China.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that U.S. objections to the sale are likely to cast a shadow over talks with Israel about strategic cooperation that are scheduled to begin this week in Washington.

#### Barak may call referendum

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is reportedly considering holding a national referendum when and if Israel and the Palestinian Authority agree on the framework of a final peace accord.

The reports came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began a third round of talks in Eilat. [Page 4]

WHIPPANY, N.J. (JTA) — Jews are more likely than members of any other American ethnic group to purchase a hardcover book or attend a live musical performance in the coming year, but they're much less likely to buy a car, truck, recreational vehicle or major home appliance.

Their earning power outstrips any other ethnic group, yet they continue to vote very much the way blacks and Hispanics do.

These statistics may sound like the setup to some tired ethnic joke or chicken soup homily, but they're actually the latest in social-science research.

They are part of an intriguing new portrait of American Jews that has emerged from a groundbreaking study of ethnic America. Conducted last winter by Zogby International in cooperation with the New Jersey Jewish News, the studies, the Zogby Culture Polls, attempt to shed new light on a variety of American ethnic groups by examining them side by side.

The study consists of a series of identical surveys administered simultaneously to six different ethnic groups: Jews, Hispanics, and Asian, African, Arab and Italian Americans. The result is perhaps the first fully rounded statistical snapshot of America's ethnic mosaic, or an important chunk of it.

By mapping the contours of individual ethnic subcultures alongside one another, the researchers hoped to produce a sort of relief map of the broader society, as well as a more rounded profile of each individual group. The surveys were conducted between Dec. 14, 1999 and Feb. 7, 2000. Sample sizes varied, as did margins of error. The Jewish sample numbered 589 people, with a 4.1 percent margin of error.

The portrait of American Jews that emerges from the poll is at once familiar and surprising. Jews are increasingly rooted in America, the survey confirms. Fewer than one-third are immigrants or children of immigrants, a percentage similar to that of Italian Americans, but far less than the numbers for newer arrivals such as Hispanic, Asian or Arab Americans.

Moreover, Jews have achieved an extraordinary measure of success. Six out of 10 Jewish adults have a college degree, more than any group except Asians.

More than 41 percent report a household income of \$75,000 or more, far above any other group surveyed. Fewer Jews than members of any other group reported worrying about losing their jobs or going without a meal. Far more reported investing in the stock market and shopping via the Internet. And yet Jews still view themselves as a minority, and that self-image clearly shapes their view of their world.

Close to 90 percent say their ethnic heritage is "very" or "somewhat" important to them, comparable to blacks, Hispanics or Arab Americans, but far beyond Italian Americans. And nearly 60 percent report having experienced discrimination because of their ethnic heritage, more than any other group except blacks.

Fully half of Jews report having a "strong emotional tie" to their "country of ethnic heritage" — less than Hispanics, at 62 percent, or Arab Americans, at 56 percent, but much more than Asian Americans, at 43 percent, or Italian Americans, at 37.5 percent.

What is particularly striking is that unlike the other groups, the country to which Jews are attached is not one their grandparents came from, but Israel, one which for the most part they have only read of in books or heard of in synagogue.

The researchers pointed to the very distinctiveness of the Jews as an identifiable

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Ethiopians demand immigration

Several hundred members of Israel's Ethiopian community demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on Sunday, demanding that Israel allow the immediate immigration of relatives waiting in Ethiopia.

Israeli Interior Minister Natan Sharansky recently promised to adopt measures to speed up the review of applications.

### Police drag off Hebron settlers

Israeli security officials dragged off dozens of Jewish settlers who tried to expand their presence in the West Bank town of Hebron. Sunday's action came after the settlers barricaded themselves inside a shipping container festooned with Israeli flags. Among those dragged off by the authorities were mothers holding infants.

### Homes planned near Jerusalem

Israel announced its intention to build 170 new housing units in a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem. Palestinian officials called the plans for Ma'aleh Adumim a betrayal of the peace process.

### Russian-Syrian arms deal denied

Russia's ambassador to Israel denied reports that Moscow and Damascus closed a major arms deal. According to reports, the estimated \$2 billion deal would include the sale of fighter jets and surface-to-air missiles to Syria.

### TV interview prompts reunion

The chairman of the board of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem was reunited with a grandson of a Polish couple that hid his family during World War II. The Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported that the grandson contacted Shevach Weiss after seeing the former speaker of the Knesset appear on Polish television.



## Daily News Bulletin

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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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community, with its own patterns of behavior and values, as the most striking finding of the poll of Jews.

"Jews have retained their own identity," said John Zogby, president of Zogby International. "I'm not an expert in Judaism, and as an Arab American I wouldn't claim to be, but the findings suggest that there's plenty within the context of Judaism as a spiritual force that generates a commitment to community spirit and communal values."

Zogby, who is of Lebanese Christian descent, is best known as a New York-based Republican pollster. He is the brother of Arab American lobbyist James Zogby.

"You have to look at what appear to be subtleties," added Belio Martinez Jr., Zogby's director of international marketing and research. "When you look at issues of persecution, or at their involvement in international affairs, it's clear that they really don't view themselves as part of the traditional Anglo American majority culture."

That minority self-image may help explain why Jews remain more liberal than any of their neighbors, despite their material success and the fading of the immigrant experience.

Both Zogby and Martinez cited that liberalism as the most important finding in the Jewish survey.

"They're more conservative than they were in the 1920s and 1930s," said Zogby, "but within the larger context, they remain more liberal than others."

This liberalism shows up in a variety of contexts: party identification, voting patterns and positions on issues.

Nowhere, though, is it clearer than in the simple fact that Jews are more likely to identify themselves as liberals than any other group. Some 49 percent of Jews called themselves "liberal" or "very liberal," compared to 42 percent of blacks and about one-third of every other group.

By contrast, about 19 percent of Jews called themselves "conservative" or "very conservative," compared to 25 percent of blacks and about one-third of every other group.

The lopsided liberalism is reflected in party identification: About two-thirds of Jews are registered as Democrats and 15 percent as Republicans. That makes Jews slightly less partisan than blacks, who are 78 percent Democratic and 6.5 percent Republican.

Among Hispanics, 57 percent are registered Democratic and 21 percent Republican. Italian and Arab Americans, like the nation as a whole, are about 37 percent Democrat and 34 percent Republican. All the groups' presidential votes in 1996 closely matched their party registration.

The lopsided liberalism of the Jews shows up in their responses to issues on the public agenda, particularly on abortion.

Jews are overwhelmingly pro-choice, with 61 percent saying the decision should always be left to the mother. Among other groups, the figure ranged from 40 percent of blacks and Asian Americans to 29 percent among Italian and Arab Americans and 24 percent of Hispanics who were fully pro-choice.

Similarly, fewer than 50 percent of Jews believe in notifying parents when a minor seeks an abortion, compared with nearly 80 percent in every other group.

Jews are also the most supportive of letting the federal government set education policy, the most supportive of campaign donation limits and the least supportive of increasing the military budget. In general, Jews showed a greater faith in the power of the federal government to do good than any other group.

That good will does not spill over to the United Nations, which received lower marks from Jews than from any other group surveyed.

Given a choice between "effective peacekeeping/human rights agency" and "bloated bureaucracy that weakens U.S. sovereignty," most groups tilted about three-to-one toward "effective peacekeeping." Only 55.8 percent of Jews chose "effective peacekeeping"; while 18.2 percent chose neither.

For Zogby, the specific characteristics marking American Jews — attachment to Israel, distinctive political values, mistrust of the United Nations — all point to the enduring influence of Judaism on the Jews' inner lives.

Others might dispute that conclusion. But one thing is certain — wherever it comes from, they're not getting it in synagogue. Jews attend worship services less regularly than any other group surveyed. That, in fact, was one of the most striking differences the survey found between Jews and the others. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### U.S. slave labor fund planned

A group of U.S. companies that had subsidiaries in Nazi Germany plans to establish a compensation fund for Holocaust-era slave laborers. The fund, which will be set up by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, is partly intended to head off class-action lawsuits against the firms.

Meanwhile, Austria plans to offer some \$477 million as compensation to Nazi-era slave laborers, according to the nation's chief negotiator. Maria Schaumayer said contributions to the fund would be split equally between government and industry.

Earlier this month, New York-based lawyer Ed Fagan filed an \$18 billion lawsuit against Austria on behalf of the laborers.

### Nazi party formed in Switzerland

A party with overt Nazi sympathies has been created in Switzerland. The leader of the National Party, David Mulas, said its "leaders are Adolf Hitler and Rudolf Hess" and that the party is "anti-Semitic and for the white race."

Swiss Jewish leaders called on the government to suspend the party, but such a move would run counter to Swiss law, said a spokeswoman for the Justice Ministry.

### Two held in German shul arson

German police are holding two teen-agers suspected of setting fire to a synagogue in the eastern German city of Erfurt on the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. Police questioned and released a third suspect, who was accused of driving the getaway car in the April 20 attack. The three were trying to make a name for themselves among right-wing extremists, a German official said.

### Greek restoration fund launched

Greece's Jewish community is launching a campaign to raise about \$1 million to save its remaining synagogues and cemeteries, some of which have been vandalized recently. Jewish leaders say they are facing government indifference to the problem and plan to seek assistance abroad.

### Book blasts Shoah-era rabbis

Fervently Orthodox rabbis in the United States ignored the suffering of millions of Jews while trying to rescue several hundred Polish talmudic scholars from the Holocaust, according to a new book.

The rabbis' goal brought them into conflict with mainstream American Jewish groups working to rescue as many Jews as possible, according to author and Nazi hunter Efraim Zuroff. "The Response of Orthodox Jewry in the United States to the Holocaust" is being released Tuesday, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

## Pittsburgh's Jewish community shaken by deadly shooting spree

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish facilities in Pittsburgh are increasing security measures following last Friday's shooting rampage that killed five minorities, including one Jewish woman.

Security guards and city police officers patrolled the city's JCC building in Squirrel Hill, which was also requiring members to show ID cards before entering, while the suburban Jewish Community Center of the South Hills temporarily went into a lockdown after the shooting occurred.

Neal Scheindlin, the rabbi at Beth El Congregation of South Hills, one of two synagogues that was fired upon in the rampage, said the synagogue will buy a new security system. The increased measures came as residents of the Pittsburgh area began confronting the second apparent hate crime in their community in two months. In March, a black man allegedly killed three whites in the working-class suburb of Wilksburg.

Richard Scott Baumhammers, 34, allegedly began his spree by killing Anita Gordon, a Jewish woman who was one of his next door neighbors and a family friend.

Police have charged Baumhammers with one of the murders and he was awaiting arraignment Monday for the others. State and federal authorities are determining whether he should face hate crimes charges.

The Jewish victim, Gordon, a 63-year-old married mother of three daughters, was known for her work as a volunteer at Beth El Congregation.

"Many members talked of her as if she were a second mother," said Scheindlin.

Three of those also killed in the spree were immigrants — an Indian man, Anil Thakur, at a grocery and two Asian men, Thao Pham and Ji-Ye Sun, at a Chinese restaurant. An African American man, Garry Lee, was shot and killed at a karate school.

Another Indian man shot in the rampage, Sandip Patel, remained in critical condition Sunday in a Pittsburgh hospital.

Baumhammers also allegedly shot through the windows of two suburban Pittsburgh synagogues and spray-painted anti-Semitic graffiti inside Beth El.

Baumhammers, who lived with his parents in the Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon, is a lawyer who studied immigration law.

In a search of his house, police found what has been described as a manifesto of his Free Market Party, which advocates the rights of European Americans and denounces immigration from the Third World. He also created a Web site for the party he founded with links to other "white-rights groups."

The site has been closed down.

Baumhammers, who is of Latvian descent, apparently became more interested in his heritage during the past few years. He made several trips to Europe.

Baumhammers became convinced that he had been poisoned there, according to a woman who told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that she had been hospitalized with him.

The combination of an apparently deranged individual who had easy access to a racist, anti-Semitic ideology is an "explosive mix," said Joel Ratner, the regional director of the Anti-Defamation League in Ohio/Kentucky/Allegheny.

"Gun safety laws are crucial," he said, adding that the ADL is also pressing for passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which is currently stalled in Congress.

Hate crimes were down by 4 percent in the United States last year, to 1,547 incidents, according to a recent report published by the Anti-Defamation League. But they were up, from 70 to 82, in Pennsylvania.

"Hate has been rearing its head in western Pennsylvania all too frequently," he said. Acts like these are "not something that comes out of the blue."

But for Scheindlin, who was the Jewish victim's rabbi and whose synagogue's windows were shattered, last Friday's events certainly felt that way.

Scheindlin, who says he has received widespread support from Christian clergy, is also working on several interfaith efforts, including a healing service and a vigil at the Chinese restaurant where two of the victims were killed. □

## Russian neo-Nazis use cover of scout clubs to grow, prosper

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Neo-Nazi youth groups in Russia are becoming more organized, according to Jewish officials and human rights activists.

Teen-age street gangs that throughout the past decade were known for their use of Nazi symbols, anti-Jewish slogans and assaults on African students are turning into tightly knit and well-armed criminal groups with Nazi ideology.

"These youth clubs are prospering, especially in the provinces, because in provincial cities they are not repudiated. On the contrary, the authorities in many places support them," said Alla Gerber, a Moscow Jewish leader.

Russian police and security agents arrested 13 people in April after they found neo-Nazi materials during a crackdown on a group specializing in illegal trade in arms and explosives.

The search was part of an anti-corruption crackdown tied to local elections, according to Yakov Zukerman, a Jewish activist in St. Petersburg who studies the phenomenon.

The group in St. Petersburg, led by neo-Nazis, operated under the cover of one of the city's youth scouting clubs.

Participation in black marketeering is accompanying — and perhaps contributing to — these groups' prosperity, particularly in St. Petersburg, the hotbed of the Nazi revival.

These clubs are officially permitted to search for the remains of World War II soldiers in order to bury them. According to unofficial reports, roughly 1,000 diggers are searching in the St. Petersburg metropolitan area, which contains many weapons and relics from the war.

"It has become a developed business here. Lots of young people are digging out and selling German and Soviet arms, decorations and World War II medals on the black market. Some of the guys make good money. Most of them are united in gangs and it is quite dangerous to get in their way," said Vladimir Briskman, a university student in St. Petersburg.

It makes sense that the youth groups have served as a breeding ground for neo-Nazism, Zukerman said.

Neo-Nazis are ready consumers of the newly found Nazi relics and sometimes of weapons, Zukerman said. They then use their contacts to infiltrate the clubs, turning a phenomenon that the KGB tried to infuse with Soviet patriotism into a font of racism and anti-Semitism.

During the recent searches in St. Petersburg, police discovered both old and new weapons, which the "scouts" were apparently planning to sell.

The going rate for an old German submachine gun is \$200, whereas a new Kalashnikov assault rifle goes for \$500. Some well-preserved tanks were also found.

Meanwhile, neo-Nazi activity linked to organized crime and covered up by corrupt police is occurring throughout Russia.

"Many of the members of the organizations are former policemen," said Antoine Arakelyan, a human rights campaigner in St. Petersburg.

Neo-Nazi activity has apparently reached higher branches of Russian society as well.

The Federal Security Bureau, the successor to the KGB,

recently arrested 12 members of the Omsk branch of the neo-Nazi Russian National Unity group.

One of those arrested had a document showing him to be an aide to a member of Parliament. □

## Barak may turn to Israeli people to OK framework for a peace deal

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is considering holding a national referendum when and if Israel and the Palestinian Authority agree on the framework of a final peace accord.

Sources close to Barak said the prime minister discussed the idea with Cabinet members from his One Israel bloc.

First, however, Israel and the Palestinians must agree on the framework — no small task in light of the slow progress in talks so far. On Sunday, the two sides launched accelerated talks aimed at reaching the broad outlines of a final accord.

Negotiators face a mid-May deadline for agreeing on the framework, but the sluggish pace of two previous rounds of talks held in Washington have prompted speculation that the target date may be again postponed.

In an effort to help speed the pace of the talks, U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross was expected to join the negotiators, who are meeting in the Red Sea resort of Eilat, on Tuesday.

According to Israeli media reports on Sunday, Barak may soon transfer security control over three Arab towns near Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority as an "advance" on a planned further pullback in the West Bank.

Barak would reportedly seek approval from his Security Cabinet for such a move, which is intended to build confidence in the talks with the Palestinians.

The villages — Abu Dis, Al-Azariya and Sawahara — are currently under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control.

Barak began consulting Sunday with members of his coalition to see how they would react to his plans for advancing the negotiations. Interior Minister Natan Sharansky, of the Yisrael Ba'Aliyah Party, adamantly opposed the idea of transferring to the Palestinians areas that "kiss Jerusalem."

Barak's proposals drew criticism from the Palestinian side as well. Negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinian Authority would not accept any Israeli advance on the next redeployment without first knowing the total scope of the planned pullback.

Meanwhile, ongoing tensions within Barak's coalition over domestic issues have cast doubt on the government's ability to make decisive political moves with the Palestinians.

The fervently Orthodox Shas Party and the secular Meretz Party have been engaged for months in a dispute over funding for Shas' financially troubled school system.

Shas has repeatedly threatened to pull out of the government if it did not get the government funds — and last Friday it was Meretz's turn. Meretz, which controls the Education Ministry, said its ministers would resign from the government if Shas obtains special grants for its debt-ridden schools.

Meretz was responding to reports that Barak is ready to promise the funds to Shas in exchange for its commitment to back the government's peace moves. □