



# Daily News Bulletin

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83rd Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Violence abates in Israel

Israeli security forces are preparing for a fresh round of violence Friday, when Hamas is planning a "Day of Rage."

While there was relative quiet Thursday, two Palestinians died during sporadic fighting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met in Egypt with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the past week's violence, which has killed more than 65.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak boycotted Thursday's meeting after talks in Paris concluded without a formal agreement.

The Israeli premier went home, saying there was no point in further negotiations.

Barak convened his Cabinet to discuss the past week's violence.

During the meeting, Barak criticized French President Jacques Chirac for saying that the high number of Palestinian casualties proved that Israel was responsible for the violence.

Such statements, Barak said, would only provoke more clashes.

### Victim attended peace camp

One of the victims of this week's clashes in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip attended a U.S. camp designed to build tolerance between Israeli Arab and Israeli Jewish teen-agers for three summers.

Asel Asleh's family, which lives in northern Israel, said he had participated in protests, but did not know if he had thrown stones.

One of Asleh's Jewish friends from the camp run by the U.S.-based Seeds of Peace visited Asleh's family on Wednesday to pay his respects.

### Report: Russia helping Iran

Russia is helping Iran develop and acquire biological, chemical and nuclear weapons — and as a result the United States must help Israel and other countries in the Middle East defend themselves, a Jewish group says in a new report.

The American Jewish Committee presented its report Thursday to a U.S. Senate foreign relations subcommittee examining Russia's involvement in Iranian weapons programs.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### New initiative aims to advance more women to top Jewish posts

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — When word got out last week that Janet Engelhart had been named executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island — making her the only female professional at the helm of one of the 40 largest federations — she received a flood of phone calls.

Most were colleagues and friends offering congratulations. But more than five — and the ones that Engelhart found most touching — were from young female professionals at Jewish organizations asking her to be their mentor.

As Engelhart's sudden popularity illustrates, female role models are in short supply, both in the Jewish federation world and at the highest tiers of other Jewish organizations.

But a new initiative — the first effort launched by a new federation system offshoot, the Trust for Jewish Philanthropy — is seeking to change that.

With a \$1 million seed grant from Barbara and Eric Dobkin, New York philanthropists known for their support of Jewish feminist causes, the project aims to help the organized Jewish community "identify, attract, recruit, advance and retain women in management and executive positions."

The initiative — called Advancing Women Professionals and the Jewish Community — capitalizes on another concern that has seized the attention of leaders throughout the Jewish world: the growing shortage of qualified Jewish communal professionals.

By more aggressively recruiting women, the reasoning goes, the pool of candidates will effectively double.

Jewish organizations, say the initiative's proponents, have trailed the business world and other nonprofits in promoting women.

These groups have created a climate in which mid-level women professionals believe they must leave the field in order to advance.

"Virtually every profession and industry has moved more quickly and more effectively on opening opportunities to women at top levels than the Jewish communal world," said Louise Stoll, chief operating officer of the federation system's national umbrella, the United Jewish Communities.

Hired in 1999, Stoll is the first woman to hold so high a position in the federation world.

Shifra Bronznick, a consultant who helps facilitate change at not-for-profit organizations and is widely credited with designing the new initiative, points out that women hold 51 percent of all CEO posts at foundations and are growing more visible in the corporate world.

In contrast, only two of 40 major national Jewish organizations, excluding women's organizations, are run by women, according to Bronznick.

Before Engelhart's hire in Rhode Island, only one other woman had held a top position at a federation of that size — and it is believed that a woman has never been the top executive at any of the 19 largest federations in North America.

The new initiative seeks to persuade leaders of national, regional and local Jewish organizations to make hiring women a greater priority.

Specifically, it will create a talent bank to identify potential women candidates from within and outside the Jewish community, assist organizations seeking to recruit

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Iranians stage anti-Israel rally

Thousands of Iranians chanted "Death to Israel" and burned Israeli and U.S. flags during a pro-Palestinian rally in Tehran.

Among those addressing the crowd Thursday was the speaker of Iran's Parliament, Mehdi Karroubi, who said the peace process is useless and the only option the Palestinians have is to fight Israel.

### Mohels complete college course

Those who perform ritual Jewish circumcision recently completed a university course in Israel for what is believed to be the first time.

The course at Ben-Gurion University, offered in conjunction with the Chief Rabbinate, provided mohels with information about the human body and other medical knowledge relevant to their work.

### Fighter pilot to fly with NASA

A former fighter pilot will be Israel's first astronaut on a U.S. shuttle flight, NASA announced Sept. 28.

Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon will fly as a payload specialist aboard space shuttle Columbia next summer on a research mission.

### Bank Hapoalim named top bank

Bank Hapoalim is Israel's "Bank of the Year" for 2000, according to a financial magazine.

The Banker magazine cited the bank's initiatives in developing products for the high-tech sector in the Jewish state.

### Lufthansa won't pay neo-Nazis

A German court ruled that Lufthansa will not have to pay compensation for refusing to fly a group of neo-Nazis to Israel.

The court overturned a lower court's decision that the airline had to pay some \$40,000 to the travel agency that booked the November 1998 trip.



## Daily News Bulletin

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women, track which organizations are more successful than others at hiring and retaining women, and establish a training program for both male and female senior management candidates.

It is not clear why women are so poorly represented in top Jewish professional circles.

While there is much talk of glass ceilings and some talk of old boys' networks, few blame the inequity on overt sexism.

Indeed, many Jewish organizations say they would like to hire more women but have difficulty finding enough qualified female candidates.

However, the UJC's Stoll said, "Resistance has been very strong" to accommodating women at top levels and that it is common to hear comments such as: "I can't send a woman to deal with that solicitation. He'll do better with a man."

Stoll added: "If an ambitious woman with good skills wants to be sure she can go as far as her talents can take her, the Jewish communal world does not have role models for her, and many other worlds do. We can't afford to block 50 percent of the working force."

But some women in the field — while supportive of the new initiative — suggest that it is not necessarily discrimination that dissuades women from seeking top positions.

Shula Bahat, acting executive director of the American Jewish Committee, which she said has made recent strides in recruiting women for top lay and professional roles, said she knows of several situations where women were considered for executive jobs but took their hats out of the ring to leave more time for family.

"The nurturing role of the mother is still very demanding and often is not completely compatible with higher-level professional or lay demands," she said.

Jordana Weiss, a young federation professional with two small children, fits this profile.

Although she believes her federation is generally a supportive environment for women, she says neither she — nor her husband — wants a job that makes it so hard to fit in family time.

"Usually advancement means a lot more demands on time and evening and morning hours, which are traditionally family times," said Weiss, who is assistant director of planning and agency relations for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

Cindy Chazan, who was the first woman to head one of the country's large-intermediate size federations — in Hartford — said she experienced little sexism in her post.

However, Chazan, who left in 1999 for a job at the Wexner Foundation, a Jewish philanthropy, said she often felt she "had to give it 125 percent so that nobody every questioned whether hiring a woman was appropriate."

Ultimately, she found the job's hours and its blurring of public-private boundaries difficult to balance with her family needs.

"Often after a 12- to 14-hour workday, my second shift began," she said, adding that "no matter how well-meaning husbands or male partners might be, the bulk of the burden still falls to women."

Chazan, who calls the new initiative "one of the best things that has come to the Jewish world in a long time," said she hopes it encourages Jewish organizations to rethink the executive posts and make them more family-friendly.

Ironically, the concern about the dearth of women in top posts comes at a time when other Jewish spheres are reporting a shortage of men.

A recent study found that with the exception of the Orthodox world, women participate more in adult Jewish learning than men. Another study — on Jewish teens — found that boys are less likely than girls to join youth groups or attend high school religious schools.

Some have speculated about a "feminization" of Jewish life, saying that as Judaism has become more open to women, it is being devalued by — and abandoned by — men.

The new initiative's backers say they are not worried this will happen in the upper echelons of Jewish organizations.

"I think that when wonderful leaders head up institutions everyone wants to be a part of them," Bronznick said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### ADL: Gay-bashing church racist

A U.S. church known for its anti-homosexuality crusade also engages in anti-Semitic and racist rhetoric, according to a new Anti-Defamation League report. The Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., which has picketed gay and lesbian events around the United States, publishes hate literature and posts attacks against Jews, blacks and Christians on its World Wide Web sites.

### Wallenberg news wanted

A U.S. congressional committee is calling on Russian officials to renew the search for Raoul Wallenberg, who risked his life to save thousands of Jews during the Holocaust.

The Swedish diplomat was arrested by Soviet forces in 1945, but his fate is still unknown.

### Moscow court wants new case

A Moscow court ordered prosecutors to reopen a case against an author and publisher of anti-Semitic works, according to the local office of the Anti-Defamation League. Jewish groups in Moscow protested after the case against Victor Kortchagin for inciting ethnic hatred was closed last December.

### Call reversed for soccer players

A Connecticut soccer league agreed to allow two teams to reschedule a boys' match originally scheduled over Rosh Hashanah, in order to accommodate the Jewish players.

The Anti-Defamation League is still looking into a girls' match that is scheduled over Yom Kippur.

### Exhibit features wartime Prague

An art exhibit by Czech-born Israeli artist Chava Pressburger opened in the Spanish Synagogue in Prague.

The exhibit, "Memories of a Family House," is based on her childhood experiences in Prague during the 1930s and include images of the Nazi occupation of the city in 1939. The exhibit runs until Dec. 31.

### Clinton: I destroyed Jewish myth

President Clinton joked at a fund-raising event that he, too, should get some credit for making Jewish history. "I know that it's a big deal to have the first Jewish vice presidential nominee, but I mean, come on now. Look at American history.

That is nothing compared to the first Jewish agriculture secretary," he said, referring to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

"Just with a decision I destroyed one of the great stereotypes in American life: Nobody thinks 'Jewish farmer' is an oxymoron anymore."

## Incorrect photo caption reinforces belief about anti-Israel media bias

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — As if to underscore what some Jews believe is a media bias against Israel when portraying violence in the Middle East, The New York Times and other major dailies this week misidentified a Jewish victim as a Palestinian in one of their photos illustrating the bloodshed in Israel.

The photo, actually shot and labeled by The Associated Press, was displayed prominently in the Sept. 30 edition of the Times on page A5.

On Wednesday, The Times and other major dailies that had run the photograph ran a correction.

In the foreground of the photo was a profile of a young man with Semitic features, blood streaked across his face and splattered on his shirt. In the background was a menacing-looking Israeli policeman, waving a baton.

The caption stated simply, "An Israeli policeman and a Palestinian on the Temple Mount."

Given the context of the violent clashes between Israeli and Palestinians this week, the implication of what seemed to have happened was clear.

In fact, the victim was Tuvia Grossman of Chicago, an American studying in Israel. His father, Dr. Aaron Grossman, was quick to notify the Times.

In a letter to the paper, the elder Grossman explained that his son "and two of his friends were pulled from their taxicab while traveling in Jerusalem by a mob of Palestinian Arabs and were severely beaten and stabbed."

The policeman photographed was in fact trying to protect Tuvia, said his father.

Moreover, the scene occurred elsewhere in Jerusalem's Old City, not on the Temple Mount.

Tuvia Grossman was released from a hospital Wednesday, but returned there after fainting Thursday, according to the Israeli Consulate in New York.

The letter written by Grossman's father — and a second one penned by his brother — circulated widely on e-mail lists, apparently prompting pressure on various newspapers to print corrections.

On Thursday, Yeshiva University's College Student Council held "a day of prayer" to protest what it called the "gross distortion by the media" and ensure that "Tuvia Grossman shall not go down in history as a Palestinian victim of Jewish aggression."

Some Jewish groups have long complained about the mainstream media's tendency to portray bloody clashes simplistically as heavily armed Israeli officers reacting aggressively to stone-throwing Palestinian youths.

Andrea Levin, executive director of the Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, said she understands "there are honest mistakes" made "in the heat of the moment."

However, that so many newspaper editors seized on this photo and ran it large reflects "ingrained assumptions" about the nature of street clashes in Israel, Levin said, and "fulfilled the perception of what is happening there now — that there is only one victim in this conflict, the Palestinian."

In its correction, the Times simply attributed the mistake to "erroneous identification." The Associated Press also sent out a correction to its media clients Wednesday.

However, an AP spokeswoman told JTA that because "there have been people wanting to know and wanting the correction," the news service took the unusual step of actually writing an article about the entire incident.

That article, the spokeswoman said Thursday, had not yet been completed and will be sent out "when it's perfect." Though it's unclear what the thrust of the article will be, Levin took some credit for the AP's unusual move.

"We'd been urging them to do a story on Tuvia's experience," she said.

"The photo depicted something that has not yet been reported, that there are cases of Jews who have been singled out and beaten or stoned."

Nevertheless, said Levin, neither the AP article nor any correction will "come close to undoing the impact" the photo, which ran on Rosh Hashanah, has had. □

**AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD****Group flies rabbis and Torahs in Russian attempt to seize the day***By Lev Gorodetsky*

MOSCOW (JTA) — Andrei Glotser tried to hide his concern about the future of Russian Jewish life with an uneasy smile.

“Our rebbe came today to the class downcast, and said: ‘Hard times are coming, boys. Goussinsky is out. No finance, no support,’ ” the 20-year-old Moscow university student said recently while he was visiting yeshiva classes at the Moscow Choral Synagogue.

Many Jewish activists in Moscow have shared this sense of impending doom since the Kremlin cracked down on Vladimir Goussinsky, one of the largest financiers of Russian Jewish life earlier this year.

Last week, as if to demonstrate that rumors of its financial collapse are exaggerated, the Russian Jewish Congress put on a cross-country show.

The group flew a team of rabbis, officials, journalists, plus a synagogue choir, on a rented VIP plane with a military crew and sent them on a whirlwind trip across Russia that went from Kaliningrad in the extreme west to the eastern city of Novosibirsk in Siberia.

The mission’s stated goals were twofold: to wish a happy Jewish New Year to Jewish communities throughout Russia and to hand over to local rabbis Torah scrolls, looted by the Soviet regime, that were recently retrieved from the Russian state archives and restored.

In each of the five cities visited by the entourage, RJC officials greeted the local Jewish public in a big concert hall and the Moscow synagogue choir entertained the gathering.

In three of them, Adolph Shayevich, one of Russia’s chief rabbis, handed over a Torah scroll to the local community.

But just as important, the group wanted to bolster the RJC’s forces in the city-to-city fight with the RJC’s rival, the Chabad-dominated Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, as one Moscow Jewish activist put it.

“We have a struggle going on here,” said Boris Borovik, a young Jewish leader in Yekaterinburg, the capital of the Ural region, which is home to a 15,000-strong and thriving Jewish community.

His organization has never been part of the RJC and he is hesitant about joining the umbrella group.

But, he says, he is worried that “Chabad will swallow the Jewish movement here.”

Goussinsky, a media mogul and the president of the RJC, is now living abroad after being briefly thrown in jail on charges of embezzlement.

At the same time, the federation has seen its fortunes rise in the seesaw of Russian Jewish life.

In most cities, the RJC has a group of local businessmen who sacrifice part of their time and money to the benefit of the Jewish community.

Sometimes this local clique is highly effective in strengthening Jewish life — as it is in the city of Chelyabinsk, one of the cities visited on the tour and home to about 10,000 Jews.

A local RJC group managed recently to collect enough local money to build a brand new synagogue with only minor donations

from Moscow. The RJC also generally has a stronger relationship with local authorities.

But local religious communities belonging to the RJC are generally weak or invisible.

The most vital communities belong to the Chabad-Lubavitch federation.

In Yekaterinburg, for example, Chabad Rabbi Zelig Ashkenazi is running a daily Jewish high school with 200 students, the only such school in the region.

To develop a loyal community and counteract the growing Chabad influence, the RJC recently imported Rabbi Moshe Shteinberg, 25, from Israel to Yekaterinburg.

The group says it will finance the building of a community center with a synagogue on a plot of land it has rented from city authorities.

Ashkenazi did not come to the ceremony where a Torah scroll was handed over to Shteinberg, who is Ukrainian-born and Israeli-educated.

Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz, the executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a super-umbrella for the Chabad-led group, says he is tired of politics and wants to concentrate on concrete work in the communities.

“It is unfortunate that what is so widely reported is the politicization of the Jewish community, whereas the fact of the large rebirth of the Russian Jewish community and hundreds of thousands of Jews returning to Jewish life is not reported,” says Berkowitz.

But Chabad itself has not been above politics.

The movement, and its federation, has received several boosts from Russian President Vladimir Putin, most recently when Putin celebrated the gala opening of a multipurpose Jewish community center in Moscow.

This backing has frustrated RJC officials.

For Rosh Hashanah, Putin appeared to show balance when he sent greetings to the chief rabbis representing both umbrella groups.

The result of the rivalry is extreme polarization.

Federation members call the RJC structures “soap bubbles” and fakes.

RJC activists, in turn, complain that Chabad is buying off congregation members and officials.

For his part, Berkowitz admits that the group is giving some stipends to some elderly Jews.

“We give them a very small stipend so that they can live and participate in services,” he says.

“But these are only elderly people and they represent only 2 percent of the participants who are coming to our programs,” Berkowitz adds.

Shmuel Bludin, a community leader in the city of Novosibirsk, has only negative things to say about Chabad.

But at the same time his own congregation has no rabbi and as a result they are “compelled,” as he puts it, to pray at services led by Chabad, which is the only organized religious community in the city.

In the meantime, most Russian Jews don’t care which group is in control as long as they are given emotional, spiritual and material help.

Whether the groups’ rivalry will help or hurt them remains to be seen. □