



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen slay another Kahane

The leader of an outlawed, far-right Israeli political party was killed in a shooting attack in the West Bank.

Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane, son of the late militant Rabbi Meir Kahane, was killed Sunday with his wife, Talia, when Palestinian gunmen riddled their car with bullets. [Page 3]

### Charles Schusterman dies at 65

Charles Schusterman, a Jewish philanthropist who spearheaded a U.S. synagogue renewal effort, died Saturday at the age of 65.

Schusterman created a foundation in 1987 that gave generously to Jewish causes, including those promoting Jewish education and culture. [Page 1]

### Palestinian official slain

A senior member of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction was gunned down near his home in the West Bank. [Page 3]

### Israel OKs international court

Israel said it would sign a treaty establishing a permanent International Criminal Court.

Reversing a Cabinet decision earlier Sunday, Israel made the move after President Clinton said the United States would sign the treaty.

Israeli officials had voiced concerns that under the treaty, establishing Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be viewed as a war crime. Prime Minister Ehud Barak announced the change of stance after he received assurances from U.S. officials that the accord would not harm Israeli interests.

### Spielberg selected for knighthood

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg was chosen for a knighthood in Queen Elizabeth's annual New Year's honors list.

The 53-year old director, whose films include "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan," will accept the honor at a Jan. 29 ceremony at the British Embassy in Washington. [Page 2]

REMINDER: The JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN will not be published Tuesday, Jan. 2.

## OBITUARY

### Champion of synagogue renewal, Charles Schusterman dies at 65

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Charles Schusterman, a Jewish philanthropist who spearheaded a synagogue renewal effort, died Saturday of complications from leukemia at the age of 65.

Schusterman directed a foundation that gives generously to Jewish causes, including those promoting Jewish education and culture.

Schusterman, who made his money in the oil business, had battled leukemia since 1983. Told then that he had just six months to live, Schusterman refused to accept the prognosis, and found an experimental treatment.

That treatment resulted in harsh effects such as lung damage. But it also allowed Schusterman another 17 years of life, which he used to expand his charitable and philanthropic work.

In 1987, Schusterman and his wife founded the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

Since then, the foundation became known for its support of causes that focus on Jewish renaissance. The foundation regularly gives 75 percent of its donations to Jewish causes, said Sanford Cardin, the Schusterman foundation's executive director.

Through his various philanthropic vehicles, Schusterman backed the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, as well as other Jewish efforts such as the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education and a cultural center in Jerusalem built by the Reform movement.

He also was a supporter of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby. More recently, he was one of 14 philanthropists who pledged \$5 million to Birthright Israel, the program that offers free, first-time trips to Israel for young Jewish adults. The Birthright effort coalesced two of the ideas that Schusterman believed in: building Jewish leadership and reaching out to unaffiliated Jews.

Schusterman "believed in the power of outreach to the intermarried and unaffiliated, and making the intermarried — both the Jewish and the non-Jewish spouse — as comfortable as possible with Judaism and the Jewish religion," Cardin said.

Schusterman's largest gift, \$11.25 million, went to STAR, an acronym for Synagogue Transformation and Renewal. Even though the program was founded with two other philanthropists, Edgar Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, it was Schusterman's brainchild.

The program, which aims to revitalize the synagogue, is slated to announce its first grants in early January.

"This was his vision. This was what he wanted. He felt very strongly that the synagogue had to be a central part of Jewish life," said Richard Joel, the president of Hillel.

Schusterman himself was a member of both Reform and Conservative congregations in his hometown of Tulsa, Okla.

In expressing his condolences to Schusterman's wife, Lynn, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak wrote that Schusterman "was zealous in his promotion of Jewish education and strengthening Jewish identity for the next generation, in his efforts to renew synagogue life and in his advocacy for a vital U.S.-Israel relationship."

Schusterman was known for applying a business principle — seeking a good investment on his money — to his philanthropic activity. Joel remembered how

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Hamas releases Israeli activist

Hamas released an Israeli peace activist it kidnapped last week.

Yitzhak Magrafta, 25, had gone to Hebron on behalf of humanitarian groups to distribute food and blankets to Palestinians in the West Bank city.

### Report: Barak called 'the lemon'

Palestinian officials have nicknamed Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak "the lemon" because Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat has squeezed so many concessions out of him, according to a correspondent for Israel Radio.

The report added that Arafat likely will continue negotiating with Barak until the Israeli elections in early February in hopes of getting as many concessions as possible for the record.

### Sharon sends greeting to Arafat

Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon, who has refused to shake Yasser Arafat's hand in the past, sent the Palestinian Authority president a message on the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Sharon said he hoped the two peoples could live in peace and security.

### Sex offender gets 35 years

An Israeli court sentenced a serial rapist to 35 years in jail for committing 13 acts of sexual assault against young girls and women in the Tel Aviv area.

### Sharansky to lead Old City march

Natan Sharansky plans to lead a 250,000-person march around Jerusalem's Old City walls on Jan. 8 to show support for continued Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount.

The planned rally, called "Yerushalayim, Ani Nishba" — Hebrew for "Jerusalem, I swear unto you" — has received support from several U.S. and Israeli organizations.

Schusterman approached him. "I'm prepared to come to the table and invest in the future of the Jewish people; what's the return going to be?" Joel remembers Schusterman saying. "Once he had decided that something was right, he was sold. He wanted to be involved if he could make it better."

Some say this story exemplifies Schusterman's hands-on approach to philanthropy.

"He didn't just write a check to an existing organization and say, 'That's OK.' He thought through where he believed there was a need, and he had a program that he designed himself, or with others, to do what he thought would be most effective," said Melvin Dow, a past president of AIPAC.

In 2000, the Schustermans gave some \$8 million to various philanthropies.

In accordance with Schusterman's wishes, the family plans to increase its charitable giving to around \$15 million a year, Cardin said.

Schusterman also gave major gifts to his alma mater, the University of Oklahoma.

The son of immigrants from what are today Belarus and Latvia, Schusterman graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in petroleum engineering.

After serving in the U.S. Army, he entered the oil business.

In 1971, he founded Samson Resources, an oil firm named for his father, who died when Schusterman was 19. In addition to his oil business, Schusterman was involved in real estate and banking, and was a part-owner of Bank Hapoalim, one of Israel's largest banks.

Friends and colleagues remembered Schusterman as a self-effacing man who was honest and direct.

"He was a good ol' boy, a modest man. If any of our programs bear the family's name, it was because we insisted upon it, not him," Hillel's Joel said.

He was "very unassuming, incredibly smart, but he never felt the need to prove it to anybody," Joel added.

Despite his battle against leukemia, Schusterman never complained about his pain, friends said. "He asked only that rooms be kept at 68 degrees" for his health, Cardin said. "If they weren't, he simply left the meeting."

Despite his battle against illness, Schusterman remained an optimistic man who had the adventurous spirit of an entrepreneur.

Dow, whose son Steven is married to Schusterman's daughter Stacy, remembers an incident from a salmon fishing trip in northern Canada, where Schusterman spent part of the summer.

The men were allowed to keep only two salmon each, and Schusterman's second one weighed 15 pounds.

Their guide asked if Schusterman wanted to keep it.

As Dow remembered it, Schusterman replied, "Let him go. I'll get a bigger one." And he did.

In addition to Lynn, his wife of 38 years, and Stacy, Schusterman is survived by sons Hal and Jay. Funeral services were slated to be held Monday in Tulsa.

A memorial service is scheduled to be held after the 30-day mourning period. □

## Spielberg becomes British knight

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Filmmaker Steven Spielberg has been named a Knight Commander of the British Empire in Queen Elizabeth's annual New Year's Honors List, for his "extraordinary contribution to the entertainment industry and the British film industry over the last 25 years."

The 53-year old director of "Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan" and "E.T." will accept the Honorary Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire during a Jan. 29 ceremony at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Spielberg was out of the country, but his publicist, Marvin Levy, said the director was aware of the award and felt "honored and humbled. He has the highest admiration for the British people and the British film industry."

As an American admitted to a British Order of Chivalry, Spielberg is not entitled to the appellation "Sir," but he can place the initials KBE — Knight of the British Empire — after his name. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### With deal in the balance, killings continue in West Bank

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Israelis await a Palestinian response to President Clinton's peace proposals, two killings in the West Bank drew cries for revenge and further dimmed the prospects for peace.

Settlers warned of retaliatory attacks after Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane, the leader of an outlawed, far-right Israeli political party, was killed Sunday in a shooting attack in the West Bank.

Hours later, a senior member of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction was gunned down near his West Bank home, and Palestinian militia leaders promised to avenge his death.

Kahane, the son of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the slain leader of the far-right Kach movement, was killed along with his wife, Talia, when Palestinian gunmen ambushed their van as they traveled near the Jewish settlement of Ofra.

Five of the couple's six children, ranging in age from two months to 10 years, were wounded in the attack, one of them seriously. The couple's only son had been dropped off at school minutes before the attack and was not with the family.

An unknown group calling itself the "Martyrs of the Al-Aksa Intifada" claimed responsibility for the ambush.

In a statement, the group said its gunmen had opened fire on a vehicle carrying Jewish settlers near Ofra, and that all the passengers were either killed or wounded. It was not clear if Kahane was specifically targeted.

Doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, where the family was taken, said Binyamin and Talia Kahane were hit by bullets and that the children were wounded from injuries they sustained when the car flipped over into a ditch.

Like his father, Binyamin Kahane was militantly anti-Arab.

Brooklyn-born Meir Kahane founded the Jewish Defense League and the Kach movement, which was outlawed in Israel in 1988. He advocated forcing all Arabs from the Jewish state. He was assassinated 10 years ago in New York by an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen.

His son, who ran religious seminaries, founded Kahane Chai, or Kahane Lives, a movement that espouses his father's beliefs. Israel outlawed the movement in 1992.

The slaying of the Kahanes drew immediate calls for revenge.

An estimated 20,000 people took part in the funeral procession through western Jerusalem, where some mourners rampaged through stores trying to attack Arab workers. Ten policemen were injured.

The procession also stopped opposite the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem, where mourners denounced Barak's peace efforts and called him a murderer.

The Yesha Council, the mainstream umbrella group representing settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Barak and Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami bore personal responsibility for the bloodshed.

The council said in a statement that settlers planned to take action beginning Monday to keep the "murderers off the roads." This was believed to mean that settlers planned to block entrances to Palestinian villages in the West Bank.

Sunday's slaying of the Fatah leader also drew vows of revenge.

Palestinian officials claimed that Thabet Thabet, Fatah's secretary-general in the Tulkarm area, was the victim of an Israeli assassination squad.

Marwan Barghouti, leader of the Fatah militias in the West Bank, warned Sunday that Barak bore responsibility and that he had "opened the gates of hell."

Thabet was killed near his home in Tulkarm a day after Fatah called on Palestinians to intensify their fight against Israel.

Israel's army had no immediate comment, but Israeli security sources had previously confirmed that the Israel Defense Force has been eliminating Palestinian militants believed to be closely involved in attacks on Israelis.

Barak said Sunday that Israeli security forces have "full freedom of action" in dealing with security threats. □

#### Bush picks Jewish aide

A Jew will be fielding questions from White House reporters starting later this month.

Ari Fleischer, a campaign spokesman for George W. Bush, will be the president-elect's press secretary.

#### Future of Shoah efforts a concern

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Stuart Eizenstat is concerned about what will happen to the Holocaust restitution efforts he has championed for years now that the Clinton administration is coming to an end.

"It's not an issue that, so far as I know, is on the radar screen of the incoming administration," Eizenstat told JTA.

#### Belarus shul firebombed

Unidentified assailants threw two firebombs at a synagogue in the capital of Belarus.

One of the bombs in the Dec. 27 attack set a curtain on fire, but a security guard at the Minsk synagogue extinguished the flames and no serious damage was done.

Expressions of anti-Semitism have become increasingly frequent in the former Soviet republic.

#### ADL presses Russian officials

The Moscow office of the Anti-Defamation League recently criticized the failure of the authorities in a Russian city to condemn anti-Semitic protesters.

The criticism comes after demonstrators confronted participants in a Russian rabbinical conference last month with anti-Semitic posters.

#### Australian official apologizes

The governor-general of Australia recently wrote to the nation's Jewish leaders to express his "sincere regret" that any member of the Australian Jewish community has been subjected to anti-Semitic acts.

Sir William Deane, Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia, wrote the letter following a series of attacks on Jewish institutions, including synagogues and the home of a rabbi.

In his letter, Deane said he wanted to express "how absolutely abhorrent every decent Australian finds the recent attacks on synagogues and Jewish property."

#### Web site gives Jewish dates

The Orthodox Union set up a Web site that will offer every Jewish Internet user a date, albeit one on the calendar.

The O.U.'s site has a search engine that gives the sunrise, sunset, candlelighting and Havdalah times in many major cities around the world.

The group's Internet site can be found at <http://www.ou.org/zmanim/zmanim.htm>.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**As Barak tries to close deal, right wing readies for a fight***By Avi Machlis*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The symbolism of Shoshana Selavan's T-shirt, splattered with red paint to look like blood, was obvious.

Posing sullenly for the cameras, Selavan stood in front of dozens of protesters chanting slogans and blowing whistles across from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's office on a bright Sunday morning.

A Hebrew slogan on the shirt warned Barak that he would be responsible for any Jewish blood spilled because of a hasty peace deal with the Palestinian Authority. A sign Selavan held — easily flipped from English to Hebrew for the appropriate media — read "Jewish Residents Against Partitioning the Old City."

Selavan, a 38-year-old mother of five, had never before participated in such demonstrations, but she is terrified by the possibility that the Old City of Jerusalem might soon be divided between Israel and the Palestinians.

Selavan's first demonstration with the "Women in Green" group came as several right-wing organizations coordinate their efforts against a proposed accord that would divide Jerusalem, cede Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount and abandon many Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The groups are incensed by the fact that Barak is willing to relaunch peace talks with the Palestinians on the basis of President Clinton's far-ranging proposals, even as Palestinian violence continues. The right-wing groups reject Barak's argument that the continuing negotiations are the only way to end the conflict and prevent a regional war.

Barak lacks the legitimacy to sign a deal, they argue, since he has little support in Parliament and on Feb. 6 will face Likud Party Chairman Ariel Sharon in elections.

Opinion polls show that many Israelis agree.

But Israelis also are weary of politics, polemics and partisanship. Even though the agreements under discussion today are much more far-reaching and controversial than the interim accords of the mid-1990s, it remains to be seen whether groups like Women in Green will succeed in bringing huge numbers of Israelis into the streets, as they have in the past.

Between 1993 and 1997, organizations such as the Yesha Council — the umbrella organization of Jewish settlers — Women in Green and Zo Artzeinu led the opposition to the Oslo accords amid a wave of bombings by Palestinian terrorists that killed scores of Israelis.

Their grass-roots campaigns played a key role in stirring up popular opposition to the agreements, and were a comfortable forum for public appearances by leaders of the Likud Party. Many left-wing Israelis still believe that these rallies created the environment that encouraged Yigal Amir to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995.

Perhaps this is why Nadia Matar, leader of Women in Green, made sure to stress the nonviolent nature of the new campaign, even as she led chants of the harsh slogans.

"Criminals. Traitors. You gave them weapons," she screamed through a loudspeaker that echoed off the Prime Minister's Office.

"Today is just the opening shot of the start of a campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience."

Loudspeakers, whistles, and party horns did little to amplify the small crowd's voice. Yet with signs screaming slogans such as "Barak Is Pulling Out Our Heart," their message — the potential deepening of internal Israeli divisions — was hammered home.

For many of the 200,000 settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the possibility that dozens of settlements would be dismantled as part of a withdrawal from 95 per cent of the West Bank is a mortal blow to their ideology.

Many religious settlers maintain that the entire biblical Land of Israel — including the West Bank and Gaza — must remain an integral part of the modern Jewish state.

Others oppose the deal for more practical reasons, convinced that ceding the West Bank would only bring violence by implacable Palestinian militants that much closer to Israel's heartland.

With the Palestinians' current violence directed primarily against the settlers, they find little comfort in suggestions that they can stay where they are if they agree to live under Palestinian rule.

"We have a precedent where hundreds of thousands of Jews will be turned into refugees or will be exposed to such imminent danger that they themselves will get up and leave," said Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Yesha Council. "Nobody will stand for this. If they try to evacuate settlements, I can promise you they will not encounter a few hundred people; they will encounter thousands."

It's far from certain that the right-wing groups can succeed in rallying a majority of Israelis to their cause, but they at least can reach a critical mass that cannot be ignored.

Abraham Diskin, a political science professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, estimates that there probably are about 100,000 hard-core ideological settlers who easily can be mobilized.

"I definitely would not underestimate their potential power," he says.

At the same time, these groups could be a political burden for Likud chief Sharon as he struggles to reinvent himself as a moderate leader, capable of uniting the country and leading it to peace.

"If these groups take measures that are too extreme they could hurt Sharon dramatically" by alienating centrist voters, Diskin said. "In addition, there are about 1,000 people from among the settlers who are very extreme. They feel their dream is collapsing and they could resort to violence."

Last week, dozens of members of a small group known as the Temple Mount Faithful attempted to break through police barricades and penetrate the disputed compound where the Jewish temples once stood and which today houses the Al-Aksa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

Members of the group scuffled with police, branded Barak a traitor and warned of more extreme acts to come.

Later that night, leading rabbis of the religious Zionist movement convened in Jerusalem and unleashed stinging attacks against Barak. Rabbi Zalman Melamed, chairman of the Yesha Rabbinical Committee, was quoted in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv as saying the time has come to act.

"Whoever awakens to do any sort of act should know it is all with the blessings of the rabbis," he said. When asked how people should resist, he said "in every possible way" — but stopped short of endorsing violent or illegal activity. □