



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel kills 2 Palestinian militants

Israel killed a Hamas military commander in Hebron. Jamil Jadallah was killed in the West Bank city Wednesday by an Israeli missile attack.

Jadallah is believed to have been involved in the June 7 bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco and several other attacks. He was planning another suicide attack, the Israeli army said. Israeli forces also killed another Hamas militant in the West Bank city of Tulkarm.

### Sharon defends policy to Powell

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon defended Israeli incursions into the West Bank in a phone call with Colin Powell.

Sharon told the U.S. secretary of state Wednesday that Israeli troops will not leave four Palestinian cities in the West Bank until Palestinians comply with agreements to halt violence, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

### Group wants Ramadan bombing

The U.S. anti-terrorism campaign should continue through Ramadan, a Jewish group says.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center says the U.S. bombing in Afghanistan should continue through the Muslim holy month, which begins in mid-November.

In a letter to President Bush, the group said even Muslim countries have fought wars through Ramadan, and a delay would not bring relief to the people in Afghanistan.

"It would be ludicrous to give Osama bin Laden a month's holiday, freeing him to launch further attacks against the people of the United States and her allies," wrote Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Center.

"Such a delay would only prolong the war and cost more American lives."

### Gaza presence a 'mistake'

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman called on Israel to dismantle some settlements.

Addressing a WJC meeting in Jerusalem on Wednesday, Bronfman said settlements in the West Bank that cannot be defended should be abandoned.

He also said Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip is a mistake. Israeli President Moshe Katsav objected to Bronfman's comments, saying that the settlements did not cause the current violence.

## U.S. Jewish fund raising still ranks high in annual list

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jewish organizations rated as significant fund-raising powerhouses last year, bringing in more money than the year before.

But they did not grow as fast as other top U.S. philanthropies.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual ranking of the top 400 philanthropies in the United States — based on tax forms from 2000 — includes 25 Jewish organizations and institutions.

The rankings — released this week and based on data collected during a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity in the United States — do not reflect the current challenges many philanthropies are now anticipating in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the faltering U.S. economy.

Some Jewish organizations jumped in their rankings, including the Jewish Communal Fund in New York and the Jewish Federation of MetroWest, N.J. But for every group that increased its ranking, there were more Jewish philanthropies — including several major federations, Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America and the Jewish National Fund — that saw their rankings decline.

Beyond the rankings, most Jewish groups listed increased their totals last year, but not at the same overall rate of increase of 13 percent for American charitable groups.

The Jewish federation system saw several drops in ranking, with federations in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, San Francisco and Palm Beach, Fla., all going down in the list.

At the same time, MetroWest, N.J., joined the list for the first time, while the Cleveland, Los Angeles and Miami federations also saw their rankings increase.

Among the more dramatic changes in the federation world was that the Jewish Communal Fund in New York, an offshoot of the New York federation that allows donors to create their own foundations and endowments for a variety of charitable causes, surpassed the federation in size and ranking.

The fund, which reported \$173.5 million in private donations, essentially swapped positions with the federation, ranking 52 compared to the federation's 62. Last year, the federation was 53, while the fund was 61.

One of the highest-ranked Jewish organizations — American Friends of Bar-Ilan University — turned out to be there in error.

In a misunderstanding caused by the fact that the university is chartered in New York, rather than in Israel, Bar-Ilan's entire budget — \$120.2 million — was reported, rather than the approximately \$20 million the school raises in the United States, according to a Bar-Ilan official.

Another institution under modern Orthodox auspices, Yeshiva University in New York, jumped from 264 to 170. However, the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, disappeared from the list, after ranking 253 last year.

American "friends of" several Israeli institutions — including American Friends of Tel Aviv University, which was not on the list last year, American Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science — also jumped in their rankings.

While many Jewish leaders have long worried that American Jewish support for Israel is waning, experts on Jewish philanthropy say these statistics show that American Jewish giving to Israeli causes is increasing.

"Jewish giving to Israel remains very strong and it's just going in more directed avenues," said Gary Tobin, president of the San Francisco-based Institute for Jewish

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Croatian leader apologizes

Croatia's president apologized for his country's crimes during the Holocaust.

Stipe Mesic asked the members of the Israeli Knesset on Wednesday for forgiveness for the crimes carried out by the Nazi puppet government in Croatia during World War II.

Unlike his predecessor, Franjo Tudjman, Mesic has taken a clear stand on Croatia's wartime past and its current struggle against ultranationalism. He is the first Croatian president to visit Israel.

### Anthrax causes evacuation

Israeli President Moshe Katsav's residence was evacuated because of suspected anthrax.

The first floor of the house was closed Wednesday after an envelope containing a substance suspected to be anthrax was discovered, according to Ha'aretz.

The envelope was sent to police laboratories for testing.

### Israel raids West Bank village

Israel raided a West Bank village in a search for militants. Israel said it arrested six people, including two suspected terrorists, during an operation in Arrabe on Wednesday.

One Israeli soldier was reportedly injured in gunfire with Palestinians before Israeli troops left the village.

### 1953 crash victims buried

The bodies of two Israeli air force men killed in a 1953 plane crash were buried.

The bodies of Eliezer Raisner and Yehuda Katz were located last week. Raisner and Katz crashed into the Mediterranean Sea on Aug. 7, 1953, while looking for another plane that had crashed into the Mediterranean.

The two were buried Tuesday in Tel Aviv.



## Daily News Bulletin

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and Community Research. One of the largest drops in the federation world — the United Jewish Communities' plunge from seventh largest philanthropy to 33rd — was attributed to accounting errors the Chronicle of Philanthropy made last year.

The UJC is the umbrella for North American Jewish federations. The UJC's funds come primarily from the Jewish federations, through a combination of dues and money earmarked for national and overseas needs.

It raised approximately \$245 million in 2000 — the majority of which was then allocated to the Jewish Agency for Israel. An additional \$63 million, which is not included in the tax forms due to technical accounting reasons, were allocated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Last year, the Chronicle of Philanthropy double-counted certain revenues, and UJC tax forms included other revenues that are no longer included, according to Jerry Carter, the UJC's associate vice president for finance and administration.

Adding to the apparent confusion was the fact that last year the UJC had been recently formed from the merger of three other organizations and that last year's revenues also included back dues from member federations that had accumulated over several years, Carter said.

If one were comparing "apples to apples," last year's number should have been \$248 million, Carter said, but was instead reported as \$524 million.

The Chronicle itself this week adjusted its Web site listings for last year, ranking UJC at 27 rather than seven.

However, Carter and other UJC officials said, the tax form numbers are less significant in measuring the health of the federation system than is the fact that the federation system collectively raised \$2.9 billion in 2000, up from \$2.4 billion in 1999.

That included money from annual campaigns and endowments.

Tobin, who has studied American Jewish philanthropic trends, said overall, this year's rankings show that "Jewish philanthropies are holding their own."

Tobin said the ranking also illustrates an ongoing trend of Jewish philanthropists increasing donations to endowments and communal foundations, like the New York one, while federation annual campaigns decline as a percentage of total Jewish giving.

However, despite the fluctuations, "the fact that 25 Jewish organizations are on that list at all is remarkable given the size of the Jewish population," Tobin said.

"We may look from the inside at who's on and who's not, and who's increasing and who's declining," Tobin said. "But to the rest of the philanthropic world, the exact names and amounts matter less than that the list is filled with successful Jewish philanthropies." □

## Rome embraces chief rabbi as he prepares for retirement

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Rome's chief rabbi, who is retiring after 50 years in the position, has received the city's highest honor.

At an emotional ceremony last Friday at the city's historic city hall, Elio Toaff was named an honorary citizen — the equivalent of receiving the keys to the city.

Attending the ceremony were Jewish community leaders, cultural figures and Holocaust survivors, as well as a broad spectrum of Italy's political and cultural elite — including President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who hugged his old friend.

"The entire city of Rome embraces you, and with you it embraces the Jewish community and all those in the world who are unjustly persecuted and offended," Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni said.

He called Toaff "a man of faith who has always been distinguished not just for his dedication to tolerance, dialogue and discussion, but also by a tenacious commitment to defend democracy and freedom."

Toaff, 86, shocked the Rome community with a surprise announcement at the city's main synagogue last month that he was stepping down because of his age.

Rome, with 15,000 Jews, has the country's largest Jewish community, and the Rome chief rabbi is the country's leading Jewish religious figure. A short, spry man with a distinctive goatee, Toaff fought the Nazis as a partisan during World War II. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Bill would protect school prayer

U.S. congressional negotiators agreed to take federal funds from school districts that unlawfully restrict student prayer.

The legislators endorsed a provision to require school districts to certify that they protect students' rights to pray voluntarily in schools.

If passed as part of the 2001 education bill, the provision would mark the first time that Congress has tied federal funds to compliance with Education Department prayer guidelines.

### Hezbollah makes terror list

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft included Hezbollah on a list of 46 terrorist organizations.

Ashcroft said members of groups on the list, some of which are linked to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network, will be barred from entering the United States.

### Prayer amendment planned

A congressman wants to change the U.S. Constitution to allow school prayer.

Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Okla.) circulated a letter to fellow lawmakers asking whether they would sign on to co-sponsor a constitutional amendment that would recognize students' right to pray in school.

A draft of the amendment calls for the "people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage and traditions on public property, including schools."

Istook got 150 co-sponsors for similar legislation in 1998, but could not get the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional amendment.

### German memorial going up

Construction began in Berlin on a national German memorial to the Holocaust. Tuesday's construction came after a decade of controversy over the memorial's location and design.

The memorial will consist of 2,700 pillars on a site near the Berlin Wall.

The memorial is slated to be completed in 2004 at a cost of \$23 million.

### Sharon-Arafat meeting backed

Ariel Sharon should meet with Yasser Arafat to reduce tension in the Middle East, Sen. Charles Schumer said.

The New York Democrat spoke of the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan at a dinner of the Abraham Fund, which works for Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel.

The Israeli prime minister should understand, Schumer said, that "if America succeeds in dramatically cutting back on terrorism, there's one other country that will benefit" — Israel.

## Families of kidnapped soldiers still hopeful, ask for more help

By Toby Axelrod

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The parents of Israeli soldiers kidnapped a year ago by Hezbollah are asking the World Jewish Congress to help press their case.

The parents of Benny Avraham, one of three soldiers kidnapped along Israel's northern border in October 2000, met Tuesday with WJC members attending the organization's plenary assembly here a day after Israel Defense Force officials announced that the soldiers most likely are dead.

Saying the family needs concrete evidence and not just words, Chaim Avraham asked the WJC to "push the government to release our children in whatever condition."

The other two soldiers are Adi Avitan and Omar Souad.

"What happened yesterday is ridiculous," Avraham said, referring to Israel's surprise announcement. "I asked our prime minister, 'Why do you come to us to tell us information that we already have, without giving us evidence, without the judgment of a rabbi, without real evidence that you can believe as a father and a mother that your son is not alive?'"

The fate of a fourth victim, Israeli businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum — who was kidnapped around the same time as the three soldiers, apparently in Europe — remains unclear.

The IDF chief rabbi, Brig.-Gen. Yisrael Weiss, met with the families Wednesday to discuss his expected declaration that the three are fallen soldiers "whose burial place is unknown."

"I am still dealing with other components that will give me the maximum information to make a decision that is 100 percent certain," Rabbi Weiss told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz on Tuesday after meeting with Israel's chief rabbis, Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron. "Therefore I request that time not be a factor that influences the decision."

Weiss also met with the spiritual leader of the Shas Party, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and Rabbi Shalom Elyashiv, a leading rabbi in the Ashkenazi Orthodox world. Islamic religious leaders also will be consulted because Souad, a Bedouin, is Muslim.

"It is more important to make the correct and desired decision that is acceptable to religious leaders in Israel," Weiss said.

All three of the families, however, have indicated that they don't accept the IDF's assessment, which is based on classified intelligence information apparently received in the last two weeks.

"Until we know it, our son is alive. We want to bring him back in any way that Israel can bring its children home," Avraham said.

For months, the United Nations denied Israeli allegations that the organization had a videotape, shot just after the incident, of blood-stained vehicles used in the kidnapping. Israeli officials ultimately were given limited access to the U.N. evidence.

The United Nations is "a joke," Avraham said. "And this is an organization that received the Nobel Prize."

On Wednesday, WJC members submitted a resolution calling on WJC members to urge their governments to press for information on the soldiers' fate, and work for their return.

The WJC also proposed a resolution condemning the United Nations for withholding information about its videotape — in order, U.N. officials explained, to maintain neutrality between Israel and Hezbollah.

The chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor, told JTA that Israel should continue making every effort to bring the soldiers home or, if they are dead, to receive their bodies from Lebanon.

He also said Israel should publicize the fact that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, not a legitimate political party.

Hezbollah refused to allow intermediaries or international organizations to visit the kidnapped soldiers, and demanded that Israel release all Lebanese and other Arab prisoners it holds in exchange for information on the soldiers. Hezbollah dismissed the Israeli claim Monday that the soldiers were probably dead, saying it was an attempt to squeeze information out of the Islamic fundamentalist group. □

## New Jewish population study shows rising intermarriage rate

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — An increasing number of Americans raised as Jews are marrying non-Jews and identifying with other religions, according to a new study.

In addition, even Jews who identify Judaism as their religion — not simply their ethnic background — are much less likely to believe in God or describe themselves as religious than are other Americans.

The new study, which followed the methodology and many of the questions of the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, aims to provide a “second opinion” for that survey’s official update, National Jewish Population Survey 2000, which is being conducted under the auspices of the federation system’s United Jewish Communities.

Among the findings:

- There are approximately 5.5 million American adults who are either Jewish by religion or of Jewish parentage and/or upbringing, the same number found in 1990. However, 2.8 million, or 51 percent, say their religion is Jewish, compared with 58 percent in the 1990 survey.

- Among adults of Jewish parentage and/or upbringing, nearly 1.4 million say they are members of a non-Jewish religion or profess a different religion. That number has more than doubled since 1990, a change researchers attribute to the “coming of age of the children of intermarried families and the unfolding religious decisions of interfaith couples.”

- Thirty-three percent of Jews — defined as people either raised Jewish or who say Judaism is their religion — are married to non-Jews, compared with 28 percent in 1990. The 1990 study is famous for finding that 52 percent of Jews who married in the previous five years had married a non-Jew; the new study has not yet determined statistics for newlyweds, but researchers say logic dictates that the intermarriage rate has increased for this group.

- Forty-two percent of Jews who say Judaism is their religion, not simply their ethnicity or heritage, describe their outlook as secular, while 14 percent say they do not believe in God. In contrast, just 15 percent of adults nationally describe their outlook as secular, and 4 percent of adults nationally say they do not believe in God. There is no 1990 data on this question.

The new study was conducted by Egon Mayer, director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Ariela Keysar, also of the Center for Jewish Studies, and Barry Kosmin, who currently is director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in London. All three were involved in the 1990 study.

The official update of the National Jewish Population Survey is larger in scope than Mayer, Keysar and Kosmin’s study, but has not yet been released. Based on interviews with 4,500 Jews and originally slated to be released early this year, the UJC study now will not be available until summer of 2002.

The delays are due to a combination of reasons, ranging from debates over methodology to the difficulty of finding enough people willing to be interviewed.

“When we started out we never imagined that our study would be completed before the National Jewish Population Survey 2000 findings were released,” Mayer said. “We never intended this as a

substitute for NJPS 2000, but rather as a test of or verification of its findings.”

The new study is under the auspices of the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and was funded by the Posen Foundation, a British family foundation. It has a smaller Jewish sample — 1,668 people — and asks fewer questions than NJPS 2000.

It also repeats methodology that was used in the 1990 study, including screening participants through a marketing firm survey that makes some of its calls on Shabbat. That methodology, which was modified for NJPS 2000, has been criticized for potentially undercounting observant Jews.

However, Mayer said it repeated the 1990 methodology to compare current findings to those from 10 years ago.

Asked about the policy implications of the new study, Mayer said it indicates that religion may not be “the best methodology for attracting the hearts and minds of the masses of American Jews,” Mayer said.

“Whether it’s trips to Israel, summer camping, the day school movement and so forth, we have to address how to deal with that segment of the population that doesn’t see in the religious section of Judaism the path to their Jewish future,” he said.

The new study was cheaper and conducted in a much shorter time period than NJPS 2000.

It also was conducted so quietly that only a handful of people knew about its existence.

Even though Mayer and Keysar are on the National Technical Advisory Committee for NJPS 2000, their study has come as a surprise to most of the people involved with NJPS 2000.

Jim Schwartz, UJC’s research director and the staff person overseeing NJPS 2000, said he had not yet seen Mayer, Keysar and Kosmin’s study and could not comment on it, other than to say that “the researchers are all good researchers.”

Mayer said he and his colleagues “conducted this study very quietly because we didn’t want to stir up any of the controversies that frankly can be very time consuming to deal with when you’re trying to get a job done.”

Privately, some of the members of the advisory committee are annoyed that they were kept out of the loop and that scarce philanthropic dollars had been spent on two similar projects.

But Steven M. Cohen, a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who is a consultant to the NJPS 2000, called the new study a “great data source” that “provides another benchmark against which to judge” the accuracy of NJPS 2000.

Asked about the secret nature of the study, Cohen said, “We all go about and do our research, then release results.”

Researchers, he said, have “no obligation to announce that there’s a study on the way.” □

## Israelis tour Ukraine, Poland

MOSCOW (JTA) — Some 120 Israeli students are touring Jewish sites in Ukraine and Poland.

The high school students are expected to meet with Jewish youngsters in Kiev, Ukraine, and also tour former Nazi death camps in Poland.

The group is the third to make such a tour in the past few months.

The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Claims Conference are sponsoring the trips. □