



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Suspect: Bombers targeted Jews**

A man allegedly involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing told an interviewer that he and his accomplices originally wanted to target Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

In an interview with CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" conducted in Iraq, Abdul Rahman Yasin said the conspirators changed their minds and targeted the twin towers because they believed that most of those who worked there were Jewish.

The FBI has offered a \$25 million reward for information leading to Yasin's arrest.

Six people were killed and 1,000 injured in the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center.

### **Ayalon named ambassador**

Danny Ayalon was named Israel's ambassador to the United States.

Ayalon, 47, previously served as foreign policy adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and also has advised former prime ministers Ehud Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu.

Ayalon replaces David Ivry, who left Washington more than a month ago. [Page 4]

### **Israeli woman mistakenly named**

Israeli security officials admitted they were mistaken when they said a Jewish woman had allegedly helped a suicide bomber.

Last week, the officials said they had arrested Marina Pinsky, an Israeli Jew, and her Palestinian husband, Ibrahim Sarahna, for allegedly aiding the terrorist who carried out a suicide bombing May 22 in Rishon le-Zion. Two Israelis were killed and at least 40 were injured in the blast.

On Saturday, however, the officials said the woman arrested was Irena Polichak, a non-Jew who arrived in Israel several years ago and worked as a prostitute. Polichak was using Pinsky's identity at the time of her arrest.

To further complicate matters, Polichak was married to a cousin of Pinsky's husband.

The mix-up was revealed when Pinsky appeared on Israel's Channel One television denying her involvement. Pinsky said she feared for her and her infant daughter's safety after she was misidentified as a suspect. The Shin Bet domestic security service is investigating the error.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### **Jewish philanthropy finding ups and downs in current climate**

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — This is going to be a leaner year than usual at the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies.

With an expected 12 percent cut in its grant-making, the foundation is "reviewing the programs we're funding and making the painful decisions between right and right," said Jeffrey Solomon, the foundation's president.

Like many Jewish and non-Jewish North American foundations, the Bronfman Philanthropies — which gave away almost \$12 million in 2001, much of it for programs in Israel and in North America that foster Jewish identity and peoplehood — have lost money in the stock market. And that means they have less money to give away.

According to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, assets fell by a median of 10 percent last year among the nation's largest private foundations.

More than 100 of the 131 foundations recently surveyed by the newspaper reported that they were cutting or freezing their grant-making as a result.

However, the news is not all bad for Jewish philanthropy.

The recession's toll has been offset, observers say, by a combination of other factors. Among them is the crisis in Israel, which is spurring an increase in Jewish giving by individuals.

In addition, the Jewish foundation world continues to grow.

According to Mark Charendoff, executive director of the Jewish Funders Network, there are now more than 7,000 Jewish family foundations — representing roughly \$20 billion in assets — in the United States.

There were approximately 2,500 such foundations in the early 1990s.

"The field on the whole still has a very good and upbeat story to tell," Charendoff said.

While some have been hurt by the recession, he said, "there is still remarkable growth going on in the number of Jewish family foundations being created and in the asset base of those foundations and in the raw dollars that they are allocating."

Most major Jewish foundations declined to participate in the Chronicle of Philanthropy survey, but several of the Jewish ones that did participate reported cuts in grant-making.

In addition to the Bronfman Philanthropies, the Helen Bader Foundation, the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund and the Koret Foundation reported a reduction in grants, ranging from 1.9 percent for the Koret Foundation to 19.3 percent for the Goldman Fund.

Robert Gamble, executive director of the San-Francisco-based Goldman Fund, said the foundation's drop in grant-making was a direct result of drops in its financial portfolio. The foundation gave away \$26.2 million last year, with 20 percent to 25 percent for Jewish causes, mostly in Israel and San Francisco.

The Nathan Cummings Foundation reported a 2.6 percent decline in grant commitments because it shifted last year from awarding multiyear grants to one-year grants. However, Caroline Williams, the foundation's chief financial and investment officer, told JTA that the actual dollars paid out remained steady at \$20 million, 25 percent of which was for Jewish causes.

Cummings' investment portfolio decreased by 2 percent in 2001, Williams said, but the foundation board "felt it was important to not reduce the grants budget."

While others were cutting or holding steady, the Baltimore-based Harry and

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel nabs two alleged bombers

Israeli troops arrested two Palestinian women who allegedly planned to carry out suicide bombings. The women were among several Palestinians arrested Sunday in Nablus, where Israeli forces conducted a third day of house-to-house searches. One of the women had an explosives belt ready for use, Israel Radio reported.

The arrests took place as Israeli troops continued searches for suspected terrorists around the West Bank cities of Kalkilya and Tulkarm.

The head of the Shin Bet domestic security service, Avi Dichter, told the Cabinet at its weekly meeting Sunday that as a result of the continuing search-and-arrest operations some 40 terror attacks were prevented in the past few weeks.

Dichter also told the Cabinet that six Palestinians held in a Jericho jail under British and U.S. supervision are being given more lenient treatment than Israel had expected them to receive. Fuad Shubaki, who had helped arrange the Karine-A arms shipment intercepted by Israel in January, and five Palestinians suspected of killing Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi are not being held in isolation and are receiving unlimited visitors, Dichter charged.

### E.U.: Call July peace conference

The E.U. foreign policy chief wants to convene a Middle East peace conference in July. Javier Solana, who met with Israeli officials Sunday, said the international community agrees on the timing of such a conference.

He rejected the terms set by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has demanded a halt to terrorist attacks and incitement, as well as reforms in the Palestinian Authority. Israel "cannot set conditions regarding reforms that Yasser Arafat has to carry out," Solana said. He also said the date for the establishment of a Palestinian state should be set at the conference.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Jeanette Weinberg Foundation — which with more than \$2 billion in assets is one of, if not the, largest Jewish foundations in North America — actually increased its grantmaking by 29.3 percent in 2001, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The foundation, whose Jewish grantees include the Baltimore federation, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, expects to give away a hefty \$100 million again in 2002, according to the Chronicle.

Not all foundations have had significant losses and not all who have faced setbacks are passing on the losses to grantees.

U.S. tax law requires charitable foundations to give away at least 5 percent of their assets each year.

While many foundations adhere strictly to the law — essentially spending only their investment returns in order to preserve the principle in perpetuity — many in the Jewish sector give away considerably more.

Some — like the New York-based Avi Chai Foundation — were set up with the purpose of spending all the assets within a certain number of years, rather than operating forever.

"Bad market, good market, we're going to try to spend the bulk of this foundation's capital over the next 15 to 20 years," said Arthur Fried, chairman of Avi Chai's board of trustees.

While the last two years "have not been robust in the stock market," he said, the foundation — which funds Jewish causes, particularly education, in North America and Israel — still has more than \$450 million in assets.

"Today, philanthropic trustees have funds — let them use it in the best possible way they can to satisfy the enormous needs of the Jewish people today across a broad outline of activities."

But many foundations are taking harder looks at their grantees, and are conservative about awarding new grants.

Yonatan Gordis, a consultant to many major Jewish foundations in North America, said the recession is forcing foundations to "separate the wheat from the chaff," and sharpen their missions and priorities, which is "ultimately a really healthy thing."

However, the crisis in Israel is complicating the process, he said, forcing foundations to do "triage" work, rather than long-range planning.

Gordis declined to specify which causes, other than Israel, were emerging as winners in the re-prioritizing and which are facing cuts.

"For every foundation it's different," Gordis said.

However, he noted "riskier ventures are taking more of a beating."

Projects that are "whimsical" and "experimental" are attracting less money, Gordis said, which is "sad, because it means there is going to be less experimentation."

The Bronfman Philanthropies is not focusing cuts in any one area.

"Literally we reviewed hundreds of grants on a grant-by-grant basis" to make cuts "in as responsible a way as possible," Solomon said.

Although he declined to name the grantees affected by the cut, Solomon said one was an organization that "for years said they could raise more money on their own, but never felt the incentive."

However, despite the cuts, the foundation made what Solomon described as a "major" gift to the federation system's Israel emergency campaign, and it is hoping to fund some new projects as well. The foundation is also cutting its administrative budget.

The Goldman Fund did not cut existing grantees, but has become "more careful about new commitments," Gamble said.

However, like the Bronfman Philanthropies, the foundation did not cut by program area, but "looked at each grant on its merits."

David Altshuler, president of the Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, warned against assuming that the recession is the only factor influencing Jewish philanthropy.

The growth of new foundations, the fact that much is still in flux and the crisis in Israel — which is generating hundreds of millions of dollars in new giving — make the recession's impact hard to measure, Altshuler said.

"You need to have a very broad panorama of vision to take in everything that's happening in Jewish philanthropy at one glance. And we don't have the tools to do that yet." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Syria heads Security Council

Syria assumed the presidency of the U.N. Security Council. Syria, identified by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism, will run the council for the month of June.

Syria has used its seat on the council to criticize Israel's military retaliation to Palestinian terror attacks, and has pushed for a string of Security Council resolutions condemning Israeli actions as war crimes, massacres or atrocities. Syria's U.N. mission insisted that it would not place a special emphasis on the Middle East this month.

### Sakharov mural defaced

Obscene and anti-Semitic slogans were spray-painted over a mural of Soviet dissident and Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov at a Moscow human rights museum. The 16-by-10-foot mural, in a square outside the Sakharov Museum, was vandalized May 30, director Yuri Samodurov told The Associated Press.

He speculated that it could have been damaged by teen-agers or could have been "an order" from the authorities, because of the museum's criticism of Russia's war in Chechnya.

### German memorial planned

The German city of Leer is planning a memorial to local Jews who were murdered by the Nazis.

Mayor Wolfgang Kellner said he hopes to dedicate the site on Nov. 9, 2002, the anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom in 1938, when the synagogue in Leer was destroyed along with hundreds of others in Germany and Austria. Kellner is appealing to local residents to donate what they can to help build the memorial, expected to cost about \$60,000.

### Czech victims remembered

A plaque commemorating Jewish Holocaust victims was unveiled last week at the site of a former synagogue in the Czech Republic.

The synagogue in the town of Sokolov was burned down by the Nazis in 1938. Only two of the town's 57 prewar Jewish inhabitants survived Nazi concentration camps.

### Berlin street name may change

A Berlin street named for a Nazi theologian may soon be renamed. The street, Seebergsteig, currently is named for Reinhold Seeberg, who had called Judaism the "deadly enemy of every true culture and every spiritual advance" of mankind. Historians say Seeberg's anti-Semitic sermons helped the Nazis reach power.

Local politicians want to rename the street to memorialize the Jewish literary historian and art critic Walter Benjamin.

## Incident with booby-trapped sign spurs new call for action in Russia

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — An incident in which a woman was severely injured after she tried to take down a booby-trapped anti-Semitic sign has shocked Russian Jews — and led to calls for law enforcement officials to take greater steps to curb extremism.

The May 27 incident, in which Tatyana Sapunova was badly burned and lost sight in an eye, "shows that with all this blah-blah-blah at the top about the freedom of the Jews, neo-Nazis are beginning to feel no less free — not only to write or yell anti-Jewish insults, but to kill," Natasha Sliozberg, a Moscow high school teacher and a Jewish activist, told JTA.

The incident comes amid evidence of other extremist activity in Russia.

Last week, a neo-Nazi organized an "initiation night" in a forest near Moscow.

Hundreds of skinheads were reportedly gathered around bonfires holding burning torches and yelling: "Death to people from the Caucasus and Kikes," "Russia for the Russians" and "Sieg Heil."

Sapunova, a 28-year-old biophysicist, was driving her 4-year-old daughter and her mother a few miles from Moscow when she noticed a sign saying "Death to Kikes" hanging from a pole near the road.

She pulled over, walked to the sign and began to take it down. The sign, rigged with dynamite, blew up in her face, injuring not only Sapunova, but also her 55-year-old mother, Yelena.

The two victims do not identify themselves as Jews, although one of Sapunova's grandfathers was Jewish.

But both have been close to the Jewish community. Sapunova's mother had worked for a foundation for blind Jews.

"Tatyana is strong, and, at the same time, a very well-meaning and ready-to-help person," Galina Yevtushenko, who heads the foundation, told JTA. "She just could not have acted otherwise."

Rabbi Berel Lazar, one of Russia's two chief rabbis, visited Sapunova in the hospital and promised that the Jewish community will pay her medical bills and if needed, send her to Israel for medical treatment.

According to a Russian security source, the booby trap was intended for Lazar himself.

The bomb was planted shortly before Lazar was scheduled to pass by the sign on the way back from the airport after meeting with President Bush in St. Petersburg, according to the source in Russia's Federal Security Bureau.

But Lazar's plane was late, and it was dark when he and his aides passed the sign, according to the source.

Russian and U.S. Jewish groups reacted to the incident by blasting Russian law enforcement agencies.

The Moscow office director of the Anti-Defamation League, Alexander Axelrod, issued a statement saying the incident was the inevitable result of the authorities' refusal to crack down on hate crimes in Russia.

"Russian anti-Semitism has moved on to a new level — from anti-Semitic newspapers and swastikas on the walls to organized violence and terrorism," Axelrod told JTA.

Yevgeny Satanovsky, president of the Russian Jewish Congress, also faulted Russian officials.

"Had the authorities taken seriously the threat of anti-Semitic terror on Russian territory, and had the Duma not stalled on adopting President Putin's proposed legislation against political extremism, this crime may have been avoided," said Satanovsky, who also criticized public indifference to the issue.

At least one member of the Russian Parliament, Pavel Krashennnikov, agrees with Jewish leaders.

Krashennnikov reacted to news of the booby-trapped sign by saying an anti-extremism bill should be passed before the current legislative session ends in July.

"We are behind Europe on this by 50 years," he said. □

## U.S. Jewish leaders applaud new Israeli envoy to Washington

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — U.S. Jewish leaders are applauding the naming of Danny Ayalon as the next Israeli ambassador to the United States.

Reacting to his appointment, several Jewish leaders called Ayalon a consummate professional who has a good working relationship with the American Jewish community.

After months of uncertainty over who would fill Israel's top diplomatic post, Ayalon, who is currently Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's senior foreign policy adviser, was named to the post last Friday.

The appointment of Ayalon, 47, ends months of speculation over who would replace David Ivry, who left the post in mid-April several months after he announced his intention to leave.

The appointment was held up because of sparring between Sharon and his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, who under the terms of their coalition agreement had to agree on who Ivry's successor would be.

Because he is a career diplomat, Ayalon is considered a "professional" appointment, not a "political" one.

U.S. Jewish officials say Ayalon will bring a different set of experiences to the table, as opposed to Ivry, a career military official, and other ambassadors who have had political aspirations.

"Danny Ayalon's background, history and experience is diplomacy," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "I think the fact that he's not a politico means a lot."

Martin Raffel, associate executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said Ayalon garnered positive responses from conference calls he has held with JCPA leaders.

Ayalon will be helpful in the "battle of the airwaves" as Israel continues to vie for public support during the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

U.S. Jewish leaders point to Ayalon's ability and interest in speaking to the media, something Ivry rarely did during his tenure in Washington.

"We're looking for someone to be an effective communicator in the public arena, and I think he meets that criterion," Raffel said of Ayalon.

Ayalon's appointment comes as the White House grapples with Middle East policy and an American audience seeks Israeli voices to counter Palestinian rhetoric.

An Israeli official in Washington said Ayalon will be a known entity to the Bush administration and Congress because he has accompanied Sharon in his U.S. travels.

In his current capacity as Sharon's adviser, Ayalon has worked closely with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Ayalon is also considered a compromise candidate. For weeks, Sharon and Peres had rejected candidates proposed by the other.

Among those who had been considered for the post were former U.N. ambassador Dore Gold and the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor.

Ayalon's name came up during a meeting last week between Sharon and Peres, when Peres presented a list of senior Foreign Ministry officials to be considered for the post.

Ayalon's appointment reportedly drew mixed reaction in the

ministry, where he was catapulted over more senior and experienced officials.

A married father of two, Ayalon holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Tel Aviv University and a master's degree in business administration from Bowling Green University in Ohio.

He worked in the private sector before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1989. His previous diplomatic assignments included a stint at Israel's mission to the United Nations.

Four years ago, Ayalon was "loaned" from the Foreign Ministry to work as assistant foreign policy adviser to then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud. He continued in this position during after Ehud Barak became prime minister.

Sharon named Ayalon his chief foreign policy adviser soon after taking office last year. In that capacity, Ayalon has been involved in preparing Sharon's contacts with foreign officials and planning trips abroad.

Many Israeli commentators considered Ayalon a good compromise candidate.

As an adviser to the prime minister, he has Sharon's trust. Coming from the Foreign Ministry's ranks, the choice of Ayalon was a face-saving measure for Peres.

Ayalon's ultimate performance in Washington will depend on how he is utilized from Jerusalem, observers noted.

If the Prime Minister's Office and the Oval Office continue to stay in direct contact for their most important communications — which would sideline Ayalon from such contacts, as was the case during Ivry's tenure — then Ayalon's main responsibility will be to present Israel's view to the media, they said.

The appointment is still pending formal approval from the Foreign Ministry's committee on diplomatic appointments. □

*(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

## Steven Spielberg gets his degree

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — "Schindler's List" etched a new aspect of the Holocaust into the public mind — now it has helped Steven Spielberg graduate from college.

The celebrated filmmaker, who holds five honorary doctorates — as well as three Oscars and a string of box office records — received a bachelor's degree in the arts last Friday from California State University at Long Beach.

Some 34 years after dropping out of the university's film school, Spielberg, 55, completed the requirements for the degree by writing term papers and completing several general education courses, all through independent study.

The school waived the requirement that seniors submit a polished 12-minute film, ruling that "Schindler's List" would do. Spielberg, garbed in cap and gown, sat among his fellow 500 graduates. The Cal State administration had earlier asked them not press their film scripts on him.

When the name Steven Allen Spielberg was called, the filmmaker rose, as did the audience of some 6,000, while the band belted out a 15-second rendition from the theme music for "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Spielberg made no remarks but raised held up two fingers in a "V" for victory.

Three days earlier, Spielberg received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Yale University. □