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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Lieberman announces run

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) announced he will run for the U.S. presidency in 2004.

Lieberman, the first observant Jew to run for president, quoted President Kennedy in his announcement Monday: "Here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

Lieberman said that as the vice presidential candidate with Al Gore in 2000, the Democratic ticket won half a million more votes than then-Republican candidate George Bush and won more votes than any Democratic Party candidates in U.S. history.

Asked about his religion, Lieberman said he experienced no bigotry in 2000.

He added that the American people are too smart for bigotry and that they focus instead on ability and ideology.

"My faith is at the center of who I am. I am not going to conceal that" during the campaign, he said, adding that he would not "hesitate to talk about faith when it's relevant." [Pages 1-4]

Attack toll rises to 23

The death toll from a recent terror attack in Tel Aviv rose to 23.

Zhang Minmin, 50, a Chinese citizen who worked in Israel, died Monday of injuries she sustained in the Jan. 5 double suicide bombing.

Report: Saudi sponsorship hidden

Saudi Arabia's sponsorship of an anti-Israel radio campaign in the United States last year was reportedly hidden.

The Saudi government, through a Washington public relations firm, Qorvis Communications, spent \$679,000 alone on anti-Israel radio ads that ran in 15 U.S. cities last spring, Time magazine reported this week.

Qorvis initially said the ads were sponsored by a consortium of Mideast policy groups called the Alliance for Peace and Justice.

But in a filing with the U.S. Justice Department last month, Qorvis revealed that the funding actually came from the Saudi government, according to the report.

The Saudis spent at least \$14.6 million on anti-Israel public relations in the United States last year, according to The New York Sun newspaper.

A JEWISH PRESIDENT?

Lieberman: A Jewish candidate or just a candidate who is Jewish?

By Matthew E. Berger

STAMFORD, Conn. (JTA) — When he ran for class president of Stamford High School in 1960, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) says he faced no bigotry because he was Jewish.

Now, as a candidate for president of the United States, he's hoping for the same treatment — and the same victory — from a national audience.

Lieberman officially entered the race for the presidency Monday, announcing that he was filing papers to seek the Democratic nomination in 2004.

Lieberman enters a strong field that includes a former Democratic leader in the House, a liberal Northeast governor, a civil rights activist and two fellow senators — with the possibility of a third entering soon.

Lieberman is one of the first Jewish candidates in U.S. history to seek the White House — and the only one who is considered to have a real shot.

Among American Jews, he has almost angelic status, considered a groundbreaker for others to follow. But he has also been a controversial figure at times, taking stands that buck the views of the majority of American Jews and liberals, and consistently referring to faith in his campaigns.

While many in the Jewish community say Lieberman's candidacy represents an important achievement for Jews in the United States, there is confusion over exactly how to view him. Is he the Jewish candidate or just another political candidate who happens to be Jewish? And will Jews see it differently than the rest of the American population?

At his news conference on Monday, Lieberman held himself up as the man for all Americans.

"I'm running because of the ideas I have for our nation's future and how to make it better," he said at his high school alma mater.

"I'm not running on my faith," Lieberman said. "But the fact is my faith is at the center of who I am and I'm not going to conceal that."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said he does not think Lieberman will be seen as a Jewish candidate the way the Rev. Al Sharpton, who also intends to run, will be seen as an African American candidate.

"I think outside the Jewish community, the only ones who will look at him as a Jewish candidate are the bigots and the anti-Semites, who are a minority," Foxman said.

Foxman chastised Lieberman when he ran as the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000 for often referring to faith and God in his speeches and for advocating a greater role for faith in American life.

But on Monday, Lieberman indicated that his style of campaigning would continue through 2004. Lieberman said he would not hesitate to invoke faith and God's name, when it comes naturally, while on the campaign trail.

He cited the Declaration of Independence as indicating that American political power comes from the creator.

"I think if the spirit moves me on occasion to say a word or two of faith, I think it's a very American thing to do," Lieberman said to a strong round of applause.

And Lieberman set that tone Monday in his announcement speech.

"Every day along the way I will feel blessed by God to live in a land where our dreams can come true," Lieberman said, flanked by his family and classmates from the school. "And everyday I will remember what President Kennedy told my generation,

MIDEAST FOCUS

Likud rallies support

Opinion polls published Monday showed increased support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party. The results showed a reversal of the decline suffered recently following corruption allegations involving party officials and Sharon's family.

The polls published in *Yediot Achronot* and *Ma'ariv* forecast the Likud winning 32 to 33 seats in the Knesset, compared with 27 forecast last week. Observers said traditional Likud supporters are returning to the party as the Jan. 28 election date nears.

Mitzna won't serve with Sharon

The leader of Israel's Labor Party is reportedly planning to announce Tuesday that he will never join a unity government led by Ariel Sharon.

At the news conference, Amram Mitzna will say that the electorate has two options: a rightist-religious government or one which he leads, according to the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*. Research by Labor has shown that such a move would garner three or four more seats for the party, which would be taken from Meretz, Shinui and the Arab parties, the paper reported.

Hamas: Terror will continue

A Hamas leader rejected Palestinian calls to halt terror attacks before the Israeli elections. "Our resistance is not going to stop, before the election, during the election or after the election," Sheik Ahmed Yassin said Monday. Yassin also suggested Monday that Hamas might kidnap Israelis to exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Palestinian dies in 'work accident'

A member of Islamic Jihad was killed and another lightly injured in an explosion Monday near Nablus. The explosion was likely a "work accident" that took place as the two were preparing a bomb, according to Israel Radio.

which is that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

A senator from Connecticut since 1989, Lieberman became a household name slightly more than two years ago when he was chosen as the Democratic vice presidential nominee to run with then-Vice President Al Gore.

Although the Democratic ticket lost the race to President Bush, Gore won the popular vote, a point that Lieberman highlighted on Monday.

Many Jews say Lieberman's bid — coming from an observant Jew with strong ties to the American Jewish community — is a historic moment and a sign of the accomplishments Jews have been able to achieve in the 60 years since the Holocaust.

Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, frequently mentioned this as they campaigned in 2000.

"I said to Joe that I was thinking about how my presence here was a victory, a victory over evil, over people who wanted us dead," Hadassah wrote in a recently published book, "An Amazing Adventure: Joe and Hadassah's Personal Notes on the 2000 Campaign."

"Here I am, the daughter of survivors, married to a United States senator in a great, free country," she wrote.

"And I said, 'I'm thinking about how my fist is up in the air to Hitler,'" she wrote.

On Monday, she told JTA: "Obviously it's historic. He's breaking a glass ceiling. But it's important to see him as a candidate who's been a politician for quite awhile now."

Only two other Jews have sought a major party nomination for the presidency, according to the book "Jews in American Politics."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) pursued the Republican nomination in 1996 but dropped out before the first primary, and the late Milton Shapp, former governor of Pennsylvania, ran briefly for the Democratic nomination in 1976.

Lieberman's base of support outside the Jewish community is expected to come from environmentalists, moderate and conservative Democrats, hawkish and pro-defense segments of the party and the business community in the New York metropolitan area.

He is also expected to have strong support among Democrats in Florida, California and Texas.

While there is clearly excitement about his candidacy, Jewish leaders and donors are not throwing their support behind Lieberman.

In addition to his focus on faith, Lieberman's positions on some issues do not sit well with many American Jews, especially liberal Democrats.

And there is some concern that people throughout the country will equate Lieberman's position statements with that of the Jewish community at large.

In fact, on Monday, as Lieberman spoke briefly about preserving the U.S.-Israeli relationship, two dozen protesters, calling themselves "Jews Against the Occupation" chanted that they will not back Lieberman.

"We're here to say that Joe Lieberman does not represent us as Jews," said Lorne Lieb, who traveled from New York City to hold signs outside Stamford High School.

"We wanted to show that there is dissension within the Jewish community and not all Jews support Joe Lieberman for president."

Lieberman was also criticized by more hawkish American Jews after his recent visit to the Middle East, where he expressed sympathy for the Palestinians and support for an Arab-led plan for peace. On the domestic front, Lieberman's position in favor of faith-based initiatives and school vouchers have angered many in the Jewish community who worry that such programs blur the line between church and state.

In his remarks on Monday, Lieberman qualified his support for vouchers, saying he would only support them for a limited period of time, and only for people below the poverty line. He also said voucher funds could not come out of public schools' budgets.

While there is some concern, Jewish analysts say they are not concerned that Lieberman will be seen as the voice of the American Jewish community.

They also note that Jews have been elected to other offices in the Midwest and other parts of the country without a strong Jewish population.

"Americans are sophisticated enough to know that the Jewish community is both hydra-headed and pluralistic," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. "There are any number of Jewish voices speaking in America, and Joe Lieberman will not be seen as the only Jewish voice." □



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JEWISH WORLD

Papon to get new medical exam

Nazi-era war criminal Maurice Papon could soon be returned to a French prison. Papon, a senior Vichy official sentenced to 10 years in jail for his role in the deportation of more than 1,500 Jews in wartime France, has been ordered to undergo a medical re-examination later this month, his lawyer confirmed Sunday.

Papon was released from prison last September after an appeals court ruled he was too old and sick to serve out his 10-year sentence. The move created a storm of protest — especially after Papon was seen leaving the prison unassisted.

Holocaust museum turning 10

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will soon commemorate its 10th anniversary. To mark the anniversary, the museum will present selections of Anne Frank's writings.

The display opens on June 12, which would have been the famed diarist's 74th birthday, and runs through Sept. 12.

Since its dedication on April 22, 1993, the Washington-based museum has welcomed nearly 19 million visitors, including 5.5 million school children, 2.2 million international visitors and 72 heads of state, according to museum officials.

"Our first decade taught us that Holocaust history has the power to speak to everyone — from inner city students to religious leaders, from Naval Academy midshipmen to the police and FBI," said the museum's director, Sara Bloomfield.

Mass Bar Mitzvah in Moscow

A Bar Mitzvah ceremony was held for 52 boys from Moscow and other parts of Russia.

Sunday night's ceremony, believed to be the largest such celebration ever held in the region, was held at Moscow's Marina Roscha Synagogue. It was held on the 52nd anniversary of when the late Lubavitch rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, assumed the leadership of the Chabad movement.

Stella D'Oro stays pareve

A U.S. bakery abandoned plans to add milk to its recipes because the change would harm its healthy sales among the Orthodox community, according to The New York Times.

The Stella D'Oro company would not reveal why it recently backtracked on adding milk to its recipes, which would mean that observant Jews could not have the cookies with meat meals. But officials with the Orthodox Union told the Times that the company changed its mind after reports that cookies labeled as dairy — the firm was anticipating the change — were not selling in Orthodox neighborhoods.

A JEWISH PRESIDENT?

Kosher food, Shabbat walks: Campaigning Lieberman style

By Matthew E. Berger

STAMFORD, Conn. (JTA) — On the campaign trail in 2000, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) made headlines everywhere he went. Not only was he the Democratic vice presidential nominee, running with then-Vice President Al Gore, but he was the first Jew to be his party's nominee in a nationwide election.

In the new book, "An Amazing Adventure: Joe and Hadassah's Personal Notes on the 2000 Campaign," Lieberman and his wife reflect on how faith played a role not just in the candidate's policy statements, but in the logistics of the campaign.

In light of the senator's announcement Monday that he would seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2004, the book provides a timely window into campaigning Lieberman style. It is complete with controversial discussions of God at campaign events, Saturdays off and kosher food.

A quick read, Lieberman's book divulges few secrets or insider tales about the life on a national campaign trail.

However, it does provide much detail about Lieberman's faith and may be a convenient guide for voters unclear of the ramifications of picking an observant Jew for president.

The Liebermans' story starts where the senator's campaign starts, receiving the news that he has been selected as the Democrats' nominee for vice president.

Faith quickly meets politics, as he recites morning prayers to calm himself amid a sea of excitement in his home, and pauses to kiss the mezuzah as he leaves the house to meet the media for the first time as a candidate.

"When we leave the house, we always kiss the mezuzah," Hadassah Lieberman writes. "That's a routine gesture for us, but this time, I almost forget to kiss it until Joey reminds me to. There I am, in prime time, as the press films me doing something I do every time I leave the house."

In the book, the senator reflects on the questions that were raised within the Democratic leadership about whether the world was ready for a Jewish candidate on the national ticket, whether Lieberman would face anti-Semitism, and if Gore would lose votes because of his running mate.

"I came to believe," the book quotes Gore as saying to Lieberman, "there was a difference between anti-Semitism and the fear of anti-Semitism. A lot of people told me that your religion would be a problem, but I concluded that their fear of anti-Semitism exceeded anti-Semitism itself."

The couple speaks vividly about Holocaust survivors, rolling up their sleeves to show their concentration camp numbers burned into their arm, waiting hours to see the Jewish candidate or his wife.

However, Lieberman did meet some who felt his campaign was bad for the Jewish people.

In New Haven, Conn., an elderly Jewish woman Lieberman had known "forever" said she had hoped Lieberman wouldn't be selected because "if you get elected and the economy goes down, they'll blame us."

In the book, the senator shows obvious disdain for the ridicule he received from some Jewish groups — he repeatedly mentions the Anti-Defamation League by name — for expressing his faith at his campaign appearances.

But he says he was convinced that most Americans respected his religious observance and his interest in discussing it.

"I wanted to be who I am, and prayer and faith are at the center of my life and of my family's life," the senator writes.

"The same is true of many Americans, and I have never understood why some people feel that when you go into public life you lose the freedom to talk about your faith."

In their book, the Liebermans speak of some of the difficulties of observing the Sabbath — not to mention the High Holidays — while campaigning for the White House, and some of the adjustments they made to express their faith. □

A JEWISH PRESIDENT?**The Jewish money trail leads to Lieberman — and opponents***By Matthew E. Berger*

STAMFORD, Conn. (JTA) — If Jewish money accounts for an estimated half of big-time Democratic donations during the presidential primary season, then Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) would seem to be at a distinct advantage.

But that may not be the case.

Analysts say that Lieberman may have a slight advantage in the money game because he is an observant Jew with strong ties to the organized Jewish community.

But Lieberman's base of support is the same group that the other Democratic hopefuls will be soliciting fervently.

And others already have some key Jewish players behind them.

In addition, new campaign finance laws that go into effect for the first time will change the way Jewish money is doled out for 2004.

"Lieberman will get a substantial majority of Jewish contributions," but the new campaign laws will expand the number of dollars people can contribute in the election cycle, said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

The new law, known as McCain-Feingold for the lawmakers that sponsored it, doubled the amount of contributions a person could give to a primary campaign to \$2,000. It also raised the amount of money a contributor could give to all candidates and committees in each election cycle from \$25,000 to \$95,000.

And because soft-money donations — unlimited funds given to the national political parties to use on behalf of candidates — have been banned, there are fewer avenues for the money to be distributed and fewer large-scale donations for candidates.

That makes individual contributions, theoretically, more important, although loopholes are expected to be found around the new laws. Analysts say the new laws will lead to an increase in contributors who are "double dipping," giving funds to more than one Democratic candidate.

"It's clearly not necessary, early in the cycle, to come out strongly for one candidate," said Jack Bendheim, an active donor in Democratic politics in the Bronx. "You can write multiple \$2,000 checks."

Bendheim would not say who he is supporting, but Lieberman has some big Jewish names by his side.

Marvin Lender, the bagels' magnate and Jewish communal leader, is serving on the board of directors of the Lieberman campaign. Lender, who lives in Connecticut, said he believes the "lion's share of large gifts" to the Lieberman campaign will come from Jewish donors.

"This becomes a grass-roots campaign throughout the Jewish community," said Lender, who is heavily involved in Jewish organizations, including the United Jewish Communities and the Israel Policy Forum.

There is no empirical data on the amount of Jewish money in Democratic politics because the Federal Elections Committee does not ask for a contributor's religion.

But by all accounts, Jewish donors have played a significant role in bankrolling the Democratic operations.

"The Democratic Party, as it's been structured in the last generation or two, can't be competitive at its current level without

Jewish fund raising," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Analysts estimate that candidates making a serious bid for the Democratic nomination will need to raise some \$35 million to \$40 million. And in the general presidential election, parties have raised nearly double that. Lieberman is likely to get a large share of that money this time around.

The historic nature of his campaign will entice even supporters of other candidates to give some money to his campaign, and could bring in funds from Jewish contributors who have not given in the past. He also endeared himself to many Jews during his run with then-Vice President Al Gore as the Democratic nominee for vice president in 2000.

But that does not mean he will get all of the Jewish money.

Steve Grossman, former national chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been working the phones for former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, soliciting numerous Jewish donors.

He says the Jewish community is much less monolithic than people believe, and he is not writing off the constituency for his candidate.

"There's a vast number of Jews who can write \$2,000 checks who don't affiliate with Jewish entities," said Grossman, a former president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"For those people not imbued with the Jewish community, Joe Lieberman will not have any particular advantage over other candidates."

Those groups include Jewish trial lawyers, who have a former member of their profession in Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.), health care professionals who may largely support Dean, a physician, and gays and lesbians, who also back Dean because he supported gay civil unions in Vermont.

If Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) enters the race, his strong ties to Florida's Jewish community could also come at a cost to Lieberman, as will the relations Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) has cultivated in his home state. Having been in the Democratic leadership for more than 15 years, Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) has links to Jewish donors around the country.

Support for a candidate is "based on access, past support and friendships," said Morris Amitay, a Jewish fund-raiser and former executive director of AIPAC. "A lot of it is personal."

In addition, many Jewish voters may base their support for candidates on Israel, especially with the Jewish state under attack as it has been in recent times.

Lieberman's comments last month in the region, in which he expressed support for an Arab-led plan for peace and concern for the humanitarian conditions of the Palestinians, have alarmed some hawkish members of the Jewish community, and might hurt his fund raising in some Jewish circles.

He was scheduled to meet with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish community's umbrella group, on Wednesday to address those concerns.

On the other hand, those in the Jewish community who advocate a more proactive Washington stance vis-a-vis the Israeli-Palestinian conflict might welcome such remarks.

At the same time, it could be that Israel will become a non-issue this time around, given that other Democratic hopefuls are also seen as strong proponents of Israel.

Some analysts also believe that some Jews for whom Israel is primary may opt to support Bush, given his high marks for his handling of the Middle East. □