



Daily News Bulletin

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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Fewer Jews, more intermarried

The number of American Jews fell by 5 percent since 1990 and the intermarriage rate rose slightly, to 47 percent, a new study says.

The National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01, released after a year of delays arising from technical problems, said the intermarriage rate climbed from 43 percent, and that only 33 percent of intermarried households raise their children as Jews, compared to 96 percent of in-married couples. [Page 1]

Israel stages retaliatory raid

Israel killed three people in a retaliatory airstrike in Gaza a day after two bombers killed 15 Israelis.

A Hamas official, Mahmoud Zahar, who was the target of Wednesday's strike, escaped with light injuries. But his son, another family member and a bodyguard were killed.

Hamas praised Tuesday's attacks in Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is cutting short his visit to India and returning to Israel to discuss other possible responses to the bombings.

Doctor, daughter killed

An American-born emergency room doctor who moved to Israel died along with his daughter in Tuesday's terrorist attack in Jerusalem.

Dr. David Appelbaum was head of the emergency department at Shaare Zedek hospital in Jerusalem and the founder of a 24-hour emergency clinic.

His daughter Nava, 20, was to be married Wednesday. [Page 3]

Karia in as prime minister

Ahmed Karia officially accepted the post of Palestinian Authority prime minister. Karia is replacing Mahmoud Abbas, who resigned over the weekend.

Students still stressed by 9/11

Depression and post-traumatic stress disorder related to the Sept. 11 attacks afflict 13 percent of students at two New York Jewish high schools, a new report says.

The survey, undertaken by the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, found that 120 students from the schools fell into a risk category, 66 of whom were classified as high risk for trauma, according to a report in the New York Jewish Week.

A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICAN JEWRY

Study finds positive trends along with rising intermarriage

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish population is aging and shrinking, its birthrate is falling, intermarriage is rising and most Jews do not engage in communal or religious pursuits.

Yet a majority attend a Passover seder and celebrate Chanukah, Jewish education is booming, and many Jews consider being Jewish important and feel strong ties to Israel.

These are not dueling headlines, but parallel portraits contained in the long-awaited National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01.

Federations and Jewish communal leaders use these studies every decade for policy and planning decisions.

The United Jewish Communities, the federation umbrella group, officially released the \$6 million study this week, nearly a year after retracting initial NJPS data and delaying the survey's release amid controversy over its methodology and missing data.

A subsequent internal audit led to an independent review that UJC officials said should be made public by week's end.

But they and others said the study that emerged paints the most comprehensive, reliable picture of American Jewry to date.

Not only did the reviews reinforce the data's validity, but the NJPS was compared to other communal studies and "our numbers checked out very nicely," said Lorraine Blass, NJPS project director and senior planner at UJC.

Those numbers add up to a complex Jewish continuum.

On one end lies a small segment of the community experiencing a Jewish renaissance, on the other a majority that continues to assimilate.

In the vast middle remain most Jews who engage in few Jewish pursuits.

"The big story is how the affiliated and the unaffiliated sharply differ on all measures of Jewish life," said Steven M. Cohen, a senior NJPS consultant and Hebrew University professor.

"As a group, American Jews may be moving in two different directions simultaneously: increasing Jewish intensification alongside decreasing Jewish intensity. It may well be the most and least involved are gaining at the expense of those with middling levels of Jewish involvement."

Among the study's key findings:

- There are 5.2 million U.S. Jews, down 5 percent from 5.5 million counted in the 1990 population study.
- Of those, 4.3 million have "stronger Jewish connections," meaning they attend Passover seders and light Chanukah candles. This number also includes those more Jewishly committed — people who keep kosher homes, routinely attend synagogue, attend Jewish schools and belong to at least one Jewish organization.
- Intermarriage is rising but at a steady pace, at 47 percent for the past five years. That represents a 4 percent increase from 1990, which was calculated differently. Of all Jews currently wed, one-third are intermarried.
- Day school enrollment is rising, with 29 percent of youths ages 6-17 saying they have attended day schools or yeshivas.
- An estimated 353,000 people, including 272,000 adults and 81,000 children, live in households with incomes below the poverty line.
- Jews live in 2.9 million households, with a total of 6.7 million people, meaning

MIDEAST FOCUS

Bombing victims' names released

The names of the 15 victims killed in Tuesday's suicide bombings in Israel were released.

An American-born doctor, David Appelbaum, 50, and his daughter, Nava, 20, were among those killed in the bombing at a Jerusalem cafe. Also killed in that attack were David Abistrice, 51, of Mevasseret Zion; Alon Mizrahi, 22, of Jerusalem; Gila Moshe, 40, of Jerusalem; Yehiel Emil Tubol, 52, of Jerusalem; and Shafik Karim, 27, from Beit Hanninah.

In the attack at a bus stop near an army base in central Israel, the victims were Senior Warrant Officer Haim Alfasi, 39, of Haifa; Chief Warrant Officer Yaakov Ben-Shabbat, 39, of Pardes Hanna; Cpl. Mazi Grego, 19, of Holon; Capt. Yael Kfir, 21, of Ashkelon; Cpl. Felix Nikolaichuk, 20, of Bat Yam; Sgt. Efrat Schwartzman, 19, of Ganei Yehuda; Sgt. Yonatan Peleg, 21, of Moshav Yanuv; and Cpl. Prosper Twito, 20, of Upper Nazareth.

Hamas threatens Israeli homes

Hamas is threatening to attack private homes in Israel. The threat came after an Israeli airstrike Wednesday on the Gaza Strip home of Mahmoud Zahar, which missed Zahar but killed three others.

"The targeting of civilian houses is a violation of all red lines. Therefore the Zionist enemy will have to shoulder responsibility for the targeting by us of houses and Zionist buildings everywhere in occupied Palestine," Hamas' military wing said in a statement.

Palestinians celebrate terrorism

Palestinians celebrated Tuesday's deadly suicide bombings in Israel.

In the streets of Gaza City, some Palestinians handed out candy on Wednesday as they rejoiced over the attacks, which killed 15 Israelis. Some preachers in mosques urged young Palestinians to become bombers themselves, the Jerusalem Post reported.

that two out of every nine people living in households with Jews in them are non-Jews.

The median Jewish age is 42, compared to 35 for Americans generally, and the birthrate was 1.8, below the 1.9 rate for American women generally.

While many of these figures did not change sharply from the last NJPS in 1990, some warned of troubling signs for the coming decade.

There was a drop in the population of Jewish children, which means there will be "fewer Jewish children to go into Jewish schools and to bring their parents into synagogues," Cohen said.

David Marker, a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee that consulted on the NJPS and a senior statistician at Westat, a statistics firm, said Jews must face up to intermarriage now that it appears to be "stabilized."

According to the NJPS, intermarriage stayed at the same rate of 43 percent between 1985 and 1990 and between 1991 and 1996, then climbed to 47 percent through 2001.

"Intermarriage doesn't have to be viewed as a negative," Marker said. "The Jewish community needs to do a better job of reaching out to the families of the intermarried, making them feel wanted and comfortable in Jewish institutions."

In the wake of the 1990 study, the volatile intermarriage issue took center stage, launching an ongoing debate over whether the community should spend money on reaching out to Jews on the fringes and the intermarried, or on "Jewish continuity" and identity building of more committed Jews.

Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, director of the National Jewish Outreach Program, calls the decline in Jewish numbers and the intermarriage rate "staggering." The community should spend "serious" money on Jewish education and practice, he said.

"It's not lighting Shabbat candles, it's not sending a Rosh Hashanah card or ethnic pride, it's not belonging to a JCC or love of Israel or Jewish philanthropy or memorializing the Holocaust," he said. "We know from 3,000 years of empirical evidence that the key to Jewish survival is Jewish practice."

On the other side of the debate stands those like Edmund Case, publisher of Interfaithfamily.com, which encourages Jewish connections in the interfaith community.

Case said what's important is how the community can increase the number of interfaith couples who raise their children as Jews.

According to the study, 33 percent of interfaith couples raise their children as Jews, compared to 96 percent of Jewish couples who do.

"I am less interested in the gross numbers and more interested in the qualitative experiences of interfaith families connecting with Jewish life," he said.

Beyond the debate over intermarriage, Cohen and others said the growing gap between active and inactive Jews remained a big hurdle for Jewish organizations such as Jewish community centers, synagogues and other institutions seeking members.

According to the NJPS, among the more connected 4.3 million Jews, 44 percent did not belong to any Jewish group, 28 percent were "moderately affiliated" to one group and 28 percent were "highly affiliated" with two or more.

Among the more active Jews, there were some surprises when it came to education. Day school enrollment is rising, with 29 percent of youth ages 6-17 saying they have attended day schools or yeshivas, and 23 percent of those ages 18-34 saying they have attended such schools.

The study's focus on more connected Jews also sparked some dissent and revived the eternal "who is a Jew" debate yet again.

Egon Mayer, who co-authored a different study that measured Jewish population and behavior, said the NJPS cast too small a net in counting Jews. Unlike the 1990 NJPS, he said, the latest NJPS did not count the non-Jews living with Jews in so-called Jewish households.

"It seems to me that is a dramatic shrinking down of the parameters of the population that is connected to the Jewish community," Mayer said.

But Vivian Klaff, a co-chairman of the advisory committee and a critic of UJC's postponement of the study's release, defended the decision to narrow the way Jews were identified.

The NJPS surveyed 4,523 people, representing 28 percent of all those contacted between August 2000 and August 2001. UJC officials said the response rate was low but met industry guidelines.

Overall, the margin of error of the NJPS was plus or minus 2 percent. □



Daily News Bulletin

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JEWISH WORLD

British Muslims want assets freed

The Muslim Council of Britain urged London to unfreeze the assets of a charity that has been linked to Hamas.

Britain moved against Interpol after the Treasury Department froze its assets in the United States last month.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said "proper legal procedures are in place and those legal procedures will be followed," after Foreign Secretary Jack Straw met the Muslim delegation on Wednesday.

Moscow to have Jewish museum?

Russia's capital city will have its own Jewish museum, Moscow's mayor told a visiting Israeli chief rabbi.

On Tuesday, Yuri Luzhkov told Israel's chief Ashkenazi rabbi, Yona Metzger, that the city of Moscow is determined to allocate space for the Jewish community to open a museum.

Metzger, who is visiting Russia and Ukraine this week, shared the news with dozens of rabbis and members of the Jewish community, who packed Moscow's Marina Roscha synagogue on Tuesday night to greet Metzger.

Prior to visiting Moscow, Metzger toured the Ukrainian port city of Odessa, where the local governor handed him the keys from the Grand Shul, which was confiscated by the Bolsheviks.

Ex-wartime guard charged

The U.S. government is asking a U.S. judge to revoke the citizenship of an alleged Nazi collaborator.

The government alleged Wednesday that Joseph Wittje, who lives in Illinois, served as a guard with the SS Death's Head Guard battalion at Sachsenhausen during the war — and that he lied about his service when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1959.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, its Nazi-hunting unit, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois brought the charges.

Brazil has female rabbi

Brazil's first female rabbi took up her post at Rio de Janeiro's largest synagogue.

During last Friday's Shabbat-evening services, Paraguayan-born Sandra Kochmann, 31, a Conservative rabbi, joined Reform Rabbi Sergio Margulies at the helm of the 1,000-family Associaçao Religiosa Isrealita, in Rio de Janeiro. Some 900 people attended the ceremony at the synagogue, which was founded by German immigrants in 1943.

In a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese, Kochmann delivered her inaugural address while wearing a Moroccan-style yarmulke and tallit.

U.S.-born doctor, daughter die in bombing on eve of her wedding

By Ellen Harris and Susan H. Kahn
Cleveland Jewish News

CLEVELAND (JTA) — Sarah Spero still has the wedding invitation sitting on her desk.

Just a couple of weeks ago, she and her husband, Abba, residents of Cleveland Heights, bid farewell to their son, Yehuda, who was off to Israel to study in yeshiva and attend his cousin's wedding.

On Tuesday night, Abba Spero had to call his son with a devastating message.

"You're not going to a wedding," Spero told him. Instead, the bride and her father, former Cleveland Dr. David Applebaum, were to be buried near their home outside Jerusalem.

Applebaum, 50, and his 20-year-old daughter, Nava, were among the seven killed and 51 wounded in Tuesday's attack at Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem, a day before Nava's wedding.

A pioneer in the field of emergency medicine, Applebaum had just flown home from a conference at New York University to spend time with his daughter before her marriage. Nava, a volunteer with children suffering from cancer, was to be married to Hanan Sand the next day.

As the head of Shaare Zedek Medical Center's emergency room services, Applebaum generally was one of the first physicians to rush to the hospital and treat victims of terrorist attacks. "When he didn't show up and I knew he was in Jerusalem and he hadn't called, I knew a terrible tragedy had occurred," said Shaare Tzedek hospital director Yonatan Halevy.

Shocked colleagues identified his body and that of his daughter at the scene. Applebaum was recognized by Dr. Yitzhak Glick, also a former resident of Cleveland who now lives in Efrat and had come to the site to help the wounded.

A physician at Cleveland's Mt. Sinai Hospital until he made aliyah 20 years ago, Applebaum introduced the concept of private urgent-medical-care centers in Israel. In 1998, he opened his first Terem center at the Magen David Adom building in Jerusalem. Most recently, he streamlined the delivery of triage and emergency services in Israel; introduced computerization to track patients and treatments; and helped train doctors who were qualified to treat a broad range of emergencies.

Applebaum became an expert in using a clot-busting drug, streptokinase, which only a physician on-site can administer. He was one of about two dozen Israeli physicians who were board-certified in emergency medicine, and he held that designation in the United States as well.

When Sarah Spero learned of the terrible news after a call from Applebaum's brother-in-law Tuesday night, "I put my head in my hands and didn't move for an hour," she said. She could not bring herself to call her husband, a professor at Cleveland State University, who was teaching a class. Instead, she waited until he returned home to break the tragic news.

"It is unbelievable. David was so full of life," she said. A doting father of six, he also was a Torah scholar who translated the works of his former teacher, Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik. "David was very, very religious but not judgmental. He was an unconventional person who broke the mold."

"David was a man of extreme talents in every area of life," said his cousin, Abba Spero. "Our job in this world is to sanctify God's name. He did that in his life. He devoted himself to medicine and to Judaism."

Beachwood resident Dr. Samuel Spero, a cousin of David Applebaum's, was supposed to attend the family wedding in Israel, but he stayed home because of recent shoulder surgery. Applebaum was a wonderful father, Spero said. Every week he would take time from his busy schedule to drive to the yeshiva where his boys were studying, and learn with them.

Just minutes before the suicide bombing, Applebaum called Spero to wish him a speedy recovery. He still has the message on his answering machine. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Among Israelis, attacks spark despair — and resolve to go on

By Loolwa Khazzoom

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Basel Street — a trendy, cafe-lined boulevard that attracts the young and hip crowd — is usually hopping till well past 12:30 a.m. closing time on any given weeknight.

But on Tuesday night, following two suicide bombings in Rishon le-Zion and Jerusalem that killed at least 15, there are about 10 customers total at all the cafes put together. Cafe Basel, the largest cafe of all, is completely deserted and already closing.

One lone couple is sitting at Cafe Ashtori.

"We are used to this situation," says Karen Amar, a software engineering student. "To my sorrow, every other day we have terror. We can't just stop living."

When suicide bombings first started, she says, the entire country would have a day of mourning for the occasion. Now, however, "it's impossible to stop the entire country every time it happens."

"I hope a bombing will not happen here," says Michal, a waitress at Cafe Ashtori and a psychology student. "I try to be very conscious of who is around, to be on the alert for anyone who looks suspicious."

"I try to ignore the attacks," says Ofer Salinas, the bartender at the cafe. "But my feeling is if these attacks continue, I don't see myself living here."

Walking down Ibn Gvirol, a main thoroughfare known for its all-night cafe life, there is only a smattering of customers, and a cafe that is usually open until 3:00 a.m. is already closed and dark by midnight.

At Caffe Neto, about 12 people are gathered in four different groups. Like Amar, Yanir Harir, a law student, is out on this night because "we have lived in this atmosphere for a number of years already. This is the only way we can continue with our lives — to go out and have fun. We can't just stay home. The way to express that we are against terror is going out and continuing to live."

Harir's friend, Tal Gabay, a recent law graduate, has a less political reason for being out on this night.

"My girlfriend and I just broke up," he shares, "and my friends said I have to get out." He pauses and laughs. "Right now it's more dangerous for me to be at home alone than outdoors."

Ironically, it is Cafe Hillel — the same name of the cafe in Jerusalem's Germany Colony that was targeted Tuesday — that has the most people — around 30.

While sitting with her friends at the cafe, Nurit Tsuberi, a designer, got a call from a friend informing her of the terror attack at Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem. The friend "wasn't sure if we were at Cafe Hillel in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem," explains Avital Lieberman. "She was concerned."

Lieberman also echoes the sentiments of others enjoying a cup of coffee tonight. "They won't frighten us," she says. "We have a message: The people of Israel are strong, and we won't let them break our spirit."

Lieberman is eager to encourage Americans to support Israelis by coming to visit. "They should not be afraid," she insists.

Marak Toashe, the security guard at the cafe for only two

weeks, does not feel particularly afraid. "I could be crossing the street and get hit by a car," he reasons.

Besides, he adds, the feeling of quiet is relative. "Even with all the military strength, as soon as a terror organization decides to send a suicide bomber, they pretty much will succeed."

Those risking a night on the town have mixed feelings about the possibility of peace with Palestinians, and about the latest developments in Israeli-Palestinian politics. Most say they believe peace is possible, if not inevitable. The only question, they say, is when it will happen and how many lives will be lost before it does.

Shimmy Azaria feels that the current politicians on both sides need to be replaced with a new generation of leaders, "people with courage and will and optimism, who will not continue basing their decisions on history."

With this week's resignation of the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, Azaria hopes that the new Palestinian prime minister-designate, Ahmed Karia, will be successful.

"But I have doubts," he adds, "because he didn't come in with new tools or ideology."

"The problem is that from a young age, Palestinians are taught how to attack us," says Harir. There will be many more victims, he predicts, before there is peace.

"I am left wing, but in the last years, I am very skeptical," adds Gabay. "I am ready to give to Syrians the Golan, to give Palestinians half of Jerusalem, to give them the territories. But we already did this with Barak, and they rejected this offer. So there is nobody to speak with."

Gabay says that Israel can come to a cease-fire agreement with one faction, but another faction will send a suicide bomber to attack Israeli civilians. Israel then responds, and the two sides continue in a never-ending cycle of bloodshed.

"The Israeli government needs to think before acting," says Amar. "They are too reactionary."

Lieberman disagrees. "Our army is responding in a way that is very gentle with them," she says, alluding to Israel's efforts to target terrorist leaders and evacuate homes before bombing them if civilians are inside.

Asked about the solution, the answers are varied. Salinas thinks Israel should hand over the territories to the Palestinians immediately.

Amit Harnovich, a law student, thinks the Palestinians should be transferred out. "There is no partner for peace, and the road map is dead," he says. "We tried, it's time to finish this."

Regardless of their thoughts about the solution, all but Amar seem to agree that Israel is justified in killing the Hamas leaders.

"I have no problem with killing them," Salinas says adamantly. "I have no mercy for them. They kill children." □

Israelis: Crack down on Arafat

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israelis want their government to crack down further on Yasser Arafat, a new poll said.

Eighteen percent of respondents to the poll, conducted Monday before this week's twin terrorist attacks, want Arafat killed.

Twenty percent of respondents want him sent into exile, 27 percent favor increasing his isolation at his Ramallah compound and 20 percent want to maintain the status quo. The survey was conducted by the Dialogue Institute for Ha'aretz. □