



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 200

Thursday, October 30, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mahathir: I'm not alone

Malaysia's outgoing prime minister says his country's next government shares his view that Jews dominate the world.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday that the United States does not want Malaysian prime minister-designate Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to be tarred by Mahathir Mohammad's comments earlier this month that Jews "rule the world by proxy" and that the Muslim world must unite to defeat them.

In response, Mahathir said his Cabinet — including Badawi, currently the deputy prime minister — backed him at a meeting Wednesday.

### Birthright funders pledge support

The principal funders of birthright israel say they are committed to continuing the program for another five years.

Meeting this week in New York, representatives of the Israeli government, the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel and private philanthropists discussed the future of the program, which began in 2000 and has provided free trips to Israel for more than 48,000 young Jewish adults from around the world.

The Israeli government severely slashed its share of funds for this year due to the country's budget crisis, and the federation system has fallen short of its original projected contributions.

But all parties pledged commitment, as UJC President Steven Hoffman put it, "to secure the future" of birthright.

Israeli Cabinet minister Natan Sharansky, chairman of birthright's steering committee, sounded an optimistic note, saying, "All partners will continue their commitment for the next five years and then renew for the next 500 years."

### Architect rips Degussa drop

The architect of Germany's Holocaust memorial criticized the decision to stop using a Nazi-linked company in the memorial's construction.

"All Germans cannot be held responsible for the sins of the fathers and grandfathers," Peter Eisenman wrote Wednesday of the move to drop Degussa, a company that partly owned the firm that supplied Zyklon B poison gas to Nazi death camps.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Experts find holes in survey but say NJPS remains useful

By Joe Berkofsky

WALTHAM, Mass. (JTA) — It got prodded, lauded and derided, but the controversial National Jewish Population Survey has emerged more or less intact from a 48-hour bout with top experts.

The NJPS 2000-01, the costliest and most complex portrait ever of American Jewry, went 15 rounds with 40 heavyweight Jewish social scientists, demographers, scholars and communal leaders in a hastily arranged colloquium early this week in Boston.

Co-sponsored by Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Hebrew College's Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies, the gathering pitted the NJPS and its supporters against some fierce critics in what organizers called an attempt to kick-start a substantive debate about the \$6 million survey.

"I'm not so sure we can understand one another," the Cohen Center's director, Leonard Saxe, said after intensive discussions on the study.

Still, he added, "That's not all bad. The goal was to air the issues about NJPS and look to see how we can use the study, including its methodological limitations."

Ultimately, "the real question is, what's in there that's usable?" said Steven Bayme, national director of contemporary Jewish life for the American Jewish Committee.

At the same time, there was discussion about what information scientists and demographers most need, with an eye toward crafting the next survey.

Some have debated the import of the recent NJPS, given the well-documented problems that have dogged the report's findings.

A year ago, the study's sponsors, the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella, postponed its release after announcing that the survey firm discarded some data used to screen out Jews and non-Jews, possibly affecting the overall findings.

In the year since, the UJC commissioned an internal audit, which led to an independent probe of the study.

Mark Schulman, founding partner of Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, a prominent polling firm that led the internal probe, said NJPS likely undercounted American Jews and overestimated their Jewish ties. But it still was reliable overall, he said.

Most agreed with the assessment by the study's senior consultant, Hebrew University sociologist Steven Cohen, who said its population figures remain less reliable while deeper data about Jewish identity patterns, such as religious observance and affiliation — and how those forces affect issues such as Jewish education, philanthropy and marriage — seem solid.

"I want to separate suspicions about the population numbers with faith in the relationship" data, Cohen said.

NJPS found there are 5.2 million U.S. Jews, down from 5.5 million in 1990, and that 47 percent of Jews who married in the past five years had wed non-Jews, up from a readjusted intermarriage figure of 43 percent a decade ago.

The first half of the Boston debate focused on the survey's glitches.

Discussions ranged from a heated clash over how the study identified Jews to whether the survey actually had counted Jews or the households they live in.

Demographer Jack Ukeles — whose Ukeles Associates has conducted a dozen local community studies from New York to San Diego — called much of the debate over methods "inside-the-Beltway conversation" that is irrelevant to most American Jews.

Rela Mintz Geffen, president of Baltimore Hebrew University, said the debate will

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Report: Top brass clash

Top Israeli military officials reportedly disagree over whether to ease Palestinian living conditions.

Some officials say that Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz's insistence on measures that pressure Palestinian terrorist groups — but also affect civilians — contributed to the resignation of Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in September and deepen hostility against Israel, Yediot Achronot reported Wednesday.

Mofaz's office played down the report, which came amid increasing calls to move peace efforts forward.

### Gaza boundary heats up

An Islamic Jihad scout was killed on the Gaza Strip's boundary with Israel. Israeli military sources said the man shot dead and a comrade who was wounded and captured Wednesday were mapping the area just across the boundary from Kibbutz Nahal Oz.

### Israelis wounded in shooting

Two Israelis were wounded in the West Bank. Valerie and Nelly Weissbrot were shot Wednesday while driving near Jenin.

### Ilan Ramon's name on memorial

The names of the seven astronauts who died in the Columbia space shuttle explosion were carved into the national Space Mirror Memorial.

On Tuesday, the family of Israeli Col. Ilan Ramon joined the relatives of the six others who died in the February 2003 explosion as the names were unveiled. The names of the Columbia astronauts join those who died in the 1967 Apollo fire and the 1986 Challenger explosion.

Meanwhile, a new center at Israel's National Museum of Science, Technology & Space will introduce Israeli children to astronomy and space research.

be lost on most people. "People will take all the numbers because they're there."

Many at the forum seemed to agree that the Jewish population in the United States is somewhere between 4.8 million and 6.2 million. Some, however, called to reweight or recalculate the raw data, which could produce new population numbers and even reshape findings such as the proportion of Jews who affiliate with each of the major Jewish denominations.

Among those who want to see new calculations is Charles Kadushin, a scholar at Brandeis and director of the North American Jewish Data Bank, which houses all the data for the NJPS and earlier surveys at the Cohen Center.

In the end, however, the number will remain "an estimate," as the NJPS long has billed itself, Kadushin said.

"How believable is it? Well, it's better than going around and asking each rabbi how many people does he have in his congregation," Kadushin said.

"But is it gold-plated?" he asked rhetorically. "Should I base social policy on it?"

Kadushin said the Cohen Center's interest in co-hosting the conference was to help put the NJPS before experts and the public for further inquiry, hoping to save others the work of sifting through the complex data.

"It's taken me six months to figure out what the devil is in the survey, and we're still futzing around," he said.

The debate eventually might produce an entirely new approach to counting and analyzing American Jews, with some calling for immediately delving into the next population study.

Jewish federations, foundations, lay leaders, policy researchers, social scientists and demographers should decide what information they need about the community and begin deciding immediately how to gather that data for the next Jewish survey, Ukeles said.

"The community needs a new strategy of policy research that will rise phoenix-like from the ashes of NJPS," said Ukeles, who also called for the formation of a "commission of accountability" for NJPS "to hold responsible" those who made mistakes.

The NJPS project manager, Lorraine Blass, said the UJC already has examined NJPS in depth.

"It's not that we don't feel a sense of accountability; we do," she said. "We have really tried to be as open as we can be."

From this gathering of experts, "the frustration I've heard is, 'We want more data, and when can we have it?'" she said.

Many at the meeting said as much. So far, few had logged onto the Jewish data bank's Web site to download the full study; officials there counted only 137 downloads through the end of the conference, including some individuals who may have downloaded the files several times.

Meanwhile, others downplayed the clashes over the study.

"We are not really in an adversarial position, even though we might have differences," said Rabbi David Gordis, president of Hebrew College.

In the end, Rabbi Zachary Heller, associate director of Hebrew College, likened the debate to the massive highway reconstruction in Boston known as the "Big Dig," which began in 1991. That project is several years overdue and ran hundreds of millions of dollars over budget.

"The NJPS has in some ways been a Very Big Dig," Heller said. □

### Help for fire victims

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish institutions have established at least three funds to help those affected by wildfires in Southern California.

In San Diego, checks can be sent to Jewish Community Disaster Fund, c/o Jewish Community Foundation, 4950 Murphy Canyon Rd., San Diego, Calif., 92123.

Hard-hit Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino has established a Fire Tzedakah Fund. Checks can be made out to Emanu El and sent to 3512 North E St., San Bernardino, Calif., 92405.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has set up a Fire Emergency Relief Fund. Checks can be mailed to the Jewish Federation, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., 90048, with "Fire Relief Fund" written on the memo line. □



## Daily News Bulletin

Norman H. Lipoff, *President*

Mark J. Jaffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Finance and Administration Director*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).

## JEWISH WORLD

### Jews want in on Holocaust board

Jewish organizations are asking the commission of Holocaust-era insurance claims to appoint an ombudsman. Jewish groups on the International Commission for Holocaust Era Insurance Claims want a representative to respond to complaints from Holocaust survivors and their heirs, who are frustrated over slow processing of payments.

The commission was expected to approve the proposal Wednesday evening. ICHEIC also will expedite \$132 million in payments to the Claims Conference to care for the humanitarian needs of survivors.

### Students quit Brandeis paper

Five student journalists resigned from Brandeis University's student newspaper after a racist remark was printed in a sports column.

In the Brandeis Justice, Dan Passner referred to Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker, who is black, by quoting another Brandeis student: "The only thing Baker has a Ph.D. in is something that starts with an N and rhymes with Tigger, the cheerful scamp who stole all of our hearts in the Winnie the Pooh series."

### Bill to recognize refugees' plight

A House of Representatives resolution would recognize the plight of Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

The non-binding resolution to be introduced Thursday, sponsored by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), would acknowledge the hardships of Jews who fled Arab countries around the time of Israel's founding and call on the United Nations to establish a program to resettle Palestinian refugees abroad.

### Jewish pol to head British party?

A Jewish politician is the leading candidate to head Britain's opposition Conservative Party.

If chosen to succeed Iain Duncan Smith, Michael Howard, a home secretary under former Prime Minister John Major, would be the first Jew to lead a major British political party. Benjamin Disraeli, a 19th-century prime minister, was born Jewish but was baptized.

### Ceremony for museum in Ukraine

The cornerstone was laid for a Holocaust museum in Ukraine. Ukrainian officials and Jewish leaders attended Wednesday's ceremony for the \$3 million center in Dnepropetrovsk.

The center is separate from a controversial memorial and center slated to be built in Kiev to commemorate the Babi Yar massacre. The museum will display documents, victims' personal possessions and other artifacts collected from survivors, as well as educational materials.

## AMERICA DECIDES 2004

### Kerry camp backtracks in flap over Lieberman's Sabbath rites

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Fierce jockeying for support in Arizona's early Democratic primary already has scored a win — for Sen. Joseph Lieberman's right to observe the Sabbath.

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry's campaign cut ties Wednesday with Ben Miranda, an Arizona state representative who brought up Lieberman's Sabbath observance in his efforts to get other state legislators to switch their endorsements from the Connecticut senator to Kerry.

"We have expressed our deepest regrets to Sen. Lieberman, a friend of Sen. Kerry's for many years, and made it clear that, of course, Sen. Kerry deploras and will not tolerate the injection of religion into this race in any manner whatsoever," the campaign said in a statement.

Unlike earlier contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, where there already are clear leaders, polls show Arizona's Feb. 3 primary contest is up for grabs between Gen. Wesley Clark, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Lieberman and Kerry.

Lieberman has stopped campaigning in Iowa to devote his attention to Feb. 3 races in Arizona and six other states. Arizona is the first primary in a large state with a substantial Hispanic population — Democrats are calling Feb. 3 "Hispanic Tuesday" — and a win there could propel a second-tier candidate like Lieberman, who trails Dean and Clark in other races, to the front lines.

Candidates are working hard to get endorsements from popular local politicians.

Rep. Ben Miranda, who represents a heavily Hispanic district in Phoenix, recently switched his endorsement from Lieberman to Kerry. He told JTA he had mentioned Lieberman's Sabbath observance in meetings with other state representatives.

However, he denied a quote attributed to him by state representatives, who told The Arizona Republic that Miranda complained Lieberman was a weak candidate because he "can't campaign three days a week."

Miranda insists he did not make it a central issue — only mentioning that it was a concern in Lieberman's own camp — and said he regrets the episode.

"I love Joe dearly," he said.

Kerry, who is the lead Senate Democrat pushing legislation to make it easier for Jews to observe the Sabbath and holidays, distanced himself from Miranda hours after the story broke. His campaign also investigated reports that Kerry's Arizona campaign manager, Mario Diaz, had endorsed Miranda's remarks, and found them baseless.

Lieberman's campaign, which first brought the matter to the attention of national reporters, accepted Kerry's regrets.

"We're glad that John Kerry's campaign took steps to resolve this problem," a statement said. "There's no place for these kind of statements, which are not reflective of the tolerance and understanding of the American people."

The Orthodox Union commended Kerry for dealing with the matter swiftly.

"We deeply appreciate the fact that you quickly investigated these allegations, disassociated yourself and your campaign from Mr. Miranda and deplored anyone who would inject religion into the political campaign," said the letter signed by O.U. leaders.

Lieberman has said that Sabbath observance is central to his identity.

"It is not so much that I keep the Sabbath as the Sabbath keeps me," he wrote in his account of the 2000 campaign, which made Lieberman the first Jewish vice presidential candidate for a major party.

His religious observance already has made news in Arizona: The difficulties of traveling around Sukkot led Democrats to reschedule a Phoenix debate earlier this month.

Robert Meza, a state representative from Phoenix who has endorsed Lieberman, said the candidate's observance of Jewish holidays is part of his attraction.

"He's not afraid to say who he is," Meza said. "If candidates believe in who they are, what they stand for, I respect that." □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**New charity rankings confirm that Israel crisis bolsters Jewish giving**

By Uriel Heilman

NEW YORK (JTA) — While U.S. charities struggled last year to cope with the first drop in charitable giving in 12 years, Jewish charities defied the national trend by increasing their fund raising.

That finding, documented in The Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of the 400 top charities — an annual report that ranks charities by the private support they receive — was welcome news for Jewish groups around the country.

The Jewish group highest on the list was the umbrella organization of local Jewish federations, the United Jewish Communities, which raised more than \$266 million from private sources and moved up to 32nd place from 41st on the list.

In all, 29 Jewish or Jewish-related groups made the top 400, based on IRS filings and organizational documents.

Jewish groups rose in the rankings largely due to fund-raising campaigns to help Israelis affected by terrorism, but also due to donations tied to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Chronicle's editor, Stacy Palmer, said in an interview. Those events sparked a 7.5 percent rise in gifts to Jewish groups, Palmer said.

The UJC's Israel Emergency Campaign, the largest of the Israel-related drives among Jewish groups, has collected more than \$250 million since it was launched after the start of the intifada, according to UJC spokeswoman Gail Hyman.

"I sure hope Jews don't read this and say, 'I guess we're doing a wonderful job,'" said Mark Charendoff, president of the Jewish Funders Network, which helps Jewish foundations develop more effective philanthropy strategies. "Our ability to respond to a crisis doesn't speak to our willingness to fund the ongoing growth and vitality of Jewish life in America."

"There is an amazing, remarkable resilience that the American Jewish community has, to respond to times of crisis, especially when that crisis is connected to Israel," Charendoff said. "We're less good at responding to more amorphous crises, like the crisis of Jewish continuity or the crisis of Jewish illiteracy. For our communities, that's got to be a question that troubles us: If there wasn't a crisis in Israel this past year, where would we be on that list?"

Still, many officials in the Jewish philanthropic world, even those whose groups were not listed among the top 400, were heartened by the rankings.

"Traditionally, Jews have given more money, Jews are more generous as a percentage of their net worth," said Lisa Farber Miller, senior program officer at the Rose Community Foundation, a Denver-based Jewish foundation with a \$220 million endowment.

Noting the strong numbers for Jewish groups, she said, "Maybe they've dug deeper at a time when the community really needs them."

Among top Jewish groups, federations seem to have benefitted most from increased Jewish giving.

The UJA-Federation of New York was the second Jewish group on The Chronicle of Philanthropy's list, climbing to 51st place from 68th last year, with \$198 million in private money.

Among federations, New York was followed by federations in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Boston, all of which moved up on the list. The federations in New Jersey's MetroWest region,

Philadelphia and Miami also moved up on the list.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, which didn't even make the list last year, ranked 294 this year, having raised nearly \$43 million from private sources.

The only Jewish federations to fall in the rankings were those covering the San Francisco Bay area, Baltimore, Cleveland, Atlanta and Florida's Palm Beach County. Palm Beach dropped out of the top 400 altogether.

Charendoff said the mixed news reflects the federations' inconsistent ability to "stimulate or inspire their local communities to give either to domestic causes or to the needs of the Jewish people abroad."

A variety of other Jewish groups made the top 400, including universities and research groups, Hadassah, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish National Fund.

The list of charities was topped by the American Red Cross, which raised more than \$1.7 billion from private sources. The group was given a significant boost by donations related to the Sept. 11 attacks, which were counted in the group's 2002 fiscal year. Without those donations the Red Cross would have ranked seventh, and the Salvation Army, this year's No. 2 group, would have ranked first.

Overall, giving to international groups rose, while steep declines were seen in contributions to arts and cultural organizations and universities.

Yet U.S. universities still were among the largest fund-raisers, with Harvard University topping the list at \$478 million in funding from private sources, which put it at 13th place, down from seventh last year.

Among organizations with Israeli connections, the highest-ranked charity was the American Friends of Bar-Ilan University, which raised more than \$145 million from private sources and ranked 85th, up from 90th place last year.

The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science rose to 207th place from 262nd, with \$65 million. Brandeis University ranked 213th, up from 224th, with more than \$63 million.

Yeshiva University fell to 246th from 148th place, with nearly \$53 million. The Jewish Theological Seminary of America fell to 361st in the rankings from 334th, at \$33 million.

The Denver-based National Jewish Medical and Research Center came in at 376th place, with \$31 million. It did not make the top 400 last year.

Hadassah raised \$75 million from private sources, climbing slightly in the rankings to 186th, from 195th. The ADL held at 262nd place — last year it ranked 265th — with \$49 million. The American Jewish Committee rose to 359th from 395th, with \$34 million. The Los Angeles-based Jewish Community Foundation raised about \$45 million, rising to 285th place from 315th in 2001.

Yet even the largest Jewish group ranked behind the largest Arab group, the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which came in at 30th place with \$271 million.

Jewish newcomers to the list included the Jewish National Fund, the National Jewish Medical and Research Center, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. Only one other Jewish group that made the list in 2001 dropped out of 2002's top 400 — American Friends of Hebrew University. □