

IN THE NEWS

Security funds pass House committee

A congressional committee approved legislation to provide security funds to at-risk institutions, including synagogues.

The U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee approved legislation Wednesday that would earmark \$100 million in the next fiscal year to "organizations that are at risk of being attacked by terrorists."

The money would go to government contractors working on security, not directly to religious institutions, said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

Is knowledge power?

The OSCE called for increased education to combat the effects of hate-based Web sites.

In a statement Thursday after a two-day conference in Paris on racism and anti-Semitism on the Internet, the OSCE called on governments to work together with non-profits to combat racist propaganda on the Internet.

The organization also noted the necessity "to fully respect freedom of information and expression, which is vital for democracy and which is in fact reinforced by the Internet."

European governments demanded increased regulation of incitement emanating from the Internet, but U.S. representatives defended the free-speech rights.

Tear down this wall — or we'll shoot you

The lead singer at a Tel Aviv fund-raising concert for Anarchists Against the Wall attacked Israeli politicians who back Israel's security barrier.

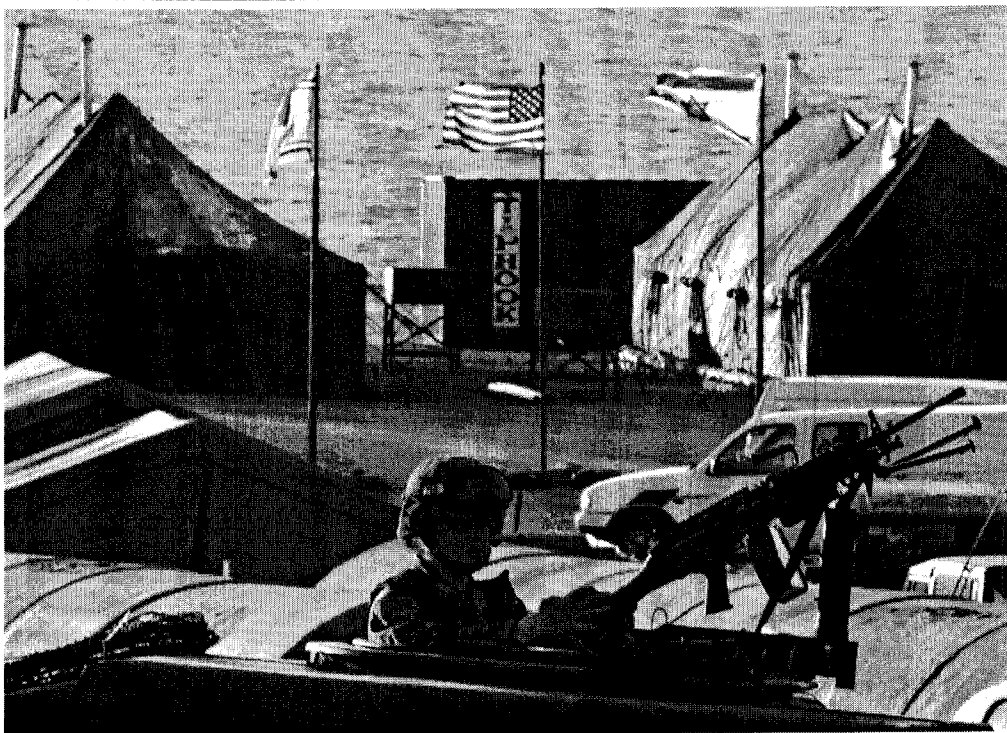
On a broadcast by Israel's Channel Two television on Thursday, the unidentified musician said, "I think the only good thing about the wall is that one day we can take all those people from the Likud and Labor — all the sons of bitches who man the checkpoints — we can line them up and just start shooting."

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WORLD REPORT

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Brian Hendler

A U.S. soldier guards U.S. Patriot anti-missile batteries near Tel Aviv in March 2003, shortly before the start of the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Will some Jews' backing for war in Iraq have repercussions for all?

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — With each new report of troubles in Iraq, some Jews are getting nervous.

Even though many Jews opposed the U.S. war in Iraq — and the organized Jewish community did not vocalize the strong support some had anticipated in the lead-up to the war — a few leading voices in Washington have portrayed the Jewish community as overwhelmingly in favor of toppling Saddam Hussein.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The fact that some of the strongest supporters for the war, both in and out of the Bush White House, are Jewish has led some to equate the political philosophy of neo-conservatism with support for Israel.

Now that the war has been beset by a series of scandals and setbacks, some Jewish leaders have expressed concern that Jews may be scapegoated this election year. Anti-war candidates and advocates already are suggesting that Jewish and pro-Israel voices led the country into war.

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■ Will some Jews' backing for war in Iraq have repercussions for all?

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"Certainly, there is a significant portion of the American people who will buy into this," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "It's a warning to us and it's certainly not something we can dismiss."

The fear is that Jews will be seen as having fostered the war, and that anti-war forces will focus their attention on the Jewish community.

Some people suggest that the rise in European anti-Semitism is related to U.S. policy in Iraq and U.S. support for Israel. Though it's considered unlikely, Jewish organizational leaders worry that anti-Semitic incidents could occur in the United States if more people come to believe that Jews led the country to war in Iraq.

■
The problematic characterizations of Jews have come from high places.

Last month, Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings (D-S.C.) wrote in a newspaper column in his home state that he believed the Bush administration went to war to secure Israel and win Jewish votes. He followed the column with a speech on the Senate floor, chastising the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for its influence over Middle East policy.

A week later, retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, a former presidential envoy in the Middle East, suggested in an interview with CBS News that hawks in the Bush administration backed the Iraq war in part to strengthen Israel, and named some prominent Jews in the administra-

tion as the plan's key architects.

Even before the war began, Rep. James Moran (D-Va.) said Jewish leaders were banging the war drums. Moran was stripped of his leadership post in the Democratic caucus because of the remarks.

This week, however, Moran handily triumphed over a Jewish challenger, Andy Rosenberg, in a primary election, leading some Jews to express concern that significant segments of the public don't consider his charges outlandish.

"It does underscore the need not to be complacent about statements made by public figures that suggest scapegoats," said Jess Hordes, Washington director for the Anti-Defamation League.

Rosenberg had made Moran's comments about the Jews an issue in the campaign, suggesting Moran was unfit for office because he had a loose tongue. Moran also had to defuse a last-minute accusation from his former pollster, who suggested that Moran had made an anti-Semitic comment about a Democratic campaign group.

Moran denied the accusation; others who were in the room at the time said they had not heard it.

Moran's victory had more to do with his 14-year incumbency than with Israel, political analysts said. Additionally, the tendency to blame the war principally on supporters of Israel is confined mostly to the political fringe, Moran and Hollings notwithstanding.

Nonetheless, Jewish groups seek a quick retort when such comments enter the public record.

"We rely on the common sense and wisdom of the average American and other public officials to stand up and say, 'This is nonsense, this is absurd,'" Hordes said.

■
Over the past year, Jewish views on the war have mirrored those of the general public. Some Jews backed the war in Iraq, believing a change in regime in Baghdad would make Israel safer. Bush touted the goals of the war to AIPAC last month, winning rousing applause.

But many other Jews hesitated. Some feared Israel would be used as a scapegoat, while others believed the evidence against Saddam did not warrant a war. Still others felt the war should not be carried out without a larger international coalition.

The Israeli government, which favored regime change, stayed quiet, not wanting to spark allegations that the war was being fought for Israel's benefit.

No matter their view of the war, U.S. Jews want to debunk the idea that they fostered the war or that, if they supported it, benefit to Israel was a primary factor.

"I don't think we've reached the critical mass of people believing these absurd statements," Hordes said. "But statements like these need to be challenged, or they have the chance to seep into mainstream thinking."

Many of the neo-conservatives who staunchly supported the war are Jewish, making it easier for detractors to claim they were motivated by their support for Israel.

In their public statements, both Hollings and Zinni named prominent neo-conservatives who are Jewish. Among those most often noted are Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defense; Richard Perle, the former chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board; and Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy.

The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, a hawkish Jewish group with close ties to U.S. military officials and a supporter of the war, is taking the initiative in explaining neo-conservatism — and separating it from any Jewish identification.

Tom Neumann, JINSA's executive director, points out that many of the neo-conservatives who pushed the Iraq war, including Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, are not Jewish.

"Neo-conservatism is a philosophy, not a theology," Neumann said. "It doesn't have to do with any religion."

JINSA will hold a symposium this fall on the definition of a neo-conservative. Neumann describes it as someone who is formerly liberal and maintains liberal views on some issues, but has developed a stronger bent toward conservatism over time.

That could explain why many of the leading neo-conservatives are Jewish, Neumann says.

"Jews generally start off liberal, and through a process of maturation move to a more conservative position," Neumann said. "You can't be a neo-conservative if you were born a conservative." ■

**Jewish views
on the war have
mirrored those of
the general public.**

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Rabbi trading cards find their niche

By AMIR EFRATI

IOWA CITY (JTA) — In a 1991 episode of NBC's game show "To Tell the Truth," a bearded Orthodox Jew named Arthur Shugarman had the show's celebrity panel stumped: Was his job to help people get rid of their New York accents, or was he the nation's only maker of rabbi trading cards?

Back then, few had heard of the cards — glossies that depicted Orthodox rabbis, both dead and alive, and had statistics printed on the back, just like baseball cards.

So it was no surprise that everybody on the panel incorrectly pegged Shugarman.

"The idea that people would really collect rabbi cards sounded too fake to them," said Shugarman, now a 49-year-old accountant in Baltimore.

The cards first came out in 1988, and 16 years later, Shugarman has sold more than 2.5 million cards in five continents through his non-profit organization, Torah Personalities. The cards, Shugarman said, serve as a "media that we, the ultra-Orthodox community, can use" to unify Orthodox Jews.

April marked the birth of Torah Personalities' sixth series, a colorful set of 80 cards that took Shugarman and his younger brother, Laibel, four years and \$40,000 to make. They come in packs of five cards and sell for about \$1 in Jewish groceries and book stores.

Honoring, even lionizing gedolim — or great rabbis, from the Hebrew word for "big" — who interpret the Torah and determine Jewish law, is a fundamental component of Orthodox Judaism.

Torah Personalities is the marriage of that tradition with the card-collecting impulse of American culture.

Like the batting average and home run totals printed on the backs of Topps and Upper Deck baseball cards, the first and second rabbi card series, though substantially larger in size than their sports counterparts, had their own "stats," both in English and Hebrew: birthplace, schooling, denomination, location of yeshiva and Jewish date of their death, if applicable.

"There is no question that baseball cards make baseball more popular with the kids," said Shugarman, who was a longtime collector of baseball cards. "Rab-

bi cards are meant to do the same thing" for Judaism.

But, and Shugarman stresses this part, the heroes of the Torah are meant to pick up where he says today's heroes of sports falter: generosity, integrity and virtue.

Whereas the emphasis in baseball card-collecting today is on mint condition and monetary value, the concept of the rabbi cards is old-fashioned: to see and appreciate the person on the card.

That's not to say that all rabbi cards are equal. Back on "To Tell the Truth," as the show's celebrity panel grilled Shugarman, he was asked to name the most prolific rabbi.

"Moshe Feinstein," he said, instinctively. Nobody on the panel had heard of the revered dead rabbi, one of the century's most influential authorities on Jewish law.

In the rabbi card "rankings," a Feinstein card is worth more than, say, a Rabbi Nachum Mordechai Perlow (deceased, from Brooklyn), just as a baseball card of Dodgers outfielder Shawn Green is more valuable than a card of Red Sox platoon player Gabe Kapler (both Jewish).

Shugarman, who's been an accountant for 27 years, is soft-spoken and succinct. He wears glasses, has a salt-and-pepper beard, and also goes by his Hebrew name, Chonon.

He lives with his wife, Marsha, and four children.

Laibel, 45, a mortgage broker, works out of Arthur's apartment. Both brothers were raised in a Reform-Jewish home in Baltimore but as adults became Orthodox.

Between 1964 and 1980, Shugarman says he became one of Maryland's top card collectors, amassing more than 100,000 trading cards, mostly baseball, that filled an entire room in his apartment.

The idea for the rabbi cards is logical, he says, a way to tie his love for card-collecting and for gedolim. After all, 20 photos of rabbis hang on his living room wall.

In 2000, the hit comedy film "Keeping the Faith," the story of a friendship between a rabbi and priest in New York, plunged rabbi trading cards into popular

culture by showcasing fictional, 1980s-era "Heroes of the Torah" cards collected by the rabbi — played by actor Ben Stiller — as a child.

Series by series, the cards have evolved from dark, postcard-size photos into sleeker, smaller-framed sets with specific themes explored on the back.

The newest series, distributed by the Jewish candy company Paskesz, shows rabbis performing traditional mitzvahs, or commandments. They range from the usual, like eating matzah on Passover, to the unusual, like chasing away a mother bird before taking eggs from her nest.

Getting the rabbis' mug shots for the cards has not been as simple as pointing and clicking.

"The living rabbis do not want this honor," Shugarman said. "They hesitatingly go along because of the value to the children."

Ed Bernstein, 60, a Denver photographer who has taken more portraits of gedolim, 275, than anyone else, and who has sold Shugarman photos for the cards, said shooting a rebbe roll is no easy task.

"This isn't Hollywood; we're not dealing with models," he said. "It's very

atypical for a rosh yeshiva," the head rabbi of the school, "to stop what he's doing and pose for a photo."

One rabbi made Bernstein promise to take a widow from his congregation out on a date before he agreed to pose.

In an unscientific survey of New York rabbis spanning the more mainstream Jewish denominations, none of them took real issue with rabbi cards, though some expressed distaste; others just laughed.

Most rabbis agreed that the cards typified the "authoritarian structure" of fervent Orthodoxy.

As for excluding non-Orthodox rabbis from his cards, Shugarman said, "A real rabbi knows and lives the laws as handed down through the generations, beginning with Moses."

And for how long does Shugarman plan to continue making the cards?

"As long as the kids want more cards and I'm not losing too much money, I'd like to keep it up," he said.



Flip this: Rabbi trading card.

Terrorism takes toll on kids' mental health

By DINA KRAFT

AFULA, Israel (JTA) — The 10-year-old boy's dark eyes widen and he shifts nervously in his seat. He has trouble falling asleep many nights, says he doesn't feel safe outside of his home and never watches the TV news after a terrorist attack.

It's been this way since a pair of Palestinian terrorists sprayed shoppers with automatic gunfire outside the bus station in the northern town of Afula more than three years ago. Among those running for their lives were his parents.

The boy found out about the attack while watching the news and was stunned to see footage of his father being taken away from the scene in an ambulance.

"I'm scared it will happen to me," says the boy, who is one of numerous students receiving trauma counseling at a new school-based treatment program for victims of terrorism.

On the other side of the political divide, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy in Gaza trembles constantly and finds eating and sleeping difficult ever since an Israeli bomb fell on his house, killing his sister and spraying pieces of her flesh on the walls.

With no end in sight to the violence and uncertainty of the Palestinian intifada, researchers are finding high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder among Israeli and Palestinian children.

This week, Herzog Hospital's Israel

Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, in Jerusalem, and the UJA-Federation of New York are holding a conference to examine the effects of terrorism on children and adolescents in Israel and the United States.

About half the children in Jerusalem, the city hit hardest by Palestinian violence during the past three and a half years, experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to one Israeli child psychiatrist. That's two to three times higher than the rate of children suffering from other causes of trauma.

TERROR'S TRAUMA

A recent study by Herzog's trauma center found that 33 percent of Israeli youths have been affected personally by terrorism, either by being at the scene of an attack or by knowing someone injured or killed by terrorists. Seventy percent of those surveyed reported increased subjective fear or hopelessness.

The rate of post-traumatic stress disorder among Palestinian children is about 70 percent, other researchers say.

These figures have prompted psychologists to ask how children are affected by growing up in the midst of violence, and how these Israeli and Palestinian youngsters can best be treated and taught to cope.

Many suffer acute anxiety of public transportation and public places. Others have problems with insomnia. Increasingly, behavioral problems are emerging at school.

"The impression is that the rates are higher because terror exposure in Israel is not just a one-time event, but a way of life," said Dr. Esti Galili-Weisstraub, who heads Hadassah Hospital's child psychiatry unit and has helped

open two clinics in Jerusalem for children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

She presented her findings at a recent Hadassah conference in Jerusalem.

With every new terror attack, she said, past traumas are relived and this "raises the question of the responsibility of the state not to take it lightly that children are exposed to terror trauma."

In Palestinian areas, even more children witness violence first-hand. On average, every Palestinian child has witnessed about 10 traumatic incidents, according to some Israeli researchers.

"We found the Palestinian children are in a terrible situation ... showing the range of symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, such as not sleeping, being hyper-vigilant, agitated, having nightmares," said Zehava Solomon of Tel Aviv University. "When you see traumas, and then the hunger and poverty, future orientation is catastrophic: They do not see themselves growing up."

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a psychiatric disorder that can be triggered after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, from military combat to terrorism, natural disasters and personal assaults.

After the event, day-to-day life can be marred by nightmares and flashbacks, difficulty sleeping and emotional withdrawal.

Children suffering from the disorder often cannot imagine a future in which they are grown up, according to a study of 1,500 children that Solomon helped conduct among West Bank Palestinians, Israeli Arabs and Jewish Israelis in Jerusalem and in settlements in the Palestinian-populated territories.

"Kids feel they have nothing to lose because life is so fragile," she said.

Another study of some 3,000 Jewish children in Jerusalem and settlements found that being raised with a strong sense of religion and ideology can help foster resilience.

Nevertheless, Miriam Shapira, who directs an emergency crisis center for West

Teachers 'are doing work they never did before, the work of psychologists.'

Anna Slavin

School psychologist



Brian Hendler

Israeli girls at the site of a double suicide bombing in December 2001 that killed 10 young Israelis and injured more than 170 at the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall in downtown Jerusalem.

Bank settlers, said the situation among settler children is dire.

Almost every school has students who have experienced close losses. One school had 20 students who had lost a parent in terrorist attacks, she said. About half of the teachers also have had a close relative killed or were themselves involved in an attack.

"The culture in settlements is changing," she said. "Now there is less denial. People are talking about the effects of living with terrorism."

■
Researchers say that teenagers are at increased risk of psychological disorders because — at an age where they're supposed to feel increasingly independent — terrorism places more and more restrictions on where they can go and what they can do.

Additionally, many teens with problems fall through the cracks because they don't want to burden their parents with their problems.

At this week's conference on treating traumatized children and adolescents, new research by Dr. Ruth Pat-Horenczyk of the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma showed an increase in risk-taking behavior in adolescents exposed to terrorism.

In her survey of 300 Israeli adolescents, about 50 percent reported use of alcohol, with the number rising to 90 percent among those suffering from post-traumatic symptoms. Some 16 percent reported driving recklessly, with the number doubling for those experiencing post-traumatic disorders.

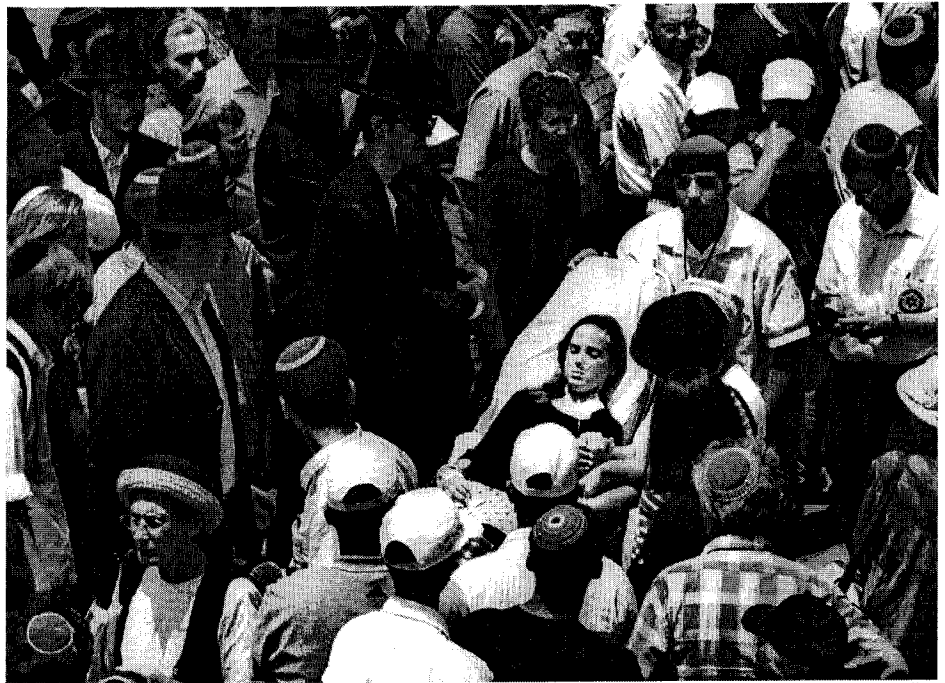
"In a way, they say to themselves what is considered not dangerous — such as taking a bus to school — has now become fatal, so maybe drugs and sex are not dangerous. The borders of danger and non-danger have collapsed," Pat-Horenczyk said.

The Gaza Strip has seen some of the most intense violence during the intifada.

The Gaza Community Mental Health Program treats some 5,000 children a year in outreach programs in schools and neighborhoods. Program surveys found that a third of Gazan children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, and most of the others exhibit some symptoms of disorder as well.

Eyad el Sarraj, who heads the program, says the most dominant theme seen in the children they treat is morbidity and death.

"It is very damaging and creates a new kind of culture — this kind of talking



Brian Hendler

Leah, one of two surviving daughters of the Schyveschoorder family, is placed on a stretcher to attend the funeral of five family members killed in the August 2001 bombing of a pizzeria in Jerusalem. Leah and a sibling were injured in the blast.

and thinking about death," el Sarraj said. "Children subjected to certain experiences will continue to have negative feelings unless they are treated."

■
At the Alumim Elementary School, located in a working-class neighborhood of Afula, Israeli children exposed to terrorist attacks are getting help.

In a lavender-and-lemon-colored room called "cheder cham," Hebrew for the "warm room," children undergo sessions with the school psychologist and other therapists in which they talk about the traumatic episode and learn to process and cope with the trauma.

One boy says the room is so soothing that "it feels like a bath."

Teachers who have been trained to help children cope with terrorism and launch discussions in their classes following major terrorist attacks also come to the room. They discuss the stresses they face in the classroom as a result of intifada-related violence.

"Teachers are getting better at seeing the symptoms of the children or those at risk," said the school's psychologist, Anna Slavin. "They are doing work they never did before, the work of psychologists."

Esther Cohen, head of the child clinical-psychology program at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, recently wrote a book on school-based interventions for mass trauma.

She said the idea of a school being a therapeutic center is quite new, but apparently is effective. School has become a place where children can express their fears in a responsive setting and where those struggling with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder can be identified.

Cohen's current research focuses on children aged three to seven who have been directly affected by a terrorist attack.

"The bad news is that we see children who are either very anxious, very depressed or sadistic, having acting-out kind of tendencies," Cohen said.

Because the children are so young, post-traumatic stress disorder is best detected through play therapy, not the assessment questionnaires used for older children and adults. In the play therapy, the children re-enact a traumatic act they witnessed, such as a bus bombing.

Often, the children will play with an animal or monster trying to get on a bus. Some children depict their homes surrounded by fences or homes with no windows, just holes from which to shoot weapons.

As disturbing as these images are, Cohen says the children we should worry about most are the ones who are so traumatized that they have forgotten how to play at all.

"They cannot engage," Cohen said. "The essence of childhood is playfulness, and they cannot play." ■

Exhibit shines spotlight on Anne Frank

By TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) — Like tens of millions of others, Siegfried Kuhn read Anne Frank's diary — but he didn't stop there.

Kuhn, who works for the German Postal Service, has visited Amsterdam and Bergen-Belsen, tracing Anne's fate.

"I try to convince others that they should be interested, too, so that nothing like that can ever happen again," he said.

On Saturday — which would have been Anne's 75th birthday — Kuhn, 33, came to Berlin from the German town of Sangerhausen to see an exhibit of 40 family photos by Otto Frank, Anne's father.

On display until Sept. 12 at the Anne Frank Center, which is tucked inside a courtyard in the former East Berlin, the photos shed new light on the Franks' daily life before World War II.

Similar exhibits are being mounted by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam at the Foam Gallery, and at the Kraushaar Gallery in New York.

The New York exhibit, which was arranged by The Anne Frank Center USA in Manhattan, will be in place through the end of July, after which it will travel to Houston.

Hanging on the walls are pictures of Anne and her sister, Margot, as babies and toddlers. There are beach scenes and school photos, family groups and street scenes.

All indicate that Otto and Edith Frank tried to preserve a sense of normalcy until they went into hiding in the attic of 263 Prinsengracht St. in Amsterdam in July 1942.

Ultimately the hiding place was betrayed, and the family was arrested and deported in August 1944. Anne and Margot Frank died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in March 1945, shortly before it was liberated. Their mother also died, but Otto Frank survived the war.

One of the most striking photos is one of Anne sitting at a desk in Amsterdam, pencil in hand. Taken in April 1941, it shows a girl on the verge of womanhood, with the hint of a smile.

Anne "was a girl who loved life," said Buddy Elias, 79, Anne's cousin, who visited the center over the weekend.

Like Anne, Elias was born in Frank-

furt. While the Franks went to Holland, the Eliases moved in 1931 to Switzerland.

"We played together, as long as she was able to come to Switzerland," said Elias, an actor who since 1996 has been president of the Anne Frank Foundation of Basel.

Anne's diary amazed him, "and her essays and fairytales were amazing. As Otto Frank always says, there was an Anne who belonged to me and an Anne that belonged to the world," Elias said.

"She had the same problems as any other teenager: parents, growing up, sexuality, and so on," Elias said.

It's still hard for him to believe, he added, that a child had to hide because a government declared her to be less than human.

Hannah Pick, then Hannah Goslar, came to the opening from Jerusalem to see photos of the girl whose voice she last heard over a barbed wire fence in Bergen-Belsen.

"We went to the same kindergarten" in 1934, said Pick, 75, whose family also fled Germany for Holland.

The girls became fast friends, but in 1942 Pick came back to school after vacation "and I wanted to play and she was not there."

The exhibit, "Anne Frank and Her Family — Photographs by Otto Frank," is one of several projects honoring the memory of the girl whose diary has been translated into 60 languages since its initial 1947 publication in Dutch.

This year, German schoolchildren will compose essays for a competition on how to combat prejudice; winning essays will become "A Book for Anne Frank."

The diary also will be translated into Arabic for the first time.

Thomas Heppener, 38, head of the Anne Frank Center's board, said the center decided to make it possible for Arabic-speaking children in Europe to read the diary "because we believe the book is a symbol of understanding and of human rights, a symbol against persecution and discrimination."

In the center, realistic facsimiles of Frank family photo albums lie open in glass cases, looking as they might have when Anne filched a snapshot to slip into the pages of her diary.

Otto Frank, who died in 1980, was an avid photographer who took both candid and posed shots of his family. He reportedly never picked up his camera after the war.

One of the few photos of Otto Frank in the exhibit was taken by the American photographer Arnold Newman in the Prin-

sengracht attic, on the day it opened to the public in 1960.

In the photo, Otto Frank leans against one of the support beams in the attic, appearing lost in thought. Shortly after the shutter snapped, the church bells that Anne described in her diary began to ring. Both Otto Frank and the photographer cried.

The center also contains a permanent exhibit about the fate of the family, including a video interview with Otto Frank.

Pick, who survived Bergen-Belsen with her sister Rachel, remembers her last contacts with Anne.

Anne and Margot had been sent to the camp from Auschwitz, while Pick and her sister had come via the Westerbork transit camp in Holland. In Bergen-Belsen, the two groups were separated by a barbed wire fence filled with straw, Pick recalled.

"I heard by chance that she was there behind the fence," she said. A woman who had hidden with the Franks in Amsterdam brought Anne to the other side of the fence.

The girls communicated three times, Pick said, "but I never saw her."

Once Anne "asked if I could throw over something to eat," she said. Pick threw Anne a Red Cross package with bread and dried plums.

"And she cried. Because another person caught it and ran away and gave her nothing," Pick said.

Pick threw some more food over, and "she got it," she said.

Photos show that Anne's parents tried to preserve a sense of normalcy until the Frank family went into hiding.

TRAVELS

Jewish governor of Hawaii feels at home in Israel

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The governor of Hawaii noticed something familiar when she stepped onto Israeli soil for the first time last month.

"We're both isolated," said Linda Lingle, the Jewish Republican governor of the Aloha State. "We're isolated by water; they're isolated by unfriendly neighbors."

Beyond that similarity, both states have economies that are highly dependent on tourism and have been working in recent years to move into technology.

Those are some of the reasons Lingle jumped at the opportunity to visit Israel, where she promoted an agricultural cooperative agreement between Hawaii and the Jewish state. She also met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

In a telephone interview recently with JTA, Lingle said she gained a better understanding of the need for Israel to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and erect a security barrier in the West Bank.

She said one of the things she didn't understand about Israel before the trip was that so much of the land in the country is government-owned. Also, she anticipated kibbutz life to be more widespread.

Lingle was born in St. Louis and raised in Southern California before moving to Hawaii after graduating college.

Her visit in May took her to the Negev Desert, where she discussed higher education issues with the president of Ben-Gurion University, as well as to a Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem, where she learned how victims of terrorism are treated.

Lingle said she found Israelis very supportive of the role the Bush administration has been playing in the Middle East.

"I think they value very much America's friendship and want it to continue," she said.

One of few prominent Jewish Republicans, Lingle already has touted Bush to Jewish audiences in Los Angeles. She says she hopes to do so more in the months before the November election.

Founder of Jewish film festival in Berlin hoping to expand

By TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) — Nicola Galliner wants to take her Berlin Jewish Film Festival, which is marking its 10th anniversary, throughout Germany. And if anyone can do it, she can.

In 1994, Galliner, born in England to parents who had fled Nazi Germany, went to the directors of the Arsenal Theater, a film-lover's cinema here, with a proposal: Berlin already had a popular Jewish cultural festival. Why not try the same with film?

Ulrich and Erika Gregor — whose daughter, Milena, currently coordinates the event with Galliner — were thinking along the same lines. Together with Galliner, they have built the Jewish Film Festival Berlin, which ended this week, into an institution known for breaking the mold.

This year, the festival offered 23 films from Israel, Britain, the United States, Australia, Sweden, Portugal, Russia, Argentina and France.

The festival is supported by the Israeli Embassy in Germany, the Jewish community in Berlin and Friends of the German Cinema.

The new president of Berlin's Jewish community, Albert Meyer, opened the event.

Galliner, 53, prides herself on showcasing innovative films, including those that thumb their noses at the establishment.

So it is OK to laugh when Hitler turns up disguised as an old lady in London, in "Mrs. Meitlemeier," a bizarre movie by British filmmaker Graham Rose, which was shown this year, or when a Jewish organization hires a kosher super-hero to save Chanukah, in "The Hebrew Hammer," a U.S. film by Jonathan Kesselman, which was screened last year.

"I have been accused of being too lighthearted," says Galliner, who moved to Berlin in 1969. Since 1988, she has directed the Jewish community's adult education program.

"There is a lot of negative energy around here still," she says, noting that

non-Jewish Germans often expect serious films on such topics as the Middle East conflict.

"I tend to lean toward comedy. It's not that we concentrate on lighthearted things, but it doesn't all have to be looking backwards. It can be about Jewish life today," Galliner says.

Despite recent incidents of anti-Semitism linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jews again are feeling confident in Germany, opening synagogues, building new community centers and developing a public presence in media and the arts.

The postwar Jewish population has tripled to about 105,000 since the fall of communism, thanks to arrivals from the former Soviet Union.

For Janis Plotkin, former director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, the Berlin festival is an inspiration.

"Anything that provides a solid and creative Jewish presence in Berlin, that embraces all ways of being Jewish, is a very good thing," says Plotkin, whose Polish grandfather lived in Germany briefly before

fleeing the Nazis.

Today it is a lot easier to be in-your-face as a Jewish artist in Germany, says Anna Adam, 41, who has lampooned modern German philo-Semitism in her artwork and collaborated with Christian and Muslim artists on creative happenings.

"We are trying to show that we are proud and fresh and courageous," says Adam, who contributed an irreverent essay on "How to Make a Jewish Film" to the festival's retrospective volume.

"What I really like about the film festival is that there is something for everyone, even for Jews," says Adam, a member of the Berlin Jewish artists collective Meshulash. "There are many Jewish festivals in Germany that are made for non-Jews."

In fact, many in the audiences at the festival were not Jewish, and some didn't get all the Jewish jokes in the films.

But there is a lot of laughter, Galliner says, which is a good thing in a country always struggling with the legacy of the Holocaust.

"I tend to lean toward comedy."

Nicola Galliner

Berlin Jewish Film Festival

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

Powell meets with Arab Americans

Colin Powell met with a delegation of leading Arab Americans. Leaders of the Arab American Institute met Thursday with the U.S. secretary of state and discussed Israel's plan to withdrawal unilaterally from the Gaza Strip.

The Arab group said it told Powell that bilateral agreements between Israel and the Palestinians are preferable to unilateral actions.

It was the first meeting between Powell and an Arab American group in two years.

Ros-Lehtinen praises Egypt

An influential U.S. congresswoman praised Egypt for its efforts to aid an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), who chairs the Middle East subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, had called a hearing Wednesday to threaten congressional action against Egypt for its failure to destroy tunnels used to smuggle arms across its border with Gaza. Administration officials and top Jewish organizations convinced Ros-Lehtinen that Egypt's cooperation in training Palestinians to secure Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal deserved encouragement.

"Egypt has undertaken a difficult step toward achieving the cause of peace; this is good news in a region often beset with bad," she said. Still, she cautioned, "Egypt must do more to stop the ongoing construction of tunnels on its side of the border with Gaza."

Meanwhile, Islamic Jihad warned Egypt not to play any security role in the Gaza Strip after Israel withdraws.

Senators: No to Saudis in trade group

Leading senators want the United States to oppose Saudi Arabia's efforts to join the World Trade Organization.

A letter initiated by Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) says the Saudis must crack down on funding of terrorist groups and renounce the Arab League boycott of Israel before Saudi Arabia can get the special trading status associated with the WTO.

Also signing Lincoln's letter are Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), Bob Graham (D-Fla.), Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) and Tom Daschle (D-S.D.). Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) is leading a similar effort in the U.S. House of Representatives.

MIDDLE EAST

Rafah moat floated

Israel advertised for bids to dig a moat along the Gaza-Egypt border. The Defense Ministry ran an ad in Thursday's Ha'aretz calling on construction companies to submit tenders for a trench, two miles long and 80 feet deep, to run through the southern Gaza Strip.

Security sources confirmed that the project was aimed at stopping terrorists smuggling arms through tunnels at Rafah, which straddles the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt.

Israeli exhibit of Palestinian terror riles

Palestinian officials are upset over an Israeli exhibit that documents Palestinian terrorism.

The exhibit is displayed next to an army base outside Tel Aviv. The display includes scenes of terrorist attacks, weapons and documents that show how Palestinian terrorist groups operate, The Associated Press reported.

Palestinian Authority Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said the exhibition will broaden the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. But the director of the Intelligence of Terrorism Information Center, which

is responsible for the exhibit, said the exhibit is accurate. "This is an expression of reality, a mirror," Reuven Ehrlich said.

Israel protests U.N. commissioner's request

Israel filed a formal protest against a U.N.-affiliated commissioner who told Caterpillar to stop selling bulldozers to Israel.

Jean Ziegler, a Swiss citizen advising the Geneva-based U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said the Israeli army uses the bulldozers to destroy Palestinian homes, crops and lives.

He told the U.S.-based company that if it continues selling bulldozers to Israel, it may be considered an accomplice in human rights violations. Israeli officials say Ziegler, who often quotes anti-Israel activists in his speeches, has continually bashed Israel to further his own career.

Caterpillar shareholders recently rejected a proposal calling on the company to stop selling bulldozers to the Israeli army.

Menachem Begin museum opens

An interactive museum and informal education facility promoting Menachem Begin's legacy opened in Israel.

The \$16 million building honoring the former Israeli prime minister, based on the concept of American presidential libraries, was financed by donations from foundations and private individuals worldwide. The center faces the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

WORLD

France: No deal with Israel

France denied Israeli media reports that it is to sign an arms deal with the Jewish state.

Ha'aretz had reported earlier this week that France was set to spend about \$200 million to buy material for unmanned planes from Israel Aeronautics Industries. However, France's Ministry of Defense said Thursday that no such deal was in the pipeline.

"This contract doesn't exist. It corresponds to nothing on file today," ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said.

But he added that Defense Minister Michelle Alliot-Marie would "pass by" the Israeli exhibit at an arms fair near Paris this week, where she might purchase plane engines if necessary.

Blair backs kosher slaughter

Tony Blair reaffirmed his commitment to both the Jewish state and British Jews' right to practice religious animal slaughter.

Speaking this week at the annual lunch of the Labor Friends of Israel — a lobbying group linked to the prime minister's ruling Labor Party — the prime minister said Israel's successes were a testament to the Jewish spirit.

"I feel strongly about Israel and admire its many achievements, which are easy to forget amid the current headlines," Blair said. "What concerns me is that the conflict in the Middle East is used to fuel anti-Semitism in Britain. I will not tolerate this," Blair added, referring to a recent upsurge in attacks on the Jewish community thought to be linked to the Palestinian intifada.

WZO revises platform

The World Zionist Organization approved a new platform.

At its annual conference in Jerusalem, the WZO updated its Jerusalem Program, the Zionist tenets on which the institution rests, which first were passed in 1951.

Among other things, the new six-point program calls for "strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state," "the unity of the Jewish people" and the "centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital."