

## IN THE NEWS

## Official: Arafat doesn't have leukemia

Yasser Arafat does not have leukemia, a senior Palestinian diplomat said.

Speaking to reporters Saturday outside the hospital near Paris where Arafat is undergoing medical tests, Leila Shahid, the Palestinian Authority's general delegate to France, added that Arafat's physical and psychological condition had improved since arriving at the hospital.

More information is expected to be known later this week after further tests, she said.

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## Was 9/11 plot born in Beirut?

Osama bin Laden claimed Israel's invasion of Lebanon inspired the Al-Qaida attack on the World Trade Center.

"When I saw the destroyed buildings in Lebanon, it raised in me the notion of punishing the unjust in a similar manner, and destroying towers in the United States so that they would taste some of what we were tasting," Bin Laden said in a recorded statement aired by Al-Jazeera last Friday.

Many in the Arab world believe that the United States, as the Jewish state's main ally, was complicit in the 1982 Israeli mission to crush the PLO in Lebanon.

## Jewish tombstones defaced in France

Close to 100 tombs at a Jewish cemetery in eastern France were defaced with anti-Semitic and racist slogans.

The slogans, which were discovered on 92 tombs at the cemetery near Strasbourg on Saturday included swastikas and neo-Nazi insignia.

French President Jacques Chirac condemned the act and called on the government "to take all the necessary measures without delay in order that the authors of this odious act are found, arrested and brought before the courts."

# WORLD REPORT

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## Community's fund raising stable, according to new charity list

By RACHEL POMERANCE

**N**EW YORK (JTA) — A snapshot of some of the largest Jewish charities reveals that Jewish fund raising generally is stable.

But nuances in the numbers reveal who's up, who's down and why.

The Chronicle of Philanthropy last week released its annual list of the top 400 charities in America primarily for the fiscal year that ended in 2003.

The 24 American Jewish charities that made the "Philanthropy 400" list raised more than \$2 billion from private sources. That was some \$42 million less than the total raised in fiscal year 2002 by the 28 Jewish charities on last year's list.

First among the Jewish charities was the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group for North American Jewish federations, with nearly \$345 million in private donations.

However, since the UJC represents the federations and the funds they raise, much of that amount essentially was double-counted.

Of its \$345 million, \$233 million was collected by federations for the system's overseas partners, which run relief and welfare, Zionist education and immigration to Israel. The remaining \$112 million is for the federation system's coordinated Israel Emergency Campaign, which was launched in 2001 to aid Israelis amid the intifada.

While federations raised much of those funds in fiscal year 2002, most were not transferred to UJC until fiscal year 2003. That explains why this year's list shows a bump in fund raising for the UJC but a dip for many of

the federations, many of which already had listed the money in fiscal year 2002.

The American Jewish community values the Chronicle's list because it provides an opportunity to assess the health of their charitable organizations in comparison to each other, the non-Jewish community and years past.

But the list is not foolproof. For one, it doesn't consider endowments or planned giving, many of which are mainstays of Jewish organizations.

It also leaves out donations to synagogues, Jewish community centers and day schools, which boast massive capital campaigns, said Gary Tobin, president of the Institute of Jewish and Community Research.

Since most of the Jewish philanthropies that made the list are federations, which have flat campaigns, Jewish philanthropy appears flat overall — but in fact it is growing, Tobin said.

Mark Charendoff, president of the Jewish Funders Network, believes Jewish fund raising generally is stable — but that's not good enough, he says.

"The needs are becoming more acute, and if the Jewish community wants to have a greater impact in fulfilling our mission, then stability is not going to allow us to do the job."

Additionally, "younger philanthropists view themselves as investors. This is not a generation that is looking to invest in static" charities, he said. They're "looking to take some risks, educated risks, but risks" in charities "that are taking risks."

Topping the general list of 400, by a landslide, was the Salvation Army. With some \$1.3

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**FOCUS  
ON  
ISSUES**

## ■ 24 American Jewish charities make list of top 400 philanthropies

*Continued from page 1*

billion raised, the group was half a billion dollars ahead of the No. 2 charity, the American Cancer Society.

Federations and federation-related agencies make up more than half the Jewish charities listed. That underscores the federations' pre-eminence in American Jewish communal life despite increasing competition — from both Jewish and non-Jewish charities — for donors' money.

At the same time, Jewish federations primarily push a collective funding pool, despite a general philanthropic trend to give donors greater control over how their dollars are used.

■  
In analyzing the "Philanthropy 400," it becomes clear that a group's ranking and the funds it raises may shift from year to year due to general economic conditions or even a single exceptional donation.

Often it relates to the timing of a special fund-raising drive, as was the case for the federation system's Israel Emergency Campaign.

Such a scenario boosted Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America in this year's listing.

The group's fund raising jumped from some \$75 million in 2002 to \$94 million in 2003 due to a campaign to build a new emergency medical center in Jerusalem, said Jane Karlin, Hadassah's director of development.

"This campaign, which had a \$46 million goal, motivated our members across the United States to give generously," she said, noting that the group had raised \$51

million for the project by May 2004.

Some, like the Jewish National Fund, lost their place on the list entirely. Last year, the group's nearly \$30 million put it at 392nd place; while it topped \$30 million in fiscal 2003, it didn't make the current list.

The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science saw its funds slip from nearly \$65 million in 2002 — when it received a few major gifts — to more than \$47 million last year.

Others made the list for the first time. The New Israel Fund, which raised nearly \$37 million from private sources, debuted at 354th place. That includes a \$20 million grant from the Ford Foundation last fall, the group told JTA.

While many federations explained their rise and fall due to the Israel Emergency Campaign, the fact is that federation fund raising remained fairly stable in fiscal 2003.

Donations to the federation system's annual campaign — assembled from federations across North America — dipped only slightly in 2003, to \$827.5 million from \$831.9 million the year before. The annual campaign has hovered in the low- to mid-\$800 million range since 2000.

The UJC raises another \$1.2 billion each year through planned giving and endowments.

■  
The list comes as federations report an increase in annual campaign gifts for 2004.

"We're running 6.4 percent ahead of last year," having raised some \$778 million for the annual campaign this year compared to \$745 million by this time last year, said Steve Selig of Atlanta, chairman of the UJC's finance and resource development pillar.

Indeed, some 1,300 women attending the UJC's Lion of Judah conference in Washington earlier this month pledged more than \$18 million, a 12 percent jump from Lion of Judah pledges last year.

According to Selig, the UJC's immediate past national campaign chairman, 2003 was a "good year," but fund raising was hampered by a struggling economy and "a little bit of a hangover" after the Israel Emergency Campaign.

This year fund raising has improved

because of a better economy, and the fact that donors — many of whom have visited Israel on federation solidarity missions — are aware of the threats facing the Jewish state, he said.

Charendoff has a less rosy take.

With the exception of emergency campaigns, "the general story of campaigns in the federation system is that they have been flat when you adjust for inflation," he said. "It speaks to several things,

including a lack of clarity of purpose and an inability to engage larger numbers of the younger generation."

Although the Palestinian intifada — and the consequent needs of securing and healing Israelis — continued in 2003, many federations chose not to actively solicit again for the emergency campaign, to avoid straining the system and undermining their credibility.

Steven Nasatir, however, didn't share that outlook.

President of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Nasatir links his federation's increased 2003 revenue to its emphasis on the emergency campaign.

"We really brought that message out to our community in a very strong way," he said.

The Chicago federation raised more than \$145 million in 2003, up from \$121 million the previous year, retaining its rank as the largest federation fund raiser after New York.

The Detroit federation has run an Israel emergency campaign for three years, but support peaked in the first year, said Mark Davidoff, executive director and chief operating officer.

The Jewish Federation of Detroit, which last year raised more than \$76 million, ranking third in fund raising among Jewish federations, slid to seventh place among federations, with \$49 million raised.

Davidoff said the drop reflected the end of another special campaign — its Millennium Campaign endowment drive, which closed in 2002. Endowments declined in 2003, following the stock market, Davidoff said. ■

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# With Arafat out of sight, Israelis glimpse hope

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Yasser Arafat's illness has done what Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, for all of his attempts, could not: create a sense of hope in the possibilities of a future without the grizzled Palestinian Authority president.

There was an unusual hush when the matter of Arafat was raised at Sunday's meeting of the Israeli Cabinet.

Previously, ministers of all political stripes had railed against him, belying

Jerusalem's official line that Arafat was "irrelevant" to peacemaking. This time, with Arafat undergoing urgent and secretive tests at a French hospital, a sense of genuine hope dawned.

Israel plans to press ahead with its unilateral withdrawals from the Gaza Strip and West Bank despite Arafat's illness, Sharon told his Cabinet on Sunday, but he left open the possibility for further peace talks should new Palestinian leaders take over.

"If a leadership arises that acts to dismantle the terror infrastructure, we will be prepared to resume negotiations on the basis of the 'road map,'" Sharon told his ministers, referring to the U.S.-backed peace plan, rendered all-but defunct by persistent violence.

The chief of Israeli military intelligence, which had made clear in media leaks that it knew well in advance of Arafat's airlift to Paris last Friday that his condition was grave, sounded even more optimistic.

"I think we have an opportunity here to end the current round of conflict that began in 2000," Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi-Farkash told the Cabinet in a briefing.

But Ze'evi-Farkash agreed with Sharon's assessment that the Palestinians must be left to their own devices in choosing a potential successor for Arafat. Any Israeli overtures toward this-or-that candidate would risk marking him as a stooge in the eyes of his countrymen — a death sentence politically, and perhaps even literally.

Arafat was reported to be in critical condition late last week, but by Sunday his con-

dition apparently had improved, according to Leila Shahid, the Palestinian Authority's general delegate to France. Arafat does not have leukemia, she said, speaking to reporters Saturday outside the hospital near Paris where the 75-year-old Palestinian leader is undergoing medical tests.

Meanwhile, Israeli military chiefs boosted forces around the West Bank city of Ramallah, where Arafat had been confined to his compound before leaving for Paris.

According to security sources, army commanders were instructed to review a plan of action, written up last

year, in anticipation of Arafat's death.

Israel fears Arafat, who always refused to groom a successor, will leave a power vacuum in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, triggering Palestinian factional fighting.

Given the confusion over the degree to which Arafat was incapacitated, his colleagues in Ramallah were playing it safe.

On Sunday, they held the first-ever PLO meeting without him. Arafat's empty chair was flanked by the current and former prime ministers of the Palestinian Authority, Ahmed Qurei and Mahmoud Abbas, who for now have divided Arafat's responsibilities between them.

Sharon had long said that were Arafat to leave the West Bank he would not be allowed to return, but last week the prime minister reversed this position in letting the Palestinian leader be flown out for treatment.

"We have made this commitment and we shall stick with it," Sharon told a Cabinet minister who suggested that Arafat be made to stay abroad. ■

## THIS WEEK

### TUESDAY

■ Americans go to the polls after a bitter election campaign — and one in which Jewish voters were courted on an unprecedented scale. Jewish Americans could make the difference at the polls in a number of swing states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida and Michigan.

### WEDNESDAY

■ The Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City hosts a discussion on "Genocide and Denial: Contemporary Repercussions in the 21st Century." The talk features Peter Balakian, author of "The Burning Tigris," and Robert Jay Lifton, author of "Hiroshima in America: Fifty Years of Denial." The speakers will examine contemporary genocides as well as a historical context through which to view these tragedies.

### THURSDAY

■ The Anti-Defamation League begins its national commission meeting in San Francisco. During the three-day meeting, ADL leaders will hear from policymakers, opinion molders and senior government officials on the implications of the U.S. elections, Israel's Gaza withdrawal plan and the aftermath of the Presbyterian Church decision to divest from Israel. Among the guests will be Ehud Olmert, Israel's trade minister.

■ In Washington, the Israel Project brings together top Republican, Democratic and independent pollsters in Washington to analyze the U.S. elections.

### SUNDAY

■ A program aimed at getting Orthodox Jewish singles together is held in New York City. The Fourth Annual Shidduch Conference for the Jewish Community is under the auspices of the Department for Shidduch Programming of the National Council of Young Israel, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and SawYouAtSinai.com. The program will include matchmaking training sessions.

I think we have an opportunity here to end the current round of conflict that began in 2000.

Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi-Farkash  
Israel Defense Forces

## FBI questions Cipel

NEW YORK (JTA) — FBI agents questioned the Israeli at the center of a scandal that ended the career of New Jersey's governor.

Two agents interviewed Golan Cipel at length Wednesday in his parents' apartment in Rishon Letzion, Israel.

Cipel's U.S. lawyer, Paul Batista, said the former adviser to Gov. James Mc-

Greevey maintained that he never had a homosexual affair with the governor, and that he was "as straight as Clint Eastwood."

McGreevey, who said he had a consensual relationship with Cipel, claimed the Israeli threatened to file a sexual harassment suit unless McGreevey paid him millions of dollars. ■

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Death in Jenin

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank. In Sunday's clash in Jenin, one gunman was killed and another was wounded.

Four other Palestinian terror suspects were taken into custody. The Israeli army has been in Jenin since Oct. 27, acting on intelligence indicating local terrorists are planning an attack.

On Saturday, witnesses said troops killed a 12-year-old rock thrower in the city. Military sources said the soldiers fired on gunmen.

### Cash for Arad info

Israel offered a \$10 million reward for information on missing airman Ron Arad.

Jerusalem published the bounty in world media Sunday after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon authorized it in light of deadlocked prisoner-exchange talks with Hezbollah.

The Shi'ite militia denies it took Arad, an Israeli air force navigator who bailed out of his crippled jet over Lebanon in 1986, but has pledged to pass information on his fate through German mediators.

"The negotiations via German mediation are still under way," Hezbollah chief Sheik Hassan Nasrallah told a Beirut rally Sunday.

### Gaza violence simmers

Palestinian terrorists shelled the synagogue of a Gaza Strip settlement, wounding an Israeli.

At least seven mortar shells hit Kfar Darom on Sunday, one of them landing on the community's synagogue and wounding a 20-year-old resident who stood outside.

Israeli aircraft scoured nearby Palestinian villages for the mortar crews, but exercised extra caution in light of intelligence warnings that terrorist groups could have anti-aircraft capabilities.

"It is possible that the Palestinians managed to smuggle some anti-aircraft missiles into the Gaza Strip," Shin Bet chief Avi Dichter told the Cabinet on Sunday.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Holbrooke: 'I misspoke on Israel'

A top foreign policy adviser to Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said he misspoke when he said the United States should pressure Israel, and meant Egypt instead.

Richard Holbrooke, touted as a possible secretary of state in a Kerry administration, appeared on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor" on Oct. 22.

He said that if elected president, the Massachusetts senator would "reach out to the moderate Arab states. He'd put pressure on Israel, Syria and Saudi Arabia above all."

The White House and the Bush campaign have called reporters since the show to alert them to the quote, and it made an appearance on the online edition of The Weekly Standard, a conservative magazine.

"It is clear from the overall quote — which refers to 'Arab states' — that I meant to say 'Egypt' when I said 'Israel,'" Holbrooke said in a statement to JTA.

"The point I was making was that John Kerry will turn up the pressure on Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia, but that he will never pressure Israel to compromise its security or into unilateral concessions."

### Arab Americans back Kerry

A final poll of Arab Americans in four key swing states shows strong support for John Kerry.

The Democratic candidate and Massachusetts senator beats President Bush by 54 percent to 28 percent in a three-way contest

among Arab Americans in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Florida, according to a Zogby International poll published Oct. 26.

Support for independent candidate Ralph Nader, himself an Arab American and very supportive of the Palestinians, has collapsed from 20 percent in the first of five polls in February to 3.5 percent now, partly because Nader was removed from the ballot in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Israel-Palestine ranked last in importance of eight issues for Arab American voters, behind such issues as the economy, national security and civil liberties.

The poll was carried out for the Arab American Institute.

## WORLD

### British Jews up in arms

British Jews are outraged by an anti-Israel article in a publicly funded newspaper.

An article about an upcoming Palestinian trade fair in the November edition of The Londoner accused Israel of "strangling the Palestinian economy" via "hundreds of military checkpoints in the areas it occupies in defiance of United Nations resolutions."

The Board of Deputies, British Jewry's main group, issued an angry complaint to the Greater London Council, headed by Mayor Ken Livingstone, decrying the lack of context in the article's "vicious anti-Israel propaganda."

But a spokesman for the council said: "The article was not politically biased. It was factually correct, explaining that the Palestinian economy has been devastated by the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel since 1967 in defiance of international law and United Nations resolutions."

### Tombstone in New Zealand rededicated

New Zealand Jews rededicated a tombstone that was attacked recently.

Sunday's event in the city of Wanganui rededicated a stone that was hit with a sledgehammer and daubed with a swastika last week.

It was the third desecration of Jewish graves in New Zealand in recent months, following attacks on two cemeteries in the capital, Wellington, where more than 100 headstones were damaged.

### Tutu backs Holocaust studies

Archbishop Desmond Tutu introduced new materials on the Holocaust for teachers and students.

At an Oct. 21 reception held in the Nobel Prize winner's honor at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, the Desmond Tutu Lessons for Humanity awards also were inaugurated.

These will be presented annually to teachers in recognition of outstanding student projects connected to the Holocaust.

The materials consist of 30 classroom posters, a learner interactive resource book, an introductory video incorporating survivor testimony and a teacher's manual and guide for the video.

They are intended to serve as backup for teachers in Holocaust Studies, which is to be a compulsory part of history and social science for ninth- and 11th-grade students by 2006.

### Nobel winner honored

An Israeli scientist who shared this year's Nobel Prize in chemistry has been made an honorary citizen of the Hungarian town where he was born.

On Oct. 27, officials in Karcag, southeast of Budapest, awarded Avram Hershko the honor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to science.

The title will be presented at a special ceremony scheduled for March.