

IN THE NEWS
**Evacuation pace
may be sped up**

Israel's defense minister said the Gaza evacuation should be carried out more quickly than plans now call for.

The eight- to nine-week period now planned is too long, Shaul Mofaz said Thursday, instructing security officials to draw up a new schedule.

Original plans had the withdrawal from Gaza and four West Bank settlements, set to begin July 20, taking as long as three months.

**Donor says 'Go blue'
— with lots of green**

The University of Michigan received what is being called one of the largest grants ever to support Jewish studies at a U.S. university.

The \$20 million from the Samuel and Jean Frankel Jewish Heritage Foundation will establish an advanced institute that will bear the family's name and be housed on the school's Ann Arbor campus.

Both Frankels are Michigan graduates. University officials say the gift is the largest both to its College of Literature, Science and the Arts and to Jewish studies at any university.

The gift will allow the university to host major conferences and provide fellowships for 14 scholars each year.

The college hopes to "set the agenda for Jewish studies," said its dean.

**Palestinian legislators
approve new Cabinet**

Palestinian legislators approved a new, reformist Cabinet.

The approval came Thursday after several days of wrangling over the composition of the 24-member Cabinet.

While several newcomers are in the Cabinet, some longtime members, including Nabil Sha'ath, will remain.

The Palestinians' longtime U.N. representative, Nasser Al-Kidwa, was named foreign minister.

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WORLD REPORT

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Paul Morse/White House

President Bush speaks in Brussels on Monday during his tour of Europe.

Bush tempers push for 'Palestine' with focus on small, practical steps

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush is declaring his hope for a Palestinian state loud and clear, and no wonder — it's almost the price of entry to the alliance with Europe that he urgently wants to revive.

Some in the American Jewish community at first were uneasy about Bush's push for the Palestinians, but Bush's actions show that his commitment to Israel remains as solid as ever.

Just as Bush repeatedly has touted the benefits of a future Palestinian state at each stop along this week's European tour,

his secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, is determined to keep the discussion limited to the here and now when an international conference on the Palestinians convenes March 1 in London.

Rice will not allow the conference to consider the geographic contours of a Palestinian state, and instead will focus on how the United States and Europe can help the Palestinians reform a society corrupted by years of venal terrorist rule under the late Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

"This will definitely have a more practical and pragmatic orientation," an admin-

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NEWS
ANALYSIS

■ Jews heartened by practicality of Bush's plans for Palestinian state

Continued from page 1

istration official said. That's fine with the Europeans, who are happy to see progress on a topic they once felt Bush neglected — even if, for now, the progress is rhetorical.

"This is probably good music to introduce the London conference," a European diplomat said of Bush's repeated reference to his hope that he will see a democratic Palestine.

Bush's push for Palestinian empowerment at first alarmed some Jewish organizational leaders, who wanted to see if newly elected P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas would carry out Palestinian promises to quash terrorism.

Now that Abbas apparently is beginning to make good on his pledge — deploying troops throughout the Gaza Strip to stop attacks, and firing those responsible for breaches — Jewish communal leaders are more on board.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations this week formally welcomed Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank, and congressional insiders say the American Israel Public Affairs Committee had a role in making a U.S. House of Representatives resolution praising Abbas even more pro-Palestinian than the original draft.

One factor that temporarily tempered Jewish enthusiasm was Bush's determination to rebuild a trans-Atlantic alliance frayed by the Iraq war.

Bush wants the Europeans on board

in his plans for democratizing Iraq, corralling Iran's nuclear ambitions and expanding global trade. But Jewish officials have felt burned in recent years by the Europeans' perceived pro-Palestinian tilt and their failure to contain resurgent anti-Semitism.

Don't get too exercised, cautioned David Makovsky, a senior analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"We should be careful every time we hear the word 'Europe' not to get allergic," he said. "Bush is trying to channel the Europeans to focus more on consensus issues."

That may be so, but the consensus appears to be shifting. Bush's calls for Palestinian statehood have never been so frequent or emphatic.

"I'm also looking forward to working with our European partners on the Middle Eastern peace process," Bush said Tuesday after meeting with top European Commission officials.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair "is hosting a very important meeting in London, and that is a meeting at which President Abbas will hear that the United States and the E.U. is desirous of helping this good man set up a democracy in the Palestinian territories, so that Israel will have a democratic partner in peace," Bush continued. "I laid out a vision, the first U.S. president to do so, which said that our vision is two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace. That is the goal. And I look forward to working concretely with our European friends and allies to achieve that goal."

The day before, at another Brussels speech, Bush was applauded when he called for a contiguous Palestinian state in the West Bank and a freeze on Israeli settlement building.

More substantively, Rice last week broke with years of U.S. policy and told Congress that \$350 million in aid Bush has requested for the Palestinians — including \$200 million to be

delivered as soon as possible — will go directly to 34 P.A.-run projects, and not through nongovernmental organizations, a practice that had helped to lessen corruption.

The administration believes "that's the quickest way to do it," Rice said. "This is not the Palestinian Finance Ministry of four or five years ago, where I think we would not have wanted to see a dime go in."

That stunned members of the House Appropriations Committee, where Rice was testifying. Rep. Joseph Knollenberg (R-Mich.)

asked Rice to repeat her reply because he couldn't believe it.

"You can understand why we're a little tense about that," he told Rice.

One reassurance for anyone skeptical of the administration's plans: The Israeli government is at ease with the aid plans and is happy to sit out the London conference.

But while Israel welcomes European assistance with economic and political reforms in Palestinian areas, it looks askance at any European attempt to help with security. Israeli officials prefer to channel all security measures through the Americans, fearing that multiple security initiatives run by different partners will create chaos.

The Europeans have not entirely abandoned the idea, however. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, secretary-general of NATO, said sending troops to keep the peace might yet be considered.

"If there would be a peace agreement, if there would be a need for parties to see a NATO role, I think we would have a discussion around the NATO table," he said Tuesday on CNN.

While the Europeans are happy to limit discussions for now to such issues as infrastructure and democratic institutions, that won't always be the case.

The London conference "will show the Palestinians that the world is getting things done, and now it's their turn" to implement reforms, the European diplomat said. "But you can't pretend that what is achieved in London will last 25 years. We need to go on from there."

'Bush is trying to channel the Europeans to focus more on consensus issues.'

David Makovsky

Washington Institute for Near East Policy

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Aliyah comments roil Jewish Agency meeting

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — The leader of the North American Jewish federation system has apologized for blasting the group's primary overseas partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The comments from Robert Goldberg, chairman of the board of the United Jewish Communities, reported in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, caused a stir at the Jewish Agency's board of governors meeting in Jerusalem this week.

Reactions ranged from questioning Goldberg's leadership to applauding his apology. Still others said they thought his comments had merit.

"The Jewish Agency is a dinosaur," Goldberg was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Ma'ariv. "It's a bureaucratic and inefficient organization, political, inflexible and does not initiate quick enough responses to changes. Therefore it's having difficulty bringing immigrants from the West and is competing with private organizations that are preparing them for aliyah. Now aliyah is made out of choice and the Jewish Agency is not prepared to do this because they don't understand the mentality of Americans."

He added that the federations are not entirely supportive of North American aliyah. "Some of the federations are scared that Jews will immigrate to Israel and that this will weaken their own communities," he was reported as saying.

The comments came as the Jewish Agency was wrapping up three days of meetings among its board of governors in Israel to approve programs under its new strategic plan. A key element of that plan is encouraging aliyah from North America.

In his remarks referring to private groups promoting aliyah, Goldberg was alluding to Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization founded three and a half years ago to promote and organize aliyah. Since then, Nefesh B'Nefesh, in partnership with the Jewish Agency, has brought thousands of North Americans to Israel.

Goldberg, who is very involved with Nefesh B'Nefesh as well as with the Jewish Agency, attended the agency's board of governors gathering, but was absent from Tuesday's closing meeting.

Goldberg, who lives in Cleveland, could not be reached for comment this week in Israel, where he also has a home.

But UJC officials issued a strong apology from him at that final session.

"Unfortunately, comments I made about a program supporting aliyah from North America, which I have been involved with as an individual, Nefesh B'Nefesh, formed the basis for what was written as an across-the-board attack on JAFI, something for which I apologize," the statement said.

"I realize that my comments on the narrow subject of North American aliyah may serve to undermine the very things that I believe in most strongly," he said, adding that he "wholeheartedly endorsed" the Jewish Agency's proposed changes in its strategic plan.

He also said in the apology that he makes a "major commitment" to the annual federation fund-raising campaign each year, which he dramatically increases each year. "I do not make contributions to causes in which I don't believe."

Still, Goldberg's reported remarks ruffled more than a few feathers.

Some federation officials suggested he is not fit to head the UJC. "The real question boils down to, can Bobby separate his responsibility as the leader from Bobby's personal views, and Bobby obviously can't," said a member of UJC's board of trustees who asked not to be identified.

Others applauded his apology. "One of the things that distinguishes leadership is the ability to admit a mistake, and much as I felt that Bobby's earlier statement was inappropriate and factually incorrect, I give him a lot of credit for stepping up and righting the wrong," said Richard Wexler of Chicago, a vice chairman of UJC and head of the Jewish Agency's North American Council.

Still others think Goldberg's initial comments had merit. "There's a lot of truth in what Bobby said, but I don't think I entirely agree with him," said Steven Klinghoffer, immediate past president of United Jewish Communities of Metrowest New Jersey. "I'm a lot more optimistic about the Jewish Agency now than I was a few months ago."

"The Jewish Agency has a good collaborative relationship with Nefesh B'Nefesh," said Barry Shrage, president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

Saying he had "enormous respect" for Goldberg, Shrage added, "He's a lot closer to the aliyah issue than I am so I give weight to his opinions on that."

The UJC is standing behind its leader. "UJC Chair Robert Goldberg always has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for and supporter of the UJC annual campaign, North American and global Jewry, the federation system and its strong and effective partnerships with our

overseas agencies, including the Jewish Agency for Israel," UJC spokesman Glenn Rosenkrantz wrote to JTA in an e-mail Wednesday. "His voice, leadership and passions are immensely valued."

Some were surprised by Goldberg's argument that the Jewish Agency fails to compete with Nefesh B'Nefesh because the two groups are partners. The Jewish Agency and Nefesh B'Nefesh penned a "full operational partnership" in the fall of 2004, Charley Levine, Nefesh B'Nefesh spokesman, told JTA by phone from Jerusalem.

The Jewish Agency continues to screen prospective immigrants and pay their one-way tickets to Israel, while Nefesh B'Nefesh orchestrates charter deals for the immigrants to make aliyah together, and provides financial assistance and additional help for new immigrants navigating the red tape of the Israeli government.

Nefesh B'Nefesh had a 2004 budget of \$4.2 million, almost entirely funded by private North American individuals and family foundations, Levine said.

Proof of his group's approach and its successful collaboration with the Jewish Agency is the nearly 3,000 North Americans who made aliyah in 2004 — the highest number of North American immigrants in 20 years, he said.

Goldberg has no official role at Nefesh B'Nefesh, but he has been a major supporter of the group and helped facilitate the coordination between it and the Jewish Agency, said Levine.

'I realize that my comments on the narrow subject of North American aliyah may serve to undermine the very things that I believe in most strongly.'

Robert Goldberg
UJC board chair

On social issues, Jews work with others

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — In October, some 600 people packed the Boston area's largest Haitian church, demanding to be heard.

They had come to insist that the state's attorney general, who was in attendance, issue an advisory they hoped would spur improved treatment for residents and employees at local nursing homes.

Among those filling the pews that evening were about 75 immigrants from Haiti who worked as certified nursing assistants. They were angry that their employers forbade them to speak in Haitian Creole even during breaks, and that they often made the long trek to work only to be told they weren't needed that day.

Sitting beside them were about 100 Jews, most members of Boston's Temple Israel, angry that low funding, along with mistreatment of employees at the nursing facilities, had bred low-quality care for their aging parents who populated such centers.

And so these Haitian Christians came together that night with a group of American Jews — and 400 other allies — to tell their stories to the state's top legal official, Attorney General Tom Reilly.

Reilly listened — and took the step they requested.

"He said, 'I'm moved by your stories,'" recalled Rabbi Jonah Pesner, associate rabbi at Temple Israel, a Reform congregation. "He issued the legal advisory. It was very powerful. It was much more strongly worded than we even thought it would be."

"I think he was moved by the testimony, by the power of the room," Pesner added. "By all those people of different backgrounds speaking together."

Increasingly, synagogues nationwide are joining faith-based community organizations like the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization — which called the October "action" in the Haitian church — to work for social change together with non-Jews.

Adherents say community organizing isn't simply social service work, like volunteering at soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Rather, it involves religious groups from churches, synagogues and some schools determining through discussion which issues they believe are most pressing, followed by actions like the one

in the Boston church, where they try to win over politicians and business leaders to their agendas.

They address domestic issues, typically those that directly affect the majority of their members. They do not take on foreign issues, like the Arab-Israel conflict.

According to the Jewish Fund for Justice, an anti-poverty group that recently began encouraging congregations to join these faith-based community organizations, synagogue participation in such

FBCOs has jumped by some 200 percent in the past five years.

Five years ago, just 20 American synagogues were affiliated with FBCOs, whose memberships consist primarily of churches. Today, 61 synagogues have joined up, with 24 more "seriously con-

templating" joining, the group said. Of the 135 FBCOs in the United States, 38 have synagogue members.

Those involved say that the recent growth has to do in part with Jewish Fund for Justice's push to enlist synagogues in organizing networks, as well as with growing awareness of such groups through word of mouth.

Still, synagogues remain underrepresented in interfaith organizing groups, insiders said.

"I think we're behind the curve," Meir Lakein, a Boston-area organizer, told JTA during a recent conference in New Jersey that brought together members of Jewish congregations from across the United States that take part in FBCOs.

"I think our community needed time to develop the collective ego and recognize both how much we could accomplish and gain from this thing that we'd stayed out of before," he said.



Milot Thibault

Rabbi Jonah Pesner of Boston's Temple Israel talks at a Greater Boston Interfaith Organization meeting in a local Haitian church in October 2004.

Faith-based organizing originated with Saul Alinsky, a Jewish sociologist at the University of Chicago, who founded the first FBCO group in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood in 1939. In following years, Jews were active in such causes as civil rights and women's liberation, though mostly not through FBCOs.

But in ensuing decades many Jews turned inward to focus on issues that were particular to the Jewish community, insiders say, such as freedom for Soviet Jews.

When they worked on matters that weren't specifically Jewish, such as apartheid, they did so largely as individuals.

The majority of synagogues affiliated with FBCOs are Conservative and Reform, and there are several Reconstructionist congregations as well. Orthodox

shuls come in far behind. At the New Jersey conference, about 50 synagogues were represented. Only one was Orthodox.

Although there is organizing within the Orthodox community, particularly among the fervently religious around the issue of aid to low-income individuals and families, attitudes in the Orthodox community about a desire to refrain from theological discussions with non-Jews largely have kept them on the sidelines.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Synagogue participation in faith-based community organizations has jumped by 200 percent, a group says.

Vocational services try to adjust to budget cuts

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — The wall in her home of which Laura Koster is most proud is the one that holds her diplomas, certificates and honors.

An eternal optimist who has beaten grim predictions about life with cerebral palsy, Koster, 38, proved her childhood neurologist wrong and today can both walk and drive.

She earned college scholarships with a 4.0 grade-point average in high school and won recognition for programs she ran on her Long Island University campus promoting awareness of the physically challenged.

"Everything they proclaimed I would never do, I've done 10,000 times and more," said Koster, who now gives motivational speeches.

But Koster's spirits sank in 2002, when, as a result of post-Sept. 11 budget cuts, she lost her job with a New York City-run program for people with physical and developmental challenges.

"I was so down and I was so frustrated," she said.

The Jewish social service agencies she visited for vocational help also were going through tough times following cuts in funding from local and federal agencies.

In the last several years, those agencies have worked to find new sources of funding or revise their services for leaner times.

In Koster's case, a counselor at the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, known as Met Council, helped her manage her frustration and her job hunt. Federation Employment and Guidance Service, a beneficiary agency of the UJA-Federation of New York, helped pay for her New York State certification in counseling.

A few weeks ago she accepted an offer for part-time work counseling children at a Chabad-affiliated school in New York.

But many Jewish vocational agencies are continuing to grapple with reduced funding and are bracing for further cuts outlined recently in President Bush's proposed 2006 budget.

Bush plans to cut \$408 million from training and employment in 2006 — a 5.6 percent cut from 2005 — according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a

Washington-based think tank.

Vocational agencies aren't the only ones anxious: Social service agencies across the board are wondering how the final budget will affect their funding. But vocational agencies occupy a special niche — they seek to retrain and retool people who may have lost their jobs due to belt-tightening in other sectors.

Reports indicate that the national economy is improving, but workers in Jewish vocational services say they continue to see a flood of job-seekers.

For one, people are living longer and retiring later, creating greater demand, said Genie Cohen, executive director of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services.

"Certainly we've weathered the storms of high unemployment, and agencies are constantly having to reinvent themselves and be proactive in terms of budgeting and funding," she said. And, she noted, "out of challenges come opportunities."

Should Bush's budget pass in its current form, Jewish vocational agencies will have to determine the impact and likely will develop new partnerships to compensate for reduced funding, she said.

Because the budget will be hammered out over the course of the year, it's difficult to predict what the final appropriations will be. But most Jewish agencies that provide job assistance are preparing for cuts.

"I'm not sitting shiva right now," said Ron Coun, executive director of Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest, N.J. The situation simply means the agency must find new strategies for funding, he said.

For example, an Internet search for grants after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks yielded funding for Coun's agency from a private foundation associated with the Chicago Tribune.

The service also received emergency funding from the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group for the North American Jewish federation system.

Met Council, which gets 97 percent of its funding from state, local and federal governments, has seen a 25 percent cut in funds for vocational training in the last four to five years. At the same time it's experienced a 15 to 20 percent increase in people seeking vocational services, particularly due to job losses associated with Sept. 11, said the group's executive director, William Rapfogel.

"When so much of your budget is dependent on government," cuts have "an enormous impact," Rapfogel said.

In response, Met Council has focused its training efforts on jobs most likely to be filled, such as a program to prepare emergency medical technicians. Unlike training for computer programmers, which can take three months and funnels trainees into a highly competitive field, the two-week EMT training almost always leads to a job with benefits, Rapfogel said.

Met Council, which placed more than 1,200 people in jobs last year, is emphasizing its career counseling and scaling back its training programs.

Additionally, the group is lobbying at all levels of government.

'I'm not sitting shiva right now.'

Ron Coun

Jewish Vocational Service

**FOCUS
ON
ISSUES**



Rachel Pomerance

Laura Koster points to her diplomas and honors displayed on a wall in her New York home on Feb. 16.

Israeli Arab women start to make it in business

By DINA KRAFT

HAIFA (JTA) — For years, in the silence of midnight, Gamila Khir secretly perfected her homemade olive oil and herb soaps. When she launched her soap-making business, her Druse neighbors and even her husband mocked her.

Now that she runs two factories, employs 26 workers and sells her products in the United States, Hong Kong, Japan and the Netherlands, no one is laughing anymore.

"People told my husband, 'What is your wife doing? It's not natural. Take her to a psychologist.' But now everyone congratulates me and says 'Way to go.' But at the beginning it was very hard," said Khir, 65, her silver hair covered with the headscarf worn by Druse women.

Khir, who had to drop out of school when she was 7 to help her parents farm, spoke at a recent conference in Haifa that highlighted the unique challenges facing Arab women and girls in Israel, especially in the fields of education and employment. In Israel, Arab girls are far less likely to pass high school matriculation exams than their Jewish counterparts and Arab women are the least employed sector in the country.

"Girls are not prepared for the work force and later they are labeled as women who do not want to work, who are lazy," said Aida Touma-Suliman, director of the organization Women Against Violence.

In 2003, 18.5 percent of Arab women were employed, compared to 62 percent of Jewish women, according to a study by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, a leading

center for applied social research in Israel.

"The gap is enormous," said Myers-JDC-Brookdale's director, Jack Habib. His organization helped host the Feb. 1 conference with the support of the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development.

The high levels of unemployment among Arab women are attributed to discrimination, large family size, lower levels of education and geographical distribution — many live in what is called the "periphery" in Israel, job-scarce regions outside the center of the country.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

In addition, the recession that hit Israel in 2001, caused by the world economic downturn and the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada, reduced employment opportunities for Arabs in general.

The intifada, and the distrust it has created between Arabs and Jews further widened the divide between the two groups in Israel, Habib said, and that included an increased unwillingness on the part of Jewish Israeli employers to hire Arab workers.

There are, however, signs of progress, especially in the field of education. The dropout rate for Arab girls has decreased and now more Arab girls than boys complete high school. More Arab girls also are attending university than ever before.

Of Arab women with higher education, 63.4 percent are working, according to Myers-JDC-Brookdale's 2003 figures, compared to the 5.1 percent of Arab women who have eight years or less of schooling.

A process of change and modernization can be seen, experts say, in a new willingness among parents to send their daughters on to higher education, and among

girls themselves, who increasingly see themselves as equals to boys.

Once in the work force, Arab women are fairly limited in the range of jobs they can take because of the dearth of job opportunities where they live, and the traditional dictates that discourage women traveling from their villages to find work. Women from less traditional homes who would be willing to leave their villages in pursuit of work often are stymied by the lack of public transportation in the Galilee and the Negev, where a large percent-

age of Israeli Arabs live.

The majority of Arab women in Israel who work find jobs as teachers or social workers or in local municipalities. Arab women are virtually invisible in politics. There are no Arab women in the Knesset and only three who sit on municipal councils.

Only a very small number work in business. The Jewish-Arab Center for Economic Cooperation is working to change that by helping Arab women become entrepreneurs. The center provides training courses in subjects such as financial management, accounting and computers.

Part of the challenge is finding a niche where they will be culturally comfortable and able to make a living.

Amal-El-Sanaa of AJIK, a Bedouin entrepreneurship organization, said her organization noted that male wedding photographers were not taking photos of women at Bedouin weddings because of issues of modesty. The organization saw this an opening to create a new profession among Bedouin women: wedding photographers. In July, AJIK ran its first course to train Bedouin women in wedding photography and videography. All the women who took the course now are working.

"We knew what the needs were and we saw what the market demanded," said El-Sanaa.

Meanwhile, Khir is encouraging other Arab women to follow her lead.

"If someone wants success they have to believe in and love what they are doing," said Khir, as she held up samples of different varieties of olive oil soap. "I had a great drive and desire to succeed," she said. ■

'If someone wants success they have to believe in and love what they are doing.'

Gamila Khir
Entrepreneur



BP Images

Bedouin high school students in the Nitzanei Hanegev program hold a poster that reads "Smoking hurts health."

ART & CULTURE

British caricaturist draws Hitler's artist hit list

By CAROLYN SLUTSKY

KRAKOW, Poland (JTA) — In the summer of 1937, the Nazi Party opened an exhibition in Munich titled "Great German Art."

Much of the show's art was culled from Hitler's personal collection — he had amassed a number of works with the proceeds from his autobiography, "Mein Kampf." The show consisted of pure lines and pure themes, with scenes of immaculate peasants tilling the fields, families sitting down to hearty dinners and soldiers fighting for an Aryan Germany.

More than 420,000 visitors gathered to see this show in the city that was the birthplace of the Nazi Party.

Later that week, the Nazis opened another exhibition across the street. This time the theme was "Degenerate Art."

Works confiscated from German galleries were badly hung on the walls, labeled with crude hand-scrawled captions. It was a showcase, a freak show of the works of "degenerate" artists, Bolsheviks, homosexuals and Jews, whose work and lives the Nazis hoped to extinguish in the coming years.

More than 2 million people saw that show. It was a blockbuster success.

John Minnion, a British caricaturist, speculates that the large crowds may have come to jeer and mock the works by Jews and other undesirables in the exhibition. But he points out that Hitler did not prevail. So, he says, "we can look back and say that this was the art of the 20th century."

Minnion has collected 86 stories of this generation of visual artists, as well as writers, scientists, philosophers and musicians, and caricatured them in a new book, "Hitler's List: An Illustrated Guide to 'Degenerates,'" which is on sale at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow.

"These people or their work survived, despite Hitler's intentions," Minnion said.

Each capsule biography, limited to one or two pages, delivers the story of a life lived with ambition and artistry. ■

(For information about publishing or buying "Hitler's List" by John Minnion, e-mail chris@galiciajewishmuseum.org.)

See book give publisher a bissel tzuris

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — Ellis Weiner and Barbara Davilman had an hour to kill in Laguna, Calif., slightly more than a year ago, waiting to see a play written by a friend. What to do?

"Well, we could shmy around Laguna," Weiner recalls suggesting, using a Yiddish word for meandering.

"Or . . ." his fiancée responded, prodding him to use the Yiddishism her mother had favored to describe an aimless walk.

"Or," Weiner said, "we could shpatzir around Laguna."

That's the one Davilman was looking for.

And what followed, in addition to an aimless stroll around the chic beach town, was a witty back-and-forth where the couple meshed the mamalushen with two of American pop culture's least Jewish characters.

"We started combining Yiddish with Dick and Jane — you know, 'See Jane run,'" Weiner says. "And I said: 'This is a book.'"

He was right. After rejections from 10 publishers, Little, Brown and Company last year published "Yiddish with Dick and Jane," a diminutive, 104-page laughter in which readers watch the iconic duo struggle with modern living — work, kids, aging parents — while learning some of the choicest words the expressive Jewish tongue has to offer.

"Jane works in real estate. Today is Sunday. Jane has an Open House. She must schlep the Open House signs to the car," reads the text over a picture of Jane, in a powder-blue dress, heels and a classic matronly hairdo straight out of the McCarthy era. "See Jane schlep. Schlep, Jane. Schlep. Schlep, schlep, schlep."

There are now 142,500 copies of the book in print. A short, animated version of book excerpts, available at www.VidLit.com, has received over a million hits. "It was great fun to write," Weiner says. "We went through 16 drafts. After 16 drafts it wrote itself."

But it appears all this is just a shtikl too much success for the original Dick-and-Jane owners to bear.

Pearson Education, publisher of the well-known primer series, filed a copyright infringement lawsuit in U.S. District Court in January, seeking to prevent Little, Brown from selling the book.

Little, Brown, for its part, insists the book is a parody, "entitled to the full protection of the First Amendment and related laws permitting expression of social commentary."

"The decision by Pearson to bring suit against a legitimate parodic work such as 'Yiddish with Dick and Jane' is deeply saddening," the company said in a statement.

A Pearson spokeswoman says the company offers "no comment on pending litigation."

Weiner, though, says Pearson is just being opportunistic. Before the book was published, the company asked that Little, Brown stamp the word "Parody" on the cover; include a short disclaimer; and explain why the Dick and Jane characters had to be used.

"We happily complied," Weiner says.

When Pearson filed the suit, its outside counsel wrote to Little, Brown offering to discuss a settlement. Attorney Stephen Feingold wrote that Pearson initially "decided

not to pursue costly litigation over a title it thought would not be commercially successful."

Feingold did not immediately offer comment on the case. The suit will go into mediation in early March, Weiner says.

As for the book's humor, Weiner says it has more to do

with the juxtaposition of Yiddish with the original "Dick and Jane" style than it does with the prototypically non-Jewish characters using such Jewish expressions.

"It wasn't so much their WASPiness that made it funny as the simple prose style and the fact that it's instructional," he says.

"We use the Yiddish like a series of flares, little bursts of irony, worldliness and savvy to illuminate the dopey innocence of Dick and Jane's world," Weiner says in the author's note at the book's end. ■

'The decision by Pearson to bring suit against a legitimate parodic work such as "Yiddish with Dick and Jane" is deeply saddening.'
Little, Brown and Company

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Air force to keep eye on Gaza

The Israeli air force will continue flying over the Gaza Strip after this summer's withdrawal.

IAF chief Maj. Gen. Eliezer Shkedy was quoted as saying Thursday that Israeli warplanes, helicopters and spy drones will remain in Gaza's skies after soldiers and settlers are withdrawn.

The security measure is aimed at preventing cross-border rocket attacks or infiltrations by Palestinian terrorists.

"I cannot say we can control all of the ground from the air, but I can say honestly that we developed a lot toward this concept," Shkedy told reporters, adding that he believes 95 percent of Israeli operations in Gaza after the withdrawal will be from the air.

Under Israel's disengagement plan, it will keep control of the coastal territory's airspace and coastline indefinitely.

Soldier slammed for shooting, lying

An Israeli soldier was jailed for killing a Palestinian at a checkpoint and lying about the circumstances.

The soldier was sentenced to four months Thursday, one of the toughest penalties levied by a military court during more than four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The soldier was convicted of opening fire into a car that tried to circumvent a checkpoint outside the West Bank city of Jenin in 2003 without first trying to hit the tires as required by regulations.

One of the vehicle's Palestinian occupants was killed.

The soldier and his comrades later tried to concoct a false account of the incident to avoid a court-martial.

New restraint in Qatar?

A Qatari official promised to stop broadcasts of an anti-Semitic show by his country's television stations.

Israel's deputy education minister, Michael Melchior, on a rare official visit to the Gulf state, said Thursday that he had received the pledge from the director general of the Qatari Foreign Ministry, Jabel Al-Thani.

Melchior told Yediot Achronot that Al-Thani was apparently unaware of the drama series now showing on Qatari television, showing Holocaust survivors who come to the nascent State of Israel and launch a genocidal campaign against Arabs.

"He was very proud of the freedom of speech advanced in his country, but strongly criticized the series and promised to attend to the matter with all severity," Melchior said.

Synagogue attack foiled

Israel said it foiled a Palestinian terror attack on a West Bank synagogue.

The Shin Bet said Thursday that it had arrested an Al-Aksa Brigade terrorist who, under orders from Hezbollah in Lebanon, planned to bomb a synagogue, among other Israeli targets.

According to an indictment expected to be filed in the next two months, the detainee carried out two car-bombings on behalf of the Lebanese militia, but caused no casualties.

Israel fears that Hezbollah is funneling money to its Palestinian proxies hoping to create a new terror wave that will derail current cease-fire efforts.

Mission: Save Star Trek

Star Trek fans rallied in Israel on Thursday to try to persuade U.S. television executives not to cancel "Star Trek: Enterprise."

The rally was held at Tel Aviv University.

Protesters could watch episodes of the show at the rally, which is

scheduled to be repeated in the United States and Great Britain.

Fans describe the entire Star Trek genre as a cultural icon. "Star Trek: Enterprise," the fourth spinoff from the original "Star Trek," has run for four seasons.

WORLD

European Union won't ban swastika

The E.U. dropped plans to ban the use of Nazi symbols.

The ban was rejected when member nations could not agree about which symbols to bar.

The swastika is an ancient Hindu good-luck symbol, so its ban would be controversial.

The ban, proposed after Prince Henry of Britain wore a Nazi costume with a swastika armband to a party, had also raised concerns about its effect on freedom of expression.

Hitting the wrong notes

A Ukrainian Jewish musician demanded an apology from the country's deputy prime minister over a seemingly anti-Semitic remark.

In a letter published in the national daily Facts & Commentaries on Tuesday, Jan Tabachnik, a popular accordion player, expressed his indignation over Nikolai Tomenko's remark that "there should be Ukrainian artists on the Ukrainian stage, not the Tabachniks and Kobzons."

Tomenko, who made the comment earlier this week to a Ukrainian television station, was referring to Tabachnik and Russian Jewish crooner Josef Kobzon, both popular in Ukraine.

Responding to the demand for an apology, Tomenko said Wednesday that he was not talking about anyone's ethnic background.

Instead, he said, he was referring to the fact that both Tabachnik and Kobzon supported the losing candidate, Viktor Yanukovich, in the recent presidential election.

Tabachnik said if the official fails to apologize, "I will put on a yellow Magen David and will be wearing it as long as you remain a member of the Cabinet."

Jews give shofar in Cochin

A delegation of seven U.S. Jews were greeted with royal pomp in India.

The royal family of Cochin, India, received the group of Jews in their palace after a formal greeting that included a elephant.

The Jewish group came with a message from B'nai B'rith International that expressed appreciation to the Indians for their support of a community that long has hosted a Jewish presence.

They presented the senior member of the royal family, Valiyathampuram Rama Varma Kochaniyan Thampuram, with a shofar.

The group's leader, Kenneth Robbins, was given a traditional oil lamp.

NORTH AMERICA

Sex-abuse rabbi behind bars again

Baruch Lanner was returned to prison in New Jersey to resume serving a seven-year sentence.

Lanner, a rabbi who was a yeshiva high school principal and for many years a high-ranking leader in the Orthodox Union's National Council of Synagogue Youth, had been sentenced in 2002 but served only a week of his sentence before being freed pending the outcome of his appeal.

Lanner was found guilty of criminal sexual contact with a student. Lanner is also registered as a sex offender under Megan's Law.