


**IN THE NEWS**
**Israel storms  
Gaza 'stronghold'**

Israeli security forces evacuated right-wing activists holed up in a Gaza Strip hotel.

Around 150 settlers and their supporters, including children, were taken into custody Thursday at the "Stronghold by the Sea", an abandoned hotel that had been turned in recent weeks into a headquarters of resistance to the upcoming Gaza withdrawal. [Story, Pg. 3]

**Muslims want  
Security Council seat**

The Organization of the Islamic Conference called for a permanent Muslim seat on the U.N. Security Council.

The group's secretary-general, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, called for the seat at a three-day conference in Yemen, saying, "the Islamic world, which represents one-fifth of total mankind, cannot remain excluded from the activities of the Security Council, which assumes a fundamental role in keeping security and peace in the world," Agence France-Presse reported.

Ihsanoglu said the group would discuss how its 57 Islamic member states could be represented on the Security Council.

He also told the conference that he was planning to reform the OIC. "Development and reform are the real guarantees for the continuity of our nation, and to bridge the gap between us and the advanced world," he said.

**Man stabs 3  
at gay parade**

A fervently Orthodox man stabbed three marchers Thursday in Israel's Gay Pride parade.

The attacker and another 13 protesters, out of about 200 protesters in all, were arrested at the annual parade, which drew some 2,000 marchers.

The parade went on after Israel's Supreme Court ordered the mayor of Jerusalem, Uri Lupolianski, to lift a ban on it.

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# WORLD REPORT

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Courtesy of The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews

George Mamo, executive director of Stand for Israel, speaks at a press briefing in April 2003 in Washington.

## Evangelicals rally to Israel's side as Protestants consider divestment

By RACHEL POMERANCE

**N**EW YORK (JTA) — A clash between evangelicals and mainline Protestants on divestment from Israel marks what appears to be the groups' first direct confrontation over the Jewish state.

Following the lead of several Protestant churches who are considering dropping their holdings in companies that do business with Israel, the United Church of Christ will debate divestment at its July 1-5 synod in Atlanta.

In response, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which is primarily supported by evangelical Christians, launched a petition drive Monday urging the UCC to reject the anti-Israel resolutions: two

considering divestment and one condemning Israel's West Bank security barrier.

"It's absurd to paint democratic Israel as the world's worst human rights abuser. And hearing the leadership of the UCC dictate to Israel how she may or may not protect her citizens ought to anger anyone who believes in the right of sovereign nations to defend themselves against terrorists," said Gary Bauer, an evangelical Christian who is president of American Values, a conservative

lobby.

"We need to let the UCC know that Israel-bashing won't be tolerated. We need to let Israel know that real Christians stand for Israel."

The fellowship's Stand for Israel project

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**FOCUS  
ON  
ISSUES**

## ■ *Evangelical and mainline Protestants clash over Israel*

*Continued from page 1*

also launched a more general anti-divestment media campaign Monday, aiming to run full-page ads in newspapers around the country opposing calls within churches, universities and local governments to divest from Israel.

The evangelical push against divestment highlights a new level of pro-Israel activism, along with the growing rift between evangelical churches and mainline Protestants.

It also exposes the complex relationships between Jews and Christians, and among Christians about Jews.

"The fundamental questions of the connectedness between the Hebrew Bible, the scriptures and New Testament have still not been settled," said Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, director of interfaith affairs for the Anti-Defamation League. "It's a symbol of that lack of understanding, even among Christians, about the most fundamental issues that define us as a religious people."

According to Bretton-Granatoor, the root of the matter is understanding the Jewish covenant with God, which is "built upon the acceptance of certain behaviors and obligations and mores, the performance of which leads to the promise of land," he said. "A nomadic people are now landed, and it gives us our identity, and it gives us our history, and it gives us our narrative."

The fundamentalist reading of biblical text accepts a divine promise of land to the Jews, whereas mainline Protestants draw

metaphorical lessons portraying the Palestinians as the landless lot who deserve justice, he said.

Additionally, Protestant "liberation theology," with its mandate to aid oppressed, gives rise to a political ideology that sympathizes with the Palestinians as the perceived underdogs.

"We come from profoundly different places," said Ethan Felson, assistant executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

Protestants believe peace will ensue when Israel lifts its occupation of areas Palestinians claim, while Jews see an Israel that "is not this military superpower without limits. It's a nation that's used to being threatened and isolated," Felson said.

The divestment movement began last July when the Presbyterian Church (USA) passed a resolution to divest from companies that do business with Israel.

They since have been followed by Methodists, who are studying the prospect of divestment, and Episcopalians who are reviewing their investment activity. The Lutherans are considering a proposal to "invest in peace."

To combat the challenge, the JCPA, American Jewish Committee, ADL, American Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee have joined the Reform, Orthodox and Conservative movements to promote interfaith outreach on local levels, where Protestant communities have seemed more open than at the national level.

The approach has borne fruit.

In St. Louis, for example, the Jewish Community Relations Council worked closely with the Eden Theological Seminary, which is producing an anti-divestment video that it will send to all the Protestant conferences.

Regional UCC groups from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine came together to submit an alternative to the divestment resolution, calling for "selective investment in those initiatives that firmly reject violence as a means of resolving religious and political disputes."

"The business of community relations is that of strategy and relationships, and in about 120 communities around the country those meetings have had significant impact where people from the Jewish community were well-trained and well-coordinated," Felson said.

The United Church of Christ does not seem concerned by the evangelical petition.

"We look forward to healthy debate, and it's hard to say how

such a petition drive will impact that," said Peter Makari, UCC executive for the Middle East and Europe, who will submit the resolution condemning Israel's security barrier.

"Based on an understanding of Jesus Christ's ministry as one of justice and reconciliation," Israel's fence is seen as "a barrier to reconciliation and the opportunity that Israelis and Palestinians might have to engage with each other, not just at the governmental level, but at a more grass-roots level," Makari said.

Makari questioned whether the fence had proven effective against terrorism, but in fact suicide bombings have fallen off dramatically in areas where the fence has been built. Israeli officials note that as Israeli casualties have fallen so too have Palestinian casualties, as Israel has had to undertake fewer counterterrorist raids.

Evangelicals see things differently from the UCC.

"It's another example of how the Palestinians have managed to flip-flop the David and Goliath story, and the Philistines have somehow become David," said George Mamo, executive director of the Fellowship's Stand for Israel project.

"We think this is an opportunity to both correct and teach and to show our mainline Christian brothers why they should be supporting Israel," he said.

The group will run a full-page ad opposing the UCC resolutions in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution at the start and close of the group's conference.

With 70 million evangelicals, "we think we can outweigh any damage that's done," Mamo said. ■

**We think this is an opportunity to show our mainline Christian brothers why they should be supporting Israel.'**

**George Mamo**

Fellowship's Stand for Israel

### JTA WORLD REPORT

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# Soldiers crack down on Gaza resistance

By DINA KRAFT

PALM BEACH HOTEL, Gaza Strip (JTA) — A trampled bed of geraniums, scattered mattresses in the parking lot and a forgotten baby seat were among the only visible remains of a massive Israeli raid on a Gaza beachfront hotel where Jewish extremists had bunkered down in a show of resistance against the government's plans to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

The intense show of force by the Israeli police and army Thursday — and the violent roadside scuffles between soldiers and settlers — may be a preview of what is to come as the planned Israeli withdrawal from Gaza approaches.

Some 700 Israeli security forces in riot gear swarmed the Palm Beach Hotel, which the group had renamed Sea Fortress.

After several days of spiraling violence along the Gaza beachfront, including an attempted lynching of a Palestinian teenager by young Jewish settlers, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the security establishment have decided to adopt a zero-tolerance policy toward extremists.

"The battle now is not over the disengagement plan, but over the image and future of Israel, and under no circumstances can we allow a lawless gang to try to take control of life in Israel," Sharon told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz in an interview published Thursday.

"The country's citizens must understand this danger, and every measure must be taken to end this rampaging."

The attack on the Palestinian teenager was condemned by settler leaders, who accused Israel of linking it unfairly to the nonviolent occupation of the Palm Beach Hotel by settler activists.

"These two events were unrelated, but the government is capitalizing on them in order to continue its campaign of delegitimizing the settlers," said Gush Katif official Avner Shimoni.

Sharon's strong comments followed an incident Wednesday, when Israeli police and troops stormed an abandoned building in Muwassi, a Palestinian village inside Gush Katif, to dislodge some 50 activists — many of them from the West Bank — who had scuffled with security forces and local Palestinians for days.

Also Wednesday there were demonstrations that blocked major highways throughout Israel, in which many of

the participants were teenagers and children.

Over the past month, the Palm Beach Hotel had become home to about 150 people, some of whom belonged to the outlawed Kach extremist movement. Many others came from hard-line West Bank settlements.

Following Thursday's raid, Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, the Israeli army commander in charge of the Gaza Strip, said, "We do not plan to let extremists return here and I hope that they do not come back."

The official leadership of Gush Katif — a swath of Jewish settlements in the southern part of the Gaza Strip that contains the majority of the 7,500 Jewish residents of Gaza — had distanced itself from those at the hotel and the youths who took over the house in Muwassi.

Down the road from the hotel, Ze'ev and Yael Wolf, a young couple from the West Bank settlement of Karnei Tsur who had moved into the hotel just a few days ago, waited to go back to retrieve their belongings. They had been out running errands when the raid occurred.

"It was important to us to be in Gush Katif, to strengthen the area," said Ze'ev Wolf. He said they came to prevent the withdrawal, "and we will do everything we can to do so."

Hoping to prevent more extremists from entering, the army declared the Gaza Strip a closed military zone Thursday, preventing the entry of Israelis who are not residents. Army officials said they would assess the situation and determine how long to continue the closure, which allows only Gaza residents to move in and out of the area.

As many settlers from the area found themselves delayed, tempers flared under a baking sun at the Kissufim border crossing that leads to Gush Katif. One young woman who refused to give her name yelled at a soldier, telling him he was helping create a ghetto.

A distraught Michal Matliach from the Nezer Sereni settlement came to the crossing carrying garment bags contain-

ing her clothes for her son's wedding the same night.

"I have 200 guests coming to a wedding tonight," she wailed, asking soldiers how her friends and neighbors would be able to leave the Gaza Strip to attend the wedding in Israel. "Thirty years ago, we were good enough to send here, but now you are beating our children. Why?"

Meanwhile, young anti-withdrawal activists and settlers inside Gush Katif threw themselves in the road in

front of buses transporting soldiers, police and evacuated residents of the hotel. As soldiers hauled them away, dragging some by their arms and legs, the protesters shouted the unofficial slogan of their cause: "A Jew does not expel a Jew."

They also chanted, "Soldier, policeman, disobey orders," referring to a call that Israeli security forces disobey orders to evacuate settlers from their homes once the scheduled withdrawal begins in mid-August.

In an attempt to prick the consciences of the soldiers, the protesters appealed to them as individuals not to take part in the withdrawal even as they were being wrestled to the ground by them.

One bearded protester, wearing a kippah and army T-shirt with the sleeves cut off, spoke to a soldier who was dragging him off the road saying, "Don't do this. I have no intention of hurting another Jew. Let's stop this together."

Earlier this week, before the evacuation, Gedalya Ginsburg, 63, who came to the hotel from the West Bank settlement of Alon Shvut, sat in the room he had fixed up and spoke about why he had come.

A plumber by trade, he decided he could best help the struggle against withdrawal by going to Gaza.

"If we lose here, the next war will be about Ashkelon and Beersheba," he said, wearing paint-splattered work clothes.

Several feet from the palm tree, Maj. Gen. Uriel Bar-Lev, head of the southern police command, spoke to reporters and said the extremists had gone too far and would not be tolerated.

"Enough is enough," he said.

(JTA correspondent Dan Baron contributed to this report.)

**'Under no circumstances can we allow a lawless gang to try to take control of life in Israel.'**  
Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

# Pro-Israel groups on campus refine their tactics

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — Nearly five years after the intifada exploded, American college campuses no longer see the frequent flare-ups that roiled campuses at the peak of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

But systemic issues that promote anti-Israel bias remain in place — namely, anti-Israel professors and Middle Eastern studies departments.

That was one finding of the Israel on Campus Coalition, which held its year-end review and planning conference earlier this month.

"I think there's a recognition that the challenges on campus are in some respects deeper, broader and more institutional, but the allies and opportunities are greater than first suspected," said Wayne Firestone, the group's director.

The coalition — a group of 26 Jewish organizations sponsoring pro-Israel campus activities — is responding with a plan to deepen ties between U.S. university communities and their Israeli counterparts. Efforts will include joint research programs between Israeli and U.S. universities, academic collaboration and student exchanges.

The ICC also will rely on programs

designed by students, who have shown the ability to craft appropriate responses for their particular campuses.

"You have to have multiple approaches to all of these issues and you have to have a variety of constituents involved," from trustees to students, said Rachel Fish, New York regional director of the David Project, a pro-Israel group that produced a controversial documentary alleging intimidation of Jewish students by pro-Palestinian professors at Columbia University.

Fish said the Jewish community has yet to devise long-term strategies to combat systemic threats from allegedly biased scholarship in Middle East studies departments, and to help Jewish students attain a sense of Jewish belonging and leadership skills.

Shocked by the extent of pro-Palestinian activity on campus when the intifada began, Jewish groups scurried to assemble Israel-education and advocacy programs to aid confused and apathetic Jewish students and win over students detached from either side of the conflict.

As they refine their tactics, pro-Israel advocates have made some key achievements over the past year.

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One of the most striking was student activism that helped loosen barriers to study in Israel. Dozens of universities provided waivers for students to attend programs in Israel, despite the U.S. State Department's travel warning for the region.

The activity followed an ICC initiative — "Let Our Students Go!" — launched at the start of the academic year, urging activists to undo barriers to study in Israel.

In addition, the move to force universities to divest their holdings in companies that do business with Israel continued to founder.

Divestment petitions have been dwarfed in the past few years by counter-petitions, and the ICC now is developing a plan to deepen ties between Israeli and U.S. universities by investing in joint academic programs.

An effort to solicit support from pro-Israel professors, who largely have remained quiet amid the pro-Palestinian activism, is seeing some success.

Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, a pro-Israel network of college professors, now has more than 600 members on 200 campuses around the world.

Meanwhile, the pro-Israel movement is attempting to broaden its appeal with the formation of a new left-wing organization and alliances with non-Jewish campus groups.

The Union of Progressive Zionists, representing Hashomer Hatzair, Habonim Dror, Ameinu and Meretz USA, held its inaugural conference last fall to provide what they call a nuanced voice in the campus conflict.

In a debate allegedly framed by fundamentalists on each side, the union is a "third way," according to Jamie Levin, executive director of Ameinu, formerly known as the Labor Zionist Alliance.

Groups like Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life aim to offer a range of views on Israel. Levin, though, says he's drawing on his own experience and that of his friends.

As a graduate student at the London School of Economics, he witnessed a divisive election for student union chair in which the Israeli-Palestinian conflict became the central theme, trumping concerns over local issues such as threats of a tuition hike and whether to build a new student pub.

Promoting a pro-Israel, pro-peace



Hillel

Participants in the Hillel-AIPAC Advanced Advocacy Mission to Israel meet with Shaanan Street, the lead singer of Israeli hip-hop group Hadag Nachash to discuss how popular culture can educate students about Israeli society

agenda will capture the widest swath of students on campus, Levin said. Toward that end, the union coordinated a campus speaking tour last year by an Israeli and a Palestinian, each of whom has lost a brother to the conflict but who continue to strive for coexistence.

At a time when it's trendy on campus to support the Palestinians because they're perceived as the underdog, "no amount of hasbarah," or pro-Israel public relations, can turn the tide, Levin said.

Showcasing people who support Israel while still acknowledging its failings can be more effective at building sympathy and understanding, Levin said.

That's precisely what happened at Duke University this past school year.

Despite the uproar over Duke's decision to host the annual conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement last fall, it was a Jewish student who seemed to make the biggest impact on the issue.

College was the first time that Mital Guttman, who was born in Israel and educated in Jewish day schools, was exposed to anti-Israel sentiment.

Guttman wanted to show her peers the life of an 18-year-old Israeli who, like a cousin who inspired Guttman to make the film, sees no contradiction between army duty and a desire for peace.

Guttman attended Mechina, an Israeli army deferment program of study and volunteerism offered by the Reform movement, and filmed a documentary about the Israelis she encountered.

More than 500 Duke students flocked to a standing-room-only screening of her

film this spring, said Guttman, who is taking the film on tour to colleges and Jewish communities around the country.

"I think it shows that people are really thirsty for a new way of understanding the Middle East," she said, noting the reaction of a Jewish student who, after viewing the film, told Guttman that for the first time he felt proud to be Jewish and pro-Israel on campus.

"It really stirred people, I think, to really challenge themselves and question what images they saw of Israel," she said, since it showed Israelis who were both patriotic and peace-seeking.



Courtesy of Ari Stern

Ari Stern, founder of Jump Start Peace.

Other students also spawned "high-impact" initiatives, according to a list of notable student programming issued by the ICC.

Among them is Ari Stern, who founded Jump Start Peace.

Stern, who graduated from Cornell University this spring, created a program that seeks support for joint educational programs between Israel and Arab countries with which it has full diplomatic relations.

Stern was inspired by the Bridging the Rift Center, a Jordanian-Israeli environmental re-

search center that straddles the countries' shared border and is sponsored in part by Cornell.

Stern's group received letters of endorsement from the Cornell Arab Association and the Cornell Muslim Education and Cultural Affairs Group.

"The programs that work best are those that you can work with other groups on, namely finding a way in which to make being a pro-Israel advocate also be an advocate for something else," said Stern, who plans to incorporate the group into a nonprofit organization.

Jewish groups have tried to appeal to

those sensibilities by portraying the Jewish state in Western terms — for example, as a beacon of democracy, women's rights and gay rights.

The tactic offers a "way for people to connect," said Mara Suskauer, director of the college activities department of the Jewish National Fund, a co-sponsor of a pro-Israel campus program called Caravan for Democracy.

Caravan for Democracy hopes to increase its influence through targeted meetings with Middle East studies professors or study-abroad offices.

Officials say that human relationships are more important than sharp messages in building support for Israel.

Take the example of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. In the past few years, the group has found non-Jewish champions for Israel by reaching out to historically black colleges and Christian colleges, and has a full-time staffer devoted to cultivating such ties.

AIPAC drew more than 200 non-Jewish student activists to its annual policy conference in May, when the opening address was delivered by the student government president of Morehouse College, a traditionally black college.

In addition, AIPAC's summer internship program this year will be its most politically and ethnically diverse ever, drawn from the greatest number of non-Jewish applicants the group has ever received.

'People are really thirsty for a new way of understanding the Middle East.'

Mital Guttman  
Filmmaker

# Action on Sudan urged at teach-in

By TZVI KAHN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Judy Katz lives an ocean away from Sudan, but that doesn't diminish her sense of obligation to respond to the mass killings there.

"I feel I'm responsible for what's going on," said Katz, a travel agent. "My parents are survivors of the Holocaust. There weren't a whole lot of people helping them out then."

Katz's attitude toward the violence in Sudan was shared by many at Sunday's teach-in to promote action and awareness regarding the violence in Sudan.

Some 200 people attended the event at the Skirball Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Temple Emanuel in New York City, raising about \$12,000 for victims in Darfur, a region of Sudan.

The event was spearheaded by Barak Epstein, a second-grade teacher at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan, and sponsored by some 30 Jewish groups from across the denominational spectrum, including the American Jewish World Service, the UJA-Federation of New York, Amcha: The Coalition for Jewish Concerns and Hebrew Union College.

Citing World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz's recent apology for the Clinton administration's failure to stop the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, Epstein said, "I don't want to live to see another apology in 10 years' time."

More than a dozen speakers addressed participants, focusing heavily on classical Jewish teachings on social action as well as specific action plans to pressure the Bush administration to intercede.

Plenary speakers included Rabbi Daniel Landes, director of the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies; Zeinab Eyega, founder and director of the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, a group that helps victims of domestic violence in the African immigrant community; Marie Clarke Brill, director for public education and mobilization of Africa Action; and Aaron Dorfman, director of Jewish education at AJWS.

In her address, Brill called upon the international community to send a multinational peacekeeping force with a mandate to protect civilians. She also urged attendees to bombard the White House with phone calls.

According to the AJWS, since February 2003 more than 400,000 people belonging to three African ethnic communities — the

Fur, Zaghawa, and Massaleit — have died at the hands of Arab militias under the aegis of the Sudanese government. About 1.85 million people have lost their homes.

In April, both houses of Congress passed the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005, which seeks to provide aid to genocide victims, impose sanctions on the Sudanese government and expand the United Nations Mission in Sudan, among other steps.

Since the onset of the crisis, AJWS has raised about \$1 million to provide basic health care, establish a children's center in North Darfur for orphaned children and support relief for rape victims.

In addition, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has convened the Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief, which consists of 24 North American Jewish or-

ganizations, to amass funds. The coalition has raised \$445,000 to date.

Many of those in attendance at Sunday's teach-in said it's critical for the Jewish community to speak out on issues like these, especially in light of Jewish persecution throughout history.

"It's important for the Jewish community to help out not only their own, but also the community at large," said Eric Levy, a legal assistant at a law firm in

New York.

Epstein said that while the overall response of the Jewish community to the Darfur crisis has been "exemplary," much more work remains to be done.

"This day helped lay a foundation for people to take action and move forward," he said. "It'll be enough when the genocide stops." ■

'It'll be enough  
when the  
genocide stops.'

Barak Epstein  
Teach-in organizer

## Social Action Month established

By TZVI KAHN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Aryeh Green and Yosef Abramowitz were sipping tea in a Bedouin tent last year in Sde Boker, a kibbutz in Israel's Negev desert, when they had an idea.

Participants at a conference of Kol Dor, an organization that seeks to revitalize Jewish activism and unity across the globe, the two were discussing how the group could promote Jewish identity and peoplehood.

"Most Jewish institutions and endeavors are out of touch with the next generation of Jews because of a lack of relevance," Abramowitz, CEO of Jewish Family and Life, which publishes several Jewish Web sites and magazines, told JTA. "But we do know that the idealism and the desire to contribute to the world" are predominant.

It occurred to them that a month in the Jewish calendar formally dedicated to social action would be an ideal means of mobilizing and inspiring the Jewish community.

Their initiative received a major boost this week when the Knesset's Committee on Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Affairs proclaimed the Jewish month of

Cheshvan, which falls in November this year, as Social Action Month.

According to Green, who serves as an adviser to former Israeli Cabinet minister Natan Sharansky, "We agreed that if we wanted Kol Dor to succeed, we would have to focus on practical, tangible contributions."

The effort has garnered the support of various Jewish groups, including the Jewish Agency for Israel Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Israel Defense Forces' education branch and the World Union of Jewish Students.

Jewish schools in Israel and the Diaspora will be a particular focus of the initiative. According to Abramowitz, Social Action Month will receive special attention in the BabagaNewz, a monthly magazine on Jewish values that JFL publishes for elementary school students. The magazine serves 1,400 Jewish schools and has a circulation of more than 40,000.

Abramowitz said Cheshvan was selected for the project because it immediately follows the High Holidays, which usually spur higher levels of Jewish observance.

The group seeks to use the Jewish concept of tikkun olam, or repairing the world, as a unifying theme. ■

## COMMUNITY

### TRANSITIONS

- Former Jerusalem Post managing editor Calev Ben-David was chosen to open The Israel Project's new Israel office.
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation named Rachel Garbow Monroe as chief operating officer and Nancy Coleman and Stan Goldman as program officers.
- Rachel Robbins was named chair of the Anti-Defamation League's New York regional board.
- The Orthodox Union named Frank Buchweitz and Rabbi Mayer Waxman as joint heads of its department of community and synagogue services.

### HONORS

- The National Endowment for the Arts gave a National Heritage Award to Yiddish singer, songwriter and poet Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman.
- The Anti-Defamation League honored New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- The American Jewish Committee presented its Moral Courage Award to Iraqi politician Mithal Al-Alusi and, posthumously, to Captain Mbaye Diagne, a Senegalese soldier. Terry George, director of the film "Hotel Rwanda," received the Mass Media Award.
- Hillel President Avraham Infeld received the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Samuel Rothberg Prize for Jewish Education.
- Dan Bar-On of Ben Gurion University and Sami Adwan of Bethlehem University received the Institute of International Education's Victor J. Goldberg Prize for Peace in the Middle East.
- Fox News head Roger Ailes was honored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.
- Sarah Bailey, Elisa Bemporad, Maya Benton and Joshua Karlip were named fellows of New York's Center for Jewish History.
- The Orthodox Union honored Herbert and Harriet Seif, Rabbi Hershel and Rebbetzin Shoshanah Schachter, Sylvia and Mel David, Gary McCullough, the late Mikey Butler, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Dudi and Rivka Zilbershlag, Phil Chernofsky and Perel Joseph-Azaria.
- The women's division of Sha'are Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem honored Lillian Vernon, Cynthia Ozick, Debbie Gibber and Rama Koslowe.
- Agudath Israel of America honored Joseph Friedenson with its Rabbi Moshe Sherer Memorial Award.
- The Mintz Family Foundation for Creative Jewish Education honored Rabbi Shawn Fields-Meyer for her "Ozreinu" Torah studies program.

# JTA a winner at press awards

By TZVI KAHN

NEW YORK (JTA) — JTA won two first-place Simon Rockower awards given out at the annual meeting of the American Jewish Press Association.

Reporter Uriel Heilman won in the comprehensive coverage and investigative reporting section for his multipart series on how the Claims Conference allocates Holocaust restitution money. JTA's photographer in Israel, Brian Hendler, won first- and second-place awards for photos of Israeli soldiers mourning at a funeral and protests against Israel's West Bank security barrier, respectively.

In addition, one of JTA's correspondents in Israel, Dina Kraft, took second place in the news category for her article on a Thai worker killed by a Palestinian mortar in the Gaza Strip.

The awards were given out at the AJPA conference last week in Boston.

The following are first-place winners of the 2004 Rockower Awards:

**The Louis Rappaport Award for Excellence in Commentary:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation and magazines — Dennis Prager, Moment, Washington.

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Judith S. Huober, The Reporter, Vestal, N.Y.

**Award for Excellence in Single Commentary:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation and magazines — Shmuley Boteach, World Jewish Digest, Chicago, "Teach Your Children Well."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Yosef I. Abramowitz, St. Louis Jewish Light, St. Louis, "Vote Was Wake Up Call for American Jews."

**Award for Excellence in Editorial Writing:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation and magazines — J.J. Goldberg, The Forward, New York, "Hanukkah Forever Now."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Deborah Sussman Susser, Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, Phoenix, "The 'N' Word."

**The Boris Smolar Award for Excellence in Comprehensive Coverage or Investigative Reporting:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation — Uriel Heilman, JTA, New York, "Allocating Justice."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Paula Amann, Washington Jewish Week, Rockville, Md., "Series: 'Spiritual Counter-thrusts.'"

**Award for Excellence in News Reporting:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation — Jacob Berkman, Jewish Standard, Teaneck, N.J., "Didn't Ask; Didn't Tell."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Larry Brook, Deep South Jewish Voice, Birmingham, Ala., "Salvaging Holiday Spirit in Mobile."

**Award for Excellence in Feature Writing:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation — Joe Eskenazi, J. The Jewish News Weekly of Northern California, San Francisco, "In Harm's Way."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Chris Leppek, Intermountain Jewish News, Denver, "Unlocking Secrets of the San Luis Valley."

Magazines/special sections and supplements — Lisa Alcalay Klug, Moment, Washington, "Jewish Again."

**The Louis Rappaport Award for Excellence in Arts and Criticism News and Features:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation and magazines — Andrew Muchin, Moment, Washington, "Rhythm & Blues, Blacks & Jews."

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Aaron Howard, Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston, "Letting Torture in Through the Back Door."

**The David Frank Award for Excellence in Personality Profiles:** Newspapers over 15,000 circulation — Steve Lipman, The Jewish Week, New York, "Status Quo with 'Lupo.'"

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Michael C. Duker, Jewish Herald-Voice, Houston, "Two Spheres of Sensibility."

Magazines/special sections and supplements — Ruth Ebenstein, B'nai B'rith Magazine, Washington, "A Mensch on the Bench."

**Award for Excellence in Overall Graphic Design:** Newspapers over 15,000 Circulation — Jewish Exponent, Philadelphia.

Newspapers under 15,000 circulation — Atlanta Jewish Times, Atlanta, Ga.

Magazines — Babaga Newz, Wheaton, Md.

**Award for Excellence in Photography:** All newspapers — Brian Hendler, JTA, New York, "Grieving Soldiers in Gaza."

**The Noah Bee Award for Excellence in Illustration and/or Editorial Cartooning:** All newspapers/magazines/special sections and supplements — Steve Greenberg's Cartoons, Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles. ■



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Poll: One in 10 U.S. Jews interested in aliyah

Ten percent of American Jews are interested in living in Israel, a study found.

According to the Jewish Agency for Israel survey released this week, 10 percent of American Jews would like to immigrate to Israel, with interest split evenly among members of Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and unaffiliated congregations.

Six percent of the 1,690 respondents said they planned to move to Israel within the next five years, the poll found.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he wants 1 million Jews to immigrate to Israel from around the world in the next 15 years.

### Rabbinical groups laud American Jewish history

The four major U.S. rabbinical arms released a proclamation honoring 350 years of Jewish communal life in America.

"Our ancient prophetic ideals and the teachings of our sages serve as cornerstones of this nation's values," says the proclamation by the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist groups.

The proclamation was released a week before July 4, America's Independence Day.

### N.Y. Tolerance Center to open to public

The New York Tolerance Center will open to the public on Mondays.

The Associated Press reported Monday that the center, affiliated with the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, will accept reservations of groups of 30 for two-and-a-half-hour tours beginning July 11.

According to Faith Manney, an administrative coordinator for the center, the heavily interactive and multimedia features of the museum require close staff supervision and therefore don't allow for more public hours.

The center, which focuses on the Holocaust and current conflicts, primarily serves educators and law enforcement officials.

### Promoting awareness of Gaucher disease

A foundation devoted to fighting a Jewish genetic disease designated September as National Gaucher Disease Awareness Month.

Type 1 Gaucher, which is caused by an enzyme deficiency, occurs in one out of every 450 to 600 births in the Ashkenazi Jewish population. More information is available at [www.gaucherdisease.org](http://www.gaucherdisease.org).

## MIDDLE EAST

### Seeing red over orange

An Israeli Arab political party contested the use of orange as the rallying color of Gaza Strip settlers.

Balad filed suit in Haifa District Court on Thursday, requesting it issue a "cease-and-desist" order to the Gush Katif settler bloc and its supporters, for whom orange has become the symbol of resistance to the upcoming withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank.

According to Balad, an anti-Zionist party catering to Israel's Arab minority, orange long has been its signature color.

### Coexistence on the Kinneret

Jewish and Arab youth joined forces to beat back the brush on the beach of the Sea of Galilee.

Thirty teenagers, including those from Arab communities, Palestinian areas and the Jewish community abroad, are attending a weeklong camp in the Galilee arranged by the Society for the Protection of Nature.

Their main objective is to clear a half-mile swath through thick brush on the lake's banks, providing an alternative to its overcrowded and overpriced beaches.

The society said the new beach also would serve as a segment of a new, 37-mile hiking trail around the Galilee.

### Mayor quits to head Jewish Agency

The mayor of the Israeli city of Ra'anana resigned to take over the Jewish Agency for Israel. Zeev Bielski, who resigned Thursday, will take up his new position on Sunday.

Bielski is succeeding Sallai Meridor as chairman of the Jewish Agency.

## WORLD

### Madrid street named after Rabin

Madrid will have a street named after Yitzhak Rabin.

The Jerusalem Post reported Tuesday that the Spanish capital's mayor, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, told Israeli President Moshe Katsav that the street will be dedicated this November, on the 10th anniversary of the Israeli prime minister's assassination.

Gallardon also said the residents of Madrid condemn the terrorism that Israel has suffered at the hands of the Palestinians.

### Polish prisoners clean Jewish cemetery

Prisoners in Poland cleaned up a Jewish cemetery.

Inmates from Hajnowka Prison in the northeastern town of Nawarka participated recently in a project to clean up a nearby Jewish cemetery as part of an effort toward education and rehabilitation.

Michael Schudrich, Poland's chief rabbi, said the inmates also saw films and heard lectures about Jewish culture.

### Israeli chief rabbi goes to Argentina

One of Israel's chief rabbis said he's optimistic that bombings of two Jewish institutions in Argentina will be solved.

Yona Metzger made the comments about the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy and the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Center after meeting Tuesday with Argentine President Nestor Kirchner during a five-day visit to Argentina.

Chabad-Lubavitch organized Metzger's visit.

### Bolivian Jewish cemetery desecrated

A Jewish cemetery in Bolivia was desecrated recently with swastikas and Nazi slurs.

Several swastikas were painted on the walls of Cementerio Israelita in the city of Cochabamba.

The vandals also wrote "Juden raus," German for "Jews out."

Cochabamba is home to some 120 of the Andean mountain nation's 600 Jews.

### Making a splash at the Maccabiah

Swimmer Mark Spitz will lead the U.S. delegation at next week's Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Spitz, who made history by winning seven gold medals at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, will head the delegation at the "Jewish Olympics," scheduled to open July 11.

Spitz competed in the 1965 and 1969 Maccabiah Games, winning 10 gold medals.

More than 7,000 Jewish athletes from around the world are scheduled to compete at the Games.

### Swimming to the top

A documentary about Jewish swimmers in prewar Vienna was named best Israeli film at the 11th annual Jewish Film Festival in Berlin.

"Watermarks" tells the story of a reunion of the Hakoah Vienna sports club, whose leaders managed to get the entire top-level swim team out of Austria with their families after Nazi Germany annexed the country in 1938.