

**IN THE NEWS**
**Cash sought for Gaza plan**

Israeli officials are expected in Washington to ask for special funding for the Gaza Strip pullout.

The officials will ask the United States for hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Finance Ministry in Jerusalem said that its director general, along with aides to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, would fly to Washington on Thursday.

"They will present figures on aid required for the disengagement from Gaza, with respect to developing Israel's northern and southern regions," the ministry said in a statement.

**Montreal Jews angry over Hitler art**

An art auction featuring several watercolors and sketches by Hitler has raised the ire of Montreal's Jewish community.

The July 19 auction will feature four sketches and two greeting cards that legor de Saint Hippolyte, spokesman for the hotel where the event will be held, said were sketches Hitler had done with Albert Speer, the Nazis' minister of architecture.

**Bush extends PLO office in D.C.**

President Bush allowed the PLO office in Washington to stay open for another six months.

The Palestine Liberation Organization office functions as the diplomatic mission for the Palestinians.

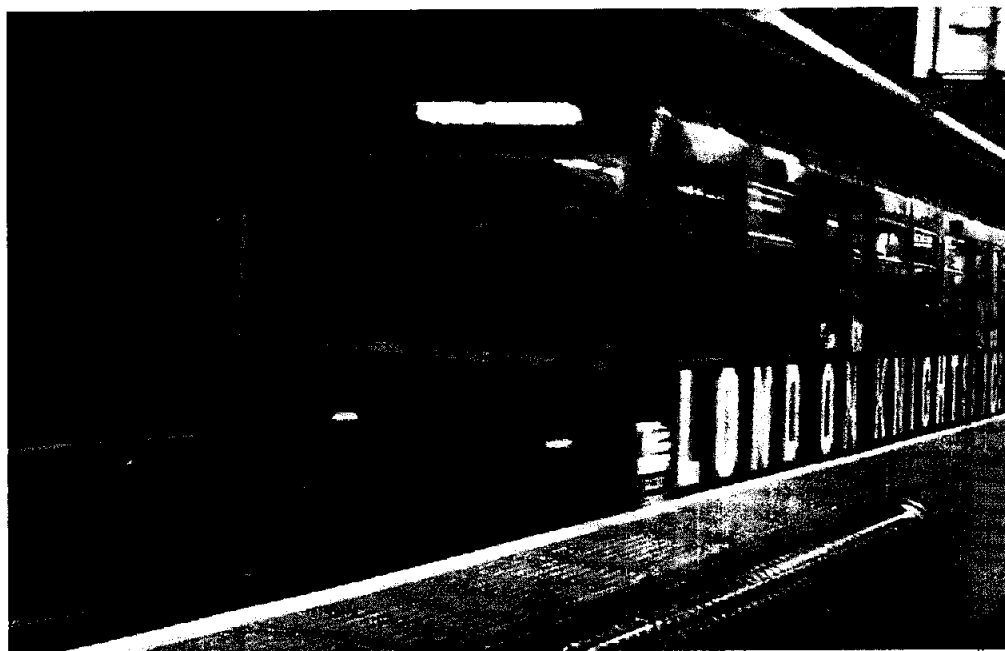
Congress has passed a law ordering its closure, but on Monday Bush waived the provision — though he noted that the PLO has not met the law's requirement to end terrorism.

Previous presidents also have allowed the office to stay open.

■ **MORE NEWS, Pg. 8**

# WORLD REPORT

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monosodium

London's railways were a major target of Thursday's attacks.

## British Jews on high alert as bombs rip through London

By DANIELLA PELED

**L**ONDON (JTA) — The scenes on the streets of London were more reminiscent of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem at the height of the intifada than the genteel center of the British capital at the height of tourist season.

Fear, panic and distress spread through London as the scale of the horror from Thursday morning's rush-hour bombings became clear. Jewish leaders were quick to condemn the atrocities while trying to reassure a community that feared it might become a target.

A spokesman for the Board of Deputies, the representative body of British Jewry — whose

headquarters, near the site of one of the four explosions, were rocked by the blast — said the board was following the situation closely and working with the Community Security Trust, the body that monitors threats to U.K. Jewry, to ensure the safety of Britain's Jews.

"On behalf of the Jewish community, we express our deepest condolences to the people of London following this outrage," he added. "Today's events underline the fact that terrorism is a global scourge. Just as we are all potential targets, we must together do everything possible to confront this evil wherever and however it manifests itself."

No Jewish or Israeli casualties were reported among at least 37 people killed and

*Continued on page 2*

## ■ British Jews are 'extra vigilant' after the deadly London attacks

*Continued from page 1*

700 injured when bombs exploded on three subway trains and a double-decker bus. But the trust warned the Jewish community to be "extra vigilant" in the wake of the attacks.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said it was "reasonably clear" that the attacks were the work of terrorists.

A group linked to Al-Qaida claimed responsibility, saying the attacks were retaliation against Britain's "Zionist" government.

"Rejoice, Islamic nation," read a message posted on an Islamic Web site. "Rejoice, Arab world. The time has come for vengeance against the Zionist crusader government of Britain in response to the massacres Britain committed in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Blair said the attacks were designed to coincide with the opening of the G-8 summit in Scotland. They also came a day after London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

"Whatever they do, it is our determination that they will never succeed in destroying what we hold dear in this country and in other civilized nations throughout the world," he said.

Queen Elizabeth reportedly said she was "deeply shocked" by the attacks. The Union Jack was flown at half-mast over Buckingham Palace.

The Jewish community initially feared that the intended target of the attacks was Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was to

speak at a financial conference minutes away from where the first bomb exploded, on a train near Liverpool Street Station.

Mark Scodie, a journalist for London's Jewish Chronicle, was on the scene as the crisis developed.

"I left Liverpool Street a minute after the explosion," he said. "As I got to the top of the escalators, an alarm went off, and British transport police ran in."

"There were loads of police, absolute pandemonium," Scodie said of the scene outside the station. "Emergency vehicles constantly going past, and the police taped off the main road. The survivors looked stunned."

El Al's London office and the Israeli Ministry of Tourism were immediately evacuated. A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy, which allowed no one in or out of the building, said, "We are shocked by the callous terror attacks in London this morning. Our thoughts are with the people of London and the families of those affected."

"Israel is offering any assistance as may be required by the British authorities in dealing with the horrific events today."

Jewish chaplains were preparing to provide support to anyone in need. Rabbi Martin van den Bergh, head of the Jewish Emergency Support Service, a unit established to respond to major incidents, said he has been on call since he was alerted by the trust immediately after the first blast.

"We are monitoring the number of Jewish dead and injured, but at the moment we have no figures," van den Bergh said. "I am in contact with the major hospitals where the injured and dead have been taken, and I am on call. It's a waiting

game, but if they need Jewish input, we are there."

Other Jewish religious leaders expressed horror at the attacks.

"These terrible events have brought home to us the full evil that terror represents," said Britain's Orthodox chief rabbi, Jonathan Sacks. "It is not the weapon of the weak against the strong but the rage of the angry against the defenseless and innocent."

**The attacks are an 'evil means to an evil end.'**

**Jonathan Sacks**

Britain's Orthodox chief rabbi

It is an evil means to an evil end.

"I will be asking all our congregations to say special prayers for the victims and their families this Sabbath," he continued. "We grieve for the dead, pray for the injured, and share our tears with the bereaved."

A spokesman for the Federation of Synagogues said letters had been sent to all the group's shuls asking that psalms be said for the bombing victims.

"The scope of today's tragedy cannot be described in mere words," the federation said in a statement. "Although at this point in time it's unclear who is to blame for these barbaric acts and the identity of many who have been killed is still unknown, whether Jew or non-Jew, the pain must be shared by all."

A representative of the Movement for Reform Judaism said prayers would be said in shuls around the country.

"Such behavior passes beyond all belief and comprehension," said the Reform movement's head, Rabbi Tony Bayfield. "At a time when the leaders of the world are gathered to discuss the eradication of poverty, we witness a grim demonstration of the fact that terrorism is the enemy of the poor and dispossessed just as much as of the Western world and the established order." ■

### JTA WORLD REPORT

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## Ex-Jewish refugees meet royalty

NEW YORK (JTA) — Some 100 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who escaped to Britain as children met Tuesday with Prince Charles and the duchess of Cornwall.

BBC News reported Tuesday that the

meeting comes as part of a week of events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the war.

About 10,000 Jewish children came to Britain in 1938-1939 under the Kindertransport plan. ■

# 'Jewish Olympics' attract top-level athletes

By PETER EPHROSS

NEW YORK (JTA) — Ron Carner has no problem mixing politics with sports — in fact, that's one of the reasons he's so proud of the Maccabiah Games.

"We're telling the anti-Semites where they can shove their hate," says Carner, the vice president of Maccabi USA, which is sending about 780 athletes to the 17th Games, which run from July 11-21 in Israel. "I feel very strongly about that."

That hate almost led the Games to be called off in 2001 because of concerns over Palestinian terrorism. The Games were eventually held, although the number of athletes — more than 3,000 — was down from previous Games.

A record number of participants is expected for this year's Maccabiah. Nearly 8,000 Jewish athletes from around the world will be competing in the Games, which include competition on four levels — open, youth, junior and masters.

Swimming traditionally draws some of the highest-level athletes from around the world — former Olympic gold medalists Mark Spitz and Lenny Krayzelburg have won gold at past Maccabiah Games.

Krayzelburg, who is slated to be inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at Israel's Wingate Institute on July 14, is the honorary captain of this year's U.S. team.

Soccer, women's basketball and tennis also draw high-level athletes, says Carner, who is also the vice president of the Maccabi World Union.

For most of the athletes, particularly the younger ones, the competition is the draw.

"I haven't competed outside the U.S. before," says gymnast Joshua Fox, 15, of Ellicott City, Md. "I think it will be stiff competition."

Like many of the younger athletes, Fox earned his spot on the team through a tryout.

But many have a sense that this is about more than just sports. For some, it's about American patriotism.

"It's an honor to represent my country in a sport I love so much," said Jordan Schilit, 14, of Tampa, Fla., who will be competing in track and field.

Others say they are proud of competing against other Jewish athletes.

"The fact that we are all Jewish gives us a bond," says South Jersey's Jamie Hacker,

16, who will be on the girls soccer team.

Older athletes are just as serious about their sports.

Take tennis player Stan Kleckner, for example. Over the last 40 years, Kleckner, of Greenwich, Conn., has won 150 amateur tournaments, including gold medals won while representing the United States in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Japan and Israel.

In 1932, the First Maccabiah Games were held in Tel Aviv, with 14 countries and 390 athletes participating. Held the same year as "Hitler's Olympics" in Berlin, the Games took on a political tone.

"The Maccabiah would show the world that Eretz Yisrael is the land of a strong and healthy Jewish people," said Josef Yekutieli, considered to be the founder of the Maccabiah.

The Second Maccabiah Games were also held in Palestine, but because of World War II, the Games were not held again until 1950, when they took place in Israel. The next Games were held in 1953; since that time they have been held, like the Olympics, at four-year intervals.

In 1989, the Games expanded, with the addition of teams from behind the Iron Curtain.

In 1997, four members of the Australian team died when a bridge collapsed during the Games' Opening Ceremonies in Ramat Gan. A memorial service was slated to be held at the site of a new bridge in the Israeli city on Friday.

The Ramat Gan Stadium will host this year's Opening Ceremonies on July 11.

Throughout their history, the Games have attracted some of the top U.S. athletes: In addition to Spitz and Krayzelburg, gymnast Mitch Gaylord, tennis player Andrea Leand and basketball players Danny Schayes and Larry Brown — who now coaches the NBA's Detroit Pistons

— have competed in Maccabiah's past. It's no different this time around.

American swimmer Scott Goldblatt, who won a gold medal in the 800-meter freestyle relay at the 2004 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, will compete — as will fellow Kansas City resident Max Jabben, a swimming hopeful for the 2008 Olympics.

Jabben said he found irony in the fact that he is going to Israel for the first time as the result of his swimming skills. He said his pursuit of swimming at such a high level — with weekend meets and constant practicing — kept him away from his family's synagogue during childhood.

That's exactly the point, Carner says.

"Sports is the hook," he says. The Maccabiah is a way to "build Jewish solidarity and a way to get people to Israel."

The American athletes will also get around Israel as well. The teens on the American team — each of whom had to contribute \$5,000 for the experience — flew to Israel a week before the Games to tour the country. During and after the Games, there will be other tours as well.

"We change a lot of lives," Carner says. ■

(Wendy R. Levine Gross of the Jewish Press of Tampa, Fla., David Portnoe of the Jewish Community Voice of Cherry Hill, N.J., Stacy Karten of the Baltimore Jewish Times, Rick Hellman of the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle and Judie Jacobson of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger contributed to this report.)

'The fact that we are all Jewish gives us a bond.'

Jamie Hacker, 16

Soccer player

## THE 17th MACCABIAH GAMES



Brian Hender

Members from the U.S. delegation, bottom, enter Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 16th Maccabiah Games in July 2001.

# West Bank settlers prepare to resist

By DINA KRAFT

SA-NUR, West Bank (JTA) — A dry wind blows in the 98-degree heat, flapping the blue tarpaulin covering the makeshift tent camp where mothers stir pots of onions and potatoes over small stoves while keeping an eye on young children splashing a few feet away in a plastic pool.

Welcome to a neighborhood set up by some 25 families who have come to the northern West Bank settlement of Sa-Nur to help reinforce its numbers ahead of its planned evacuation by the Israeli government.

Sa-Nur and three other Jewish settlements in this narrow corridor between the Palestinian cities of Nablus and Jenin are to be evacuated, along with the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, beginning in mid-August.

The northern West Bank settlements have received less media attention than the Gaza settlements, but some speculate that they could become a surprise hot spot during the "Disengagement Summer."

As anti-withdrawal activists find it increasingly difficult to enter Gaza because of planned military closures in coming weeks, they may turn their focus here. Furthermore, many of the most militant members of the settler movement live in the northern West Bank region and could pour into Sa-Nur and other settlements slated for evacuation, such as nearby Homesh, in a bid to thwart the plan.

The other two area settlements slated

for evacuation, Ganim and Kadim, are not expected to be problematic to evacuate. Most residents of those secular settlements already have left or say they intend to leave before the withdrawal begins.

Tamar Ettinger, 30, a pregnant mother of five, has brought her family to the tent camp at Sa-Nur. They sleep in canvas tents and cook and wash outside, but the issue for them is ideology, not comfort.

"If we want to live here, we have to build to strengthen the settlement," says Ettinger, her blue eyes shining brightly from a face flushed from the sun. She wears a long dark dress and an olive-green head scarf.

"We did not come here to fight with anyone. It's our land and our right to settle it," she says.

Ettinger, who came a month ago from the nearby settlement of Kedumim, says she hopes others will arrive to reinforce their numbers.

At a nearby table, Irit Frankel, 41, grates carrots surrounded by several of her seven children. They sit on an assortment of plastic chairs and tattered couches and armchairs. Nearby are dirt bikes Frankel's children have brought with them from Kedumim, two refrigerators and an outdoor sink. There also are outdoor showers and toilets.

The Frankels also have been here for a month, leaving behind their spacious, two-story house in favor of an airless tent cooled by a single fan and lit by a dangling light bulb. They brought blankets, cooking utensils, food, clothes and board games, which are piled in stacks on plastic shelves in the tent. The tent's only decoration is a small poster of Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Navy analyst jailed for spying for Israel.

Sitting on one of the beds with her sisters is Nehama Leah Frankel, 16. She recently returned to Sa-Nur after spending several days at a hotel in the Gaza Strip with a group of some 150 right-wing activists. The hotel was evacuated last week in an Israeli army raid.

Irit Frankel says that everyone who believes the withdrawal must be stopped is obliged to take part in the struggle against it, however they can. As a mother with

young children she couldn't go out into the streets to demonstrate, she says, but she could move her family into this tent camp for the summer to make a statement.

The families in the tent camp have joined an unusual mixture of residents in Sa-Nur. Twelve artists, most of them senior citizens from the former Soviet Union, live alongside a group of about 40 young religious couples who

began settling here in trailer homes about two and a half years ago, at the height of the Palestinian intifada.

Yossi Dagan's trailer is about a five-minute walk from the new tent camp. Dagan, 24, is the leader of the group of young people who came to Sa-Nur to help bolster the settlement, which had been almost abandoned amid the Palestinian violence.

Today some 250 to 300 people live in Sa-Nur, including the residents of the tent camp and a group of yeshiva students from the southern West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba.

Dagan feels betrayed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who, he says, used to bring bus loads of people from Israel to see how strategically important the area is.

Because of the northern West Bank's significance, Dagan says, Sharon is trying to divert public attention to the evacuation of the Gaza Strip settlements.

"He is trying to hide us by not talking about us," Dagan says.

On Tuesday, Sharon made a rare appearance at a Knesset discussion, giving right-wingers a chance to criticize the government for allegedly poor planning of the upcoming withdrawals.

For at least one Gaza settler, coming face to face with the man who long was the settlers' champion was emotionally overwhelming.

"Mr. Prime Minister, you used to call us 'Salt of the earth.' You would say, 'I love you. You are dear to me,'" recalled Naomi Eldar, a teacher and mother of six from Gaza's Gush Katif bloc.

But increasingly violent protests have only boosted mainstream Israeli support for the pullouts. ■

(JTA correspondent Dan Baron in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

Sharon 'is trying to hide us by not talking about us.'

Yossi Dagan

Sa-Nur resident

ISRAEL'S  
DISENGAGEMENT  
SUMMER



Dina Kraft

A family that has moved into the West Bank settlement of Sa-Nur's new tent camp has lunch on July 4.

# Harbinger of refusal seen in soldier's actions

By DINA KRAFT

TEL AVIV (JTA) — For months, dark warnings had swirled that Israeli soldiers charged with removing Jews from their homes in Gaza Strip settlements slated for evacuation might refuse orders.

Others said refusal, which threatens to erode the basic underpinnings of the army's role in a democratic state, was nearly inconceivable.

And then came Avi Bieber, an immigrant from New Jersey who was captured last month on national television saying no to his commanders.

The dramatic footage of the red-faced Bieber, 19, refusing to evacuate settlers who had illegally taken over houses on the southern Gaza beachfront — “A Jew does not expel a Jew,” he declared — gave the entire country pause, wondering if his actions might presage more refusal ahead.

Founded to protect the Jewish state, the army has served throughout Israel's history as a unifying force; men and women from across the political, religious and social spectrums were drafted and served together.

But now there is growing concern that an unprecedented wave of refusals to obey orders may be at hand when the army goes in to remove some 8,500 Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip and West Bank during withdrawals slated to begin in mid-August.

Many religious Jews such as Bieber view the decision to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the northern West Bank as a sin, asserting that the land is the Jews' biblical birthright.

Meanwhile, many secular Israelis view Gaza — with its population of almost 2 million Palestinians — as too costly to hold on to.

Political and religious divisions are growing starker within the military, as religious soldiers make up ever larger numbers of the elite combat units and officers corps.

The army's new chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, meeting Monday with soldiers in the Gaza Strip, warned that refusing orders would carry severe consequences.

Refusal is “extremely dangerous for the State of Israel and its essence,” he said.

“Our commanders must understand that the challenge they are facing is no less difficult than fighting an enemy,”

Halutz said. “This is not our enemy, but if any soldier starts picking his tasks, where will we be heading to?”

“We can feel pain, we can think over our actions, we can weep — but you must carry out orders,” Halutz said. “There will be zero tolerance and no compromise” for refusal.

Until recently, conscientious objection in Israel had largely been associated with the left.

In 2002, a letter was published bearing the signatures of 50 army reserve officers — hundreds more later added their names — declaring that they would no longer serve in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and that such service does not help to defend Israel but only perpetuates “our control over the Palestinian people.”

In 2003, twenty-seven Air Force pilots said that they would refuse to take part in raids on Palestinian civilian population centers, after Israel's assassinations of terrorist kingpins also killed innocent civilians.

Pundits wondered if the floodgates of conscientious objection were about to open — but in both cases, the specter of mass refusal turned out to be overblown.

As the Gaza withdrawal nears, it's impossible to predict how many soldiers will refuse orders. What emerges may not be clear-cut refusal but rather a failure to report for duty, especially among reserve soldiers.

According to Yoav Livnat, spokesman for Homat Magen — an organization formed to encourage refusal to carry out evacuation orders — some 20,000 reservists have signed a document stating their intention to disobey such commands.

Livnat, the brother of Education Minister Limor Livnat, says he hopes that such a display of defiance will help derail the evacuation effort.

“We do not think that the existence of the refuseniks will stop the process in itself but will contribute to an overall weakening of the army that will make it difficult for the army to carry out its orders,” he said.

Livnat also said there will be something

of a “gray” area of refusal — soldiers who do not declare outright that they're refusing orders but who plan to do so in their own way. For example, he said, soldiers at checkpoints who have been instructed not to let people into the Gaza Strip once it has been declared a closed military zone might choose to do so anyway.

The army says it won't take insubordination lightly. Corp. Bieber, for example,

was sentenced to 56 days in a military prison.

In the West Bank settlement of Tekoa, where Bieber's family lives, his actions were celebrated. In fact, he has become something of a hero of the anti-withdrawal movement.

The Biebers immigrated to Israel from Passaic, N.J., nine years ago. Bieber's mother, Michelle, said in a phone interview with JTA that she is proud of her eldest son.

“It was a hard decision for him. He loves the army,” Michelle Bieber said. “He's been in Gaza for about eight months, guarding the settlers and making sure they're safe, so kicking them out was not something he was able to do.”

Michelle Bieber said she realizes that refusing orders is not for everyone.

“I would not tell people to do the same thing. I would tell them to follow their conscience,” she said.

Yair Orbach heads Yom Pekudah, an organization made up of religious Zionist men who serve in the army and are opposed to refusal. Orbach and other members of the organization are not in favor of the withdrawal plan, but they are traveling the country warning of the dangers of refusing orders.

Orbach says anti-withdrawal activists are potentially inflating the number of soldiers who may refuse orders. From what he hears on the ground, he says, most soldiers will heed army instructions.

“We say that if we refuse orders, we're destroying our society,” Orbach said. “If someone refuses this order, another day there will be a different order that they refuse, and there will be no end to the cycle.”

There will be zero tolerance and no compromise for refusal.

Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz  
Israeli army chief of staff

ISRAEL'S  
DISENGAGEMENT  
SUMMER

# Faith-based moves rekindle debate

By AVI MAYER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — For four years, American Jewish groups debated President Bush's proposals to mix faith with social services.

Now the fight is over whether the administration's programs should be made permanent.

Rep. Mark Green (R-Wis.) introduced legislation earlier this year to make the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives permanent and codify its activities into law. The move has rekindled a long-smoldering debate in the Jewish community.

Many view "charitable choice" provisions — which require government agencies to evaluate religious institutions on an equal footing with secular counterparts when it comes to issuing grants — as a violation of the constitutional separation of church and state. They say faith groups potentially could discriminate in hiring or could proselytize with federal money.

But others, especially in the Orthodox community, welcome the chance to receive federal funding on a level playing field with other social-service providers.

The White House office was established by executive order as one of Bush's first official acts in 2001. It since has coordinated the distribution of hundreds of millions of dollars in grants to faith-based groups through initiatives established within government agencies.

The White House lists the preservation of the historic Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., and the allocation of a \$1.7 million grant to the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center in Perth Amboy, N.J., among the office's accomplishments.

Bush has been pushing for the program to become law. In his 2004 State of the Union address, Bush praised the role of religious charities in doing "some of the most vital work in our country — mentoring children, feeding the hungry, taking the hand of the lonely."

The president said the federal government has withheld grants and contracts from such groups in the past "just because they have a cross or a Star of David or a crescent on the wall," and argues that a law formalizing his work would end discrimination against people of faith.

But Congress has yet to codify any faith-based program, and advocates fear the initiative could be wiped out if a future president chooses not to follow the Bush administration's lead. An executive order can be repealed at any time.

The Tools for Community Initiatives Act would create a permanent faith-based office in the White House and task a director with developing programs to expand the incorporation of faith initiatives through legislation, executive action and private partnerships.

Nathan Diament, director of the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs, said direct government funding would help combat years of alleged discrimination against religious people and institutions.

For example, Seattle's Orthodox Hebrew Academy was denied federal funds after its facilities were severely damaged by a 2000 earthquake. Diament said the faith-based initiative's equal-treatment philosophy helped reverse the Federal Emergency Management Agency's policy, and won the school rebuilding money.

"The earthquake did not discriminate among which institutions to strike, yet FEMA was discriminating in its relief efforts," Diament told a congressional panel last year.

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, testified against the legislation earlier this month, calling it "bad for religion, bad public policy, unconstitutional and socially divisive."

While he acknowledged that the office has done some good work, Saperstein said a permanent office would undermine the separation between church and state, weaken good social service programs and imperil the special position of religious institutions in the public arena.

"Never has the Supreme Court upheld direct funding of religious institutions," Saperstein told JTA.

"The damage may not be immediate," he warned, "but what this would lead to is an erosion of the special status of religion."

In the hearing, Saperstein said a leader of the evangelical Christian group Teen Challenge admitted to him that his program had the effect of converting — or, in his words, "completing" — Jewish children. He worried that the conversion process could be government-funded in the future.

"That any taxpayer should fund her own discrimination or proselytizing betrays every principle of our democracy," Saperstein said.

But Diament said the question is whether religious groups are allowed to compete with non-religious organizations for government funding. Diament denied that any real difference exists between religious groups and religiously affiliated organizations such as the Jewish federation system, which uses federal dollars for social-service programming.

One compromise could be the imposition of regulations against proselytizing.

Rabbi Abba Cohen, Washington director and counsel for the Orthodox Agudath Israel of America, said organizations could decide whether regulations against proselytizing would cause them to compromise their beliefs or somehow impede their activities.

Suggesting that organizations can't determine on their own whether or not they can control proselytizing "is being paternalistic and condescending," he said.

Cohen said his organization is against programs that would lead to proselytizing, and their support of the bill is contingent on proper safeguards against conversion efforts. He said he believes such safeguards are workable.

But officials in other Jewish groups have their doubts. They say codifying the office may be unobjectionable, but the legislation dances around controversial issues.

The Anti-Defamation League and American Jewish Committee also has opposed the bill, in part because it lacks safeguards against discrimination in hiring. Religious groups are exempt from some hiring regulations, and there is fear that groups could choose only staff of their faith with government money. ■

President Bush wants an office focused on faith-based issues to become permanent.

FOCUS  
ON  
ISSUES

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## Cookbook to tell about Jewish life in South Africa

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — Mock crayfish and a history lesson.

You'll get a little of both in a forthcoming South African Jewish cookbook, being billed not only as a great recipe source, but also as a social history of South African Jewry.

The cookbook, a fund raiser for the Cape Jewish Seniors Association, is due out late next year. The publishers of the book hope to raise money and shed light on a cuisine unique to this part of the world.

Included will be traditional recipes as well as updates and short-cuts that incorporate health trends and local flavor — accompanied by relevant anecdotes.

The book's editor is Oded Schwartz, a former Israeli and a renowned chef who spent 36 years in the London food industry.

During the course of interviews he is conducting for the book with professional cooks, as well as with others, he has discovered that domestic workers often have unwittingly become repositories for information on Jewish life here.

"Because they have an outside eye and were responsible for the mechanism of the home, they have very vivid and insightful recollections of what happened in the Jewish community, for example, in the '50s," Schwartz says.

One such worker, who has worked for the same family for 50 years, remembers buying chickens on a Friday, along with the other domestic workers, and taking them to the Gardens Synagogue to be slaughtered.

"Although she couldn't supply me with quantities, her description of how she makes her gefilte fish is absolutely fantastic," Schwartz says.

It is tidbits such as these that the book's planners hope will elevate it into a collector's item.

"We really need food memories and we would like the cooperation of the Jewish community throughout the country as well as former South Africans living overseas," he says. ■

## School helps kids with autism

By TZVI KAHN

LIVINGSTON, N.J. (JTA) — The first graduating class at the Hineni school here might have been small, but it still represented a milestone for the institution, which serves Jewish children with autism.

Founded in 2002 and with a current enrollment of 11 students ranging from ages 3 to 12, Hineni is one of the only schools in the country for Jewish autistic children.

Because they are small and have problems qualifying for federal funds, Jewish schools have particular difficulties helping special-needs children.

But as the June 15 ceremony at Hineni demonstrated, the rewards can be great.

The 20-minute ceremony featured a brief video about Hineni, the presentation of diplomas and a short musical performance by students in the school, which is a branch of the Sinai Special Needs Institute. The Sinai institute consists of eight schools in New Jersey serving Jewish children with learning and developmental disabilities. ■

The graduation resonated with Barbara Listhaus. Her son, Jonathan, not only graduated from the school, he is also one of the chief motivations for its founding.

Though Jonathan, 13, had attended several therapeutic programs in his early years, Barbara Listhaus wanted to send him to a school serving autistic children in a Jewish religious setting.

So she approached Laurette Rothwachs, the dean of Sinai, and suggested the establishment of a program dedicated exclusively to educating Jewish autistic children. Together, they worked to develop a curriculum based on the principles of applied behavior analysis, which seeks to build language and social skills through structured learning programs and constant reinforcement. Students also receive occupational and speech therapy.

According to the Medical Research Council, one in 165 children in the United States is born with autism, a psychiatric disorder that begins when children are young and is marked by severe language impairment and an inability to develop

social skills. Rothwachs says the rates among children in the Jewish community are the same. ■

Almost all of Hineni's programs consist of one-on-one instruction. The school also has special observation booths featuring one-way mirrors adjacent to the classrooms, allowing parents and faculty to observe students without being seen by the students.

What makes Hineni unusual, however, is that it is located within the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, a modern Orthodox day school in Livingston. That backdrop enables Hineni students to integrate with their peers in social settings such as sports, prayer services, meals and even the school bus.

"The most important thing is that he's been able to socialize and be with other kids," Listhaus says. "That has a significant impact. Because we don't feel embarrassed by him, we don't have to hide him."

Nearly all of the students live in New York or New Jersey, enabling a convenient commute. Listhaus, in fact, relocated to New Jersey from Allentown, Pa., so that Jonathan could attend the school.

Hineni's direct embedment within the broader Jewish day school system is particularly important for the families of the students.

"Special needs families desperately need the support of their community," says Rothwachs. Hineni "affords them the opportunity to stay within the community."

Community programming also includes the Chabad-run Friendship Circle, in which local teenagers, some of them Kushner students, come visit the Hineni students in their homes at least once a week in order to play with them.

Next year, Jonathan Listhaus will be attending a more advanced vocational school, while the other two graduating students will be entering a different Sinai program within Kushner.

The program isn't cheap, though: Tuition at Hineni is \$65,000 a year. According to administrators, most of the students' families receive funding from the school district. ■

The school 'affords them the opportunity to stay within the community.'

Laurette Rothwachs

Dean, Sinai Special Needs Institute

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NORTH AMERICA

### Dean off to Israel

Howard Dean will visit Israel in September.

The Democratic National Committee chairman and former Vermont governor will join a National Jewish Democratic Council fact-finding mission to be chaired by Steve Grossman, former party chairman and president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"He is very much looking forward to returning and seeing the situation on the ground," said Matt Dorf, a former Jewish liaison for Dean's 2004 presidential campaign, who is helping to coordinate the trip.

Dean was the subject of an e-mail smear campaign during the Democratic presidential primaries last year after he made several off-the-cuff remarks suggesting that the United States should take a more "even-handed" approach to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

The term is commonly interpreted to mean less support for Israel.

### Darfur drawings on display

Drawings made by children living in the violence-racked region of Darfur went on display at New York University's Jewish student center.

The pictures will be on display at the Edgar N. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life.

The pictures were collected by Human Rights Watch. Jewish groups have increasingly taken a role in raising awareness about the situation in Darfur, a region in Sudan where government-backed militias have created a situation that former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called genocide.

The pictures will be up at the center through Sept. 6; after that, they will travel to Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto and two cities in Germany.

### Group upset at Canadian sentence

The Canadian Jewish Congress expressed disappointment at the sentence a Toronto court handed out to a teenager for an anti-Semitic spree.

The March 2004 spree caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage and shocked Toronto's Jewish community.

After overturning dozens of Jewish headstones, damaging synagogues and painting graffiti across various public sites and Jewish homes in the northern part of the city, Steven Vandermeij, 19, was sentenced this week to six months of community service, a \$3,000 restitution order and two years of probation.

### Jews sue evangelist for travel snafu

A Jewish group in Los Angeles sued an evangelist for more than \$9 million for allegedly changing the group's travel plans.

The 92 travelers, members of the Israel Defense Forces, claim that evangelist K.A. Paul's Global Peace Initiative had agreed to fly the group to Poland earlier this year to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, then fly the group to Israel for vacation, the Houston Chronicle reported.

When the group arrived at Los Angeles International Airport, however, they were told they would have to remain in Poland, fly to Syria or cancel the trip.

The group opted to stay home.

A spokesman for Global Peace Initiative said Paul is out of the country.

## WORLD

### JDC gives aid to Falash Mura

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is channeling \$40,000 to Ethiopian Jews to help them buy food.

In an e-mail Tuesday to North American Jewish federations,

JDC's executive vice president, Steve Schwager, said the one-time allotment follows word that "food insecurity" has become a pressing concern for the 4,000 Falash Mura — Ethiopians whose Jewish ancestors converted to Christianity but who have since returned to Judaism — currently living in the Ethiopian capital.

Last week, the Ethiopian government approached the JDC to request that the group provide temporary assistance to those in need.

### U.N. official slams Israelis

A U.N. official compared Israelis in the Gaza Strip to concentration camp guards.

Speaking before a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Geneva on Tuesday, Jean Ziegler also called on protesters to press European nations to boycott Israeli goods, U.N. Watch said, citing Swiss news reports.

U.N. Watch called on the United Nations to condemn the remarks by Ziegler, a U.N. expert on food issues who often has taken pro-Palestinian stances.

### Krakow honors Spielberg

Krakow honored Steven Spielberg for his efforts to preserve the Polish city's former Jewish ghetto.

On Tuesday, Spielberg was named a Patron of Culture for his efforts, which include a \$40,000 grant to preserve a pharmacy whose owner risked his life to help Jews during World War II.

"We are trying now to revitalize old Jewish districts in Krakow where people lived before the war," Filip Szatanik told The Associated Press. "This support from Mr. Spielberg will help us to do this better."

Spielberg filmed some of "Schindler's List" in the former ghetto.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Harel named D.C. attache

The commander in charge of Israel's Gaza withdrawal plan has been named military attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, who currently serves as commanding officer of the Israel Defense Forces' Southern Command, was named Thursday to the post by Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz.

Harel, 50, rose through the ranks of the artillery corps and served as head of operations in the General Staff, as well as military secretary to Defense Ministers Yitzhak Mordechai, Moshe Arens and Ehud Barak.

### Jerusalem Christian leader cleared

A Christian leader in Jerusalem was cleared of charges that he sold church land to Jews.

Palestinian investigators found no evidence that Greek Orthodox Patriarch Irineos I sold the land, owned by the church and located inside Jerusalem's Old City.

Irineos was demoted to monk following the accusations.

It is believed that a former aide to Irineos, who may be trying to revoke the deal, was responsible for the sale.

### Israelis kill two Palestinians

Israeli forces killed two Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A two-man cell from the Al-Aksa Brigade tried to ambush Jews en route to Joseph's Tomb outside Nablus before dawn Thursday, but were fired on by troops guarding the pilgrims.

One terrorist was killed.

Hours earlier, soldiers repelled an Islamic Jihad attack on the Gaza settlement of Morag, shooting dead one gunman and wounding another.

There were no Israeli casualties in either incident.