



IN THE NEWS

Pollack named in AIPAC probe

Kenneth Pollack, a prominent Middle East analyst, is one of two U.S. government officials referenced in the indictment of two former AIPAC staffers.

Pollack, who was a staffer on President Clinton's National Security Council, confirmed to JTA on Monday that he has spoken with the FBI regarding a December 2000 lunch he had with Steve Rosen, former director of foreign policy issues at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Keith Weissman, a former AIPAC Iran analyst.

Pollack said he did not give the two men any classified information.

A federal indictment says Rosen spoke with an unnamed reporter after the lunch, and gave classified information about policy options and internal government deliberations; information Pollack had access to.

Pollack said he has been told he is not a subject of the investigation.

Mob stabs students on the streets of Kiev

Ukrainian skinheads critically wounded a Jewish youth.

The teenager and a fellow yeshiva student were attacked by a racist mob overnight as they walked through a traffic underpass in Kiev, their community's leader, Rabbi Yaacov Zilberman, said Monday.

Mordechai Ben Avraham was hospitalized in critical condition. Ukraine's Jews have complained to local authorities about an increasing number of anti-Semitic incidents.

Ukrainian police said the attack was not motivated by anti-Semitism.

Mississippi camp houses Katrina evacuees

A Jewish camp in Mississippi was opened to New Orleans residents fleeing Hurricane Katrina.

Nearly 150 evacuees, including some disabled adults, took shelter at the Reform movement's Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Miss.

Three Chabad-Lubavitch emissaries remained in New Orleans to help those residents who could not leave the city.

WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE · WWW.JTA.ORG

A ship of their own: Naval Academy opening a Jewish chapel on campus

By IRA RIFKIN

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (JTA) — Harvey Stein had a dream: Provide Jews at the United States Naval Academy with their own worship space.

Nine years and almost \$9 million later, his dream will become a reality, with the opening of the Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel.

The academy estimates that some 1.5 million visitors will tour the facility during its first year, and is scheduled to open the weekend of Sept. 16-18. This high visibility is a prospect that pleases Stein no end.

"This will become one of the most important Jewish buildings in the country," said Stein, 69, the owner of a successful home-decor and personal accessories business. "Lives will be touched in ways that we will probably never fully know."

Said Rabbi Irving Elson, the academy's Jewish chaplain: "This is not just a building for Jews. It's the next step for the academy in demonstrating how important faith is, any faith," adding, "It's a symbol of tolerance and inclusion and for understanding how important faith is in the toolbox of our future Navy and Marines officers. I want our officers to recognize that even if they don't have a faith themselves, that faith is important to the men and women they command."

A full weekend of events is planned for the building's opening, beginning with the affixing of mezuzot and the dedication of a Torah scroll donated by the Israeli navy, and ending with a formal dedication attended by at least 2,500 guests.

The Naval Academy, which educates of-

ficers for the Marine Corps as well as the Navy, is the last of America's three main military academies to construct a worship space designed specifically for Jews. Until now, Jewish midshipmen shared a chapel with other minority religious groups. The academy has a separate chapel for Christians. All U.S. military worship facilities are called chapels, regardless of faith.

The lack of a Jewish facility bothered Stein, one of a number of Annapolis Jews with no Navy or academy ties who come to the academy to attend regular Friday night services run by Jewish chaplains; Saturday services are only held on holidays and special occasions.

One morning in 1996, while speaking in his kitchen with Rabbi Jonathan Panitz, then the academy's Jewish chaplain, Stein announced that he wanted to help underwrite a Jewish chapel. Stein said the sound of the words popping out of his mouth took even him by surprise.

"When I said that to Jonathan, I thought: 'Whatever possessed me to say such a thing?'" Stein recalled.

Panitz seized upon the idea immediately.

"I said, 'OK, Harvey, when do you want to start?' And Harvey says, 'Right away.' And that was how it began," said Panitz, now retired from the Navy and leading Congregation Beth Israel, a Conservative synagogue in Lebanon, Pa.

The pair turned to Friends of the Jewish Chapel, a group that helped fund activities for Jewish midshipmen, including trips to Israel. But with less than 150 self-identified Jewish midshipmen in any given year, out

Continued on page 2

FOCUS
ON
ISSUES

■ After the Naval Academy opens a Jewish chapel, all three academies will have one

Continued from page 1

of a student body of more than 4,000, getting permission proved tricky, despite lobbying that extended to the highest reaches of the Pentagon.

The key to jump-starting the project was a pledge by the group to expand Stein's idea to include raising additional funds to meet other unfulfilled academy construction needs.

That led to creation of the Uriah P. Levy Center, which occupies the 35,000-square-foot structure's south wing. It's named after the first Jew to be elevated, in 1858, to the rank of commodore, then the Navy's highest rank. Levy, who restored Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home, Monticello, after it fell into disrepair following the third president's death, was descended from some of the first Sephardic Jews to settle in the American colonies.

Howard Pinsky, a 1962 academy graduate and the president of the Jewish chapel group, said about \$8.75 million has been raised for construction. Another \$3 million was raised for maintenance and program endowment funds. Most of the money has come from private Jewish sources.

The center will house the academy's expanding courses in ethics and leadership and its Honor Court, where midshipmen charged with violating the academy's strict honor code are judged by peers. It will also contain a library dedicated to religious and ethical themes; study, lounge and canteen areas, and displays relating to Jews in the American military and other subjects.

The chapel takes up the three-story facility's entire north wing. The interior of the 410-seat sanctuary is extensively faced with Jerusalem stone.

The floor-to-ceiling section behind a free-standing Sephardic-style ark has been hand-crafted to evoke the Western Wall's jumble of stones.

Both the center and chapel have Stars of David incorporated into their exterior design. Architect Joseph Boggs said he believes this is the first instance of the Jewish symbol being a permanent part of a U.S. Navy building. (An academy spokeswoman could not confirm the claim because of the sheer number of Navy buildings worldwide.)

The complex occupies a prominent spot on the 330-acre academy. Enclosed passages link the building to Bancroft Hall, the massive dormitory housing all midshipmen, and to Mitscher Hall, the academy's primary building for social and cultural activities.

Boggs said he sought to design the structure so as not to overwhelm non-Jews. "How do you incorporate inclusion without any negative implications? I want any midshipman of any denomination to be able to walk through this place and not just be comfortable, but get a chill down their spine," said Boggs, who is not Jewish. ■

'It's a symbol of tolerance and inclusion and for understanding how important faith is in the toolbox of our future Navy and Marines officers.'

Rabbi Irving Elson
U.S. Naval Academy chaplain

Mandarin word for Jews questioned

By DAN BLOOM

TAIPEI, Taiwan (JTA) — The Chinese language comprises thousands of characters and combinations of characters, each composed of various strokes. Now a human rights group in Taiwan is calling on Chinese journalists and academics around the world to stop the "discriminatory" way that the characters for "Jewish people" are written in Mandarin.

"There are many Chinese characters for 'you-tai,' or Jew, but the combination that is currently being used refers to an animal of the monkey species and has the connotation of parsimoniousness," Chien Hsi-chieh, the director of the Peacetime Foundation of Taiwan, said recently.

Chien's remarks at a news conference in Taipei, complete with illustrations of the offending characters and the new characters he recommends, were widely reported in Chinese-language media across Taiwan and China.

Chien said the biased Chinese characters were devised by Christian missionaries in China around 1830, when they were translating the Hebrew and Christian Bibles into Chinese and needed a term for "Jews."

"A better choice for the word 'Jews' in Chinese writing would be one that is pronounced the same but written with a more neutral character," he said.

Following the news conference, held in Taiwan's Parliament, a local English-language newspaper quoted Zhou Xun, a Chinese professor at the University of London, as saying that it's not easy to define Jews as a people using a combination of two or three Chinese characters.

"In fact, the current way of writing 'you-tai' to mean 'Jews' indicates the imagined physical difference between the Chinese and the Jews, which is rooted in the tradition of picturing all alien groups living outside the pale of Chinese society as distant savages hovering on the edge of bestiality," Zhou said.

Chien first brought the matter to the attention of the Taiwanese government in 2003 and again in October 2004.

The Taiwanese government under President Chen Shui-bian said it would help promote the new way of writing the term for Jews in books, newspapers and on the Internet if local civic groups continued to put forward the idea. But the government hasn't taken any concrete action yet, Lin said. ■



WORLD REPORT

Howard E. Friedman
President

Mark J. Joffe
Executive Editor and Publisher

Lisa Hostein
Editor

Michael S. Arnold
Managing Editor

Lenore A. Silverstein
Finance and Administration Director

Noa Artzi-Weill
Marketing Director

JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

Pets seek new owners after withdrawal

By **KARIN KLOOSTERMAN**

TEL AVIV (JTA) — “You wouldn’t leave behind your kids, would you?” asks Merav Barlev, director of Hakol Chai, an animal-rescue group in Tel Aviv.

Barlev is coordinating the relocation of pets left behind after the evacuation of the Gaza Strip, her emergency mobile unit racing against the clock to any animals left behind — abandoned, escaped or stray — before the Israel Defense Forces locks the gates to empty Jewish settlements.

Equipped with operating facilities and medicine, the mobile unit first was on the scene Aug. 19 as the dust began to settle from the evacuation of homes in the Morag settlement.

Calls from the Agriculture Ministry and Israel Defense Forces came to Hakol Chai and Zar be L’chaim — the Israeli equivalent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or ISPCA — urging the groups to help collect frightened pets left behind.

In no time, a small caravan of animal crusaders, led by the mobile unit carrying volunteers, veterinarians and animal workers, were combing settlements like Gan-Or, Kfar Darom and Neveh Dekalim. They found dogs inside homes about to be demolished, as though waiting for their owners to return; pets found tied to trees with notes; and pets left without food and water, caged in the sweltering heat.

The team, which drives to the Gaza Strip almost daily, has had full cooperation and support from the IDF. Many soldiers have been found feeding stray animals, sustaining dogs, cats and goats with their own sandwiches and canned meat until help can arrive.

By the beginning of this week, the team had picked up 120 animals, including cats, dogs, ducks, lizards and parakeets.

All the animals have been shuttled to Tel Aviv, where they wait in the ISPCA shelter to pass quarantine, and then be reunited with their original owners or be adopted.

Many of the 27 dogs waiting in cages, tied to short leashes or pacing

the large green holding tank, have been given new names, though they have identifying chips that reveal their real names.

Shelly, a young Siberian husky mix, comes with a cell-phone number leading to her owners, but the number is no longer in service and Shelly’s future is in limbo. Some celebrities, such as children’s TV actress Chani Nachmias, have offered to adopt Shelly if the dog’s owner isn’t found.

Tali Lavie, a lobbyist for Hakol Chai who works to impact animal-related legislation in the Knesset, says Israelis believe the pets are brave “disengagement dogs,” a reference for the withdrawal’s formal name as the “disengagement plan.” But Lavie just wants to see them placed in good homes as soon as possible.

Last week, just minutes before a house was to be razed in Neveh Dekalim, Lior Bury, an IDF filmmaker, discovered an 80-year-old man inside, with an old female dog.

“The two were sitting in the salon,” says ISPCA spokesman Gadi Vitner, recounting a phone call he received from Bury. “Lior said

to me, ‘Please Gadi, find the best family for her.’”

Vitner promised not to let anything happen to the dog, whom he estimates is about 12 years old.

“All these animals, these are the real victims of disengagement,” Vitner declares, rummaging around for keys to unlock quarantined cats as he tells the tale of a kitten adopted by Andrea Crosta, an Italian businessman who divides his time between Israel and Europe.

Crosta last week volunteered with the mobile unit, which generally makes runs around the country spaying and neutering cats and dogs.

“It was great experience as a non-

Jew to see what was happening in Gush Katif,” Crosta told JTA by telephone.

“The social aspect especially, being in this strange little spot of land the whole world is talking about. We could see hundreds of abandoned homes and Palestinians living like people from generations ago, and beside all this was the mobile unit like a little Noah’s Ark where all the animals were huddled

together — dogs, cats and chickens.”

Today Crosta is at home with the kitten he has named Luce, Italian for light.

“I didn’t want the name of the place where I found her — the place had negative energy — so I named her something that represents hope instead,” he says.

Why so many pets were left behind puzzles Vitner and Lavie.

“The settlers were told weeks before the disengagement that organizations like the ISPCA would provide temporary shelter while the land transfer was going on,” Vitner says. “But not one person called us before the pullout had begun.”

“I think the people in Gaza didn’t believe the disengagement would actually happen,” Lavie adds.

In some cases, she says, panicked animals escaped as families were being evacuated, and were impossible to catch.

Hakol Chai and the ISPCA are busy collecting the last remaining pets. It’s still unclear who will fund what some are calling “Operation Noah.”

“Let’s just save the animals first,” director Barlev says, “and talk about money later.”

Barlev doesn’t entertain the idea that some animals will be left behind.

“We’re just going to get them all out,” she says, “instead of finding out what will happen to them later.”

(Donations to Hakol Chai can be made through the U.S. office at (703) 658-9650.)

‘You wouldn’t leave behind your kids, would you?’

Merav Barlev
Director, Hakol Chai

THE
DISENGAGEMENT
SUMMER

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Sharon's son on trial

The trial of Ariel Sharon's son on corruption charges began. State prosecutors filed an indictment Sunday against Omri Sharon in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, charging him with fraud, false testimony and obstruction of justice in connection with his father's 1999 run for the Likud Party leadership.

Omri Sharon has admitted to exceeding regulations on funding for the primary, and said it was solely his responsibility.

Attorney General Menachem Mazuz decided not to prosecute the prime minister in the case.

Omri Sharon faces a maximum jail term of seven years if convicted, but legal sources said the court probably would be asked to sentence him to around nine months behind bars.

Boy bomber caught

A Palestinian teenager was caught smuggling explosives in the West Bank.

Israeli troops stopped the 14-year-old boy Monday as he passed through a checkpoint south of Nablus, and found three pipe bombs in his baggage.

Terrorist groups in Nablus regularly send minors on arms-smuggling missions.

In one case televised internationally last year, a teenage suicide bomber from the city gave himself up at an Israeli army checkpoint, and was stripped of his explosives.

Security chief quits post

The head of Israel's National Security Council resigned. Israeli sources said Monday that Giora Eiland, a retired general, had told Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that he would step down at the end of the year.

According to the sources, Eiland is frustrated by his inability to influence Israeli policy.

The NSC was created in 1999 by then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the American model, and was expected to function as a government think tank.

But with most Israeli prime ministers preferring the counsel of confidants, the NSC often has been sidelined in major decision making.

NORTH AMERICA

Air Force issues guidelines

The U.S. Air Force issued new guidelines for religious tolerance that stress respect for others.

The guidelines, issued by the Air Force's Washington headquarters Monday, say commanders should work to comply with religious accommodations for all airmen, and that individuals need to be sensitive to the fact that personal expressions of faith might be viewed as official statements.

The guidelines come after some cadets at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., said they felt pressure to prioritize military duties over religious observance, and said the academy had an overtly Christian atmosphere.

The guidelines stress that chaplains must provide care for service members of all faiths, and said airmen should be cautious of perceptions that they are trying to spread their faith, even in e-mails.

Rabbi dies of AIDS

Rabbi Cynthia Culpeper, believed to be the first pulpit rabbi to announce that she had AIDS, died Monday.

Culpeper, 43, was diagnosed with AIDS in 1995 soon after being ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Culpeper, who served congregations in Alabama, became the first female rabbi to lead religious services in Poland, conducting High Holiday services at the liberal congregation known as Beit Warszawa in 2000.

Culpeper was infected with the AIDS virus when she was stuck with a needle while working as a nurse.

Group funds security in Israel

An evangelical group will fund security measures at the Israeli bus station targeted in Sunday's terrorist attack. The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which is primarily supported by evangelical Christians, authorized \$1 million to help protect the central bus station in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

Florida banks asked to waive fees for survivors

A Florida official called on banks operating in the state to waive wire-transfer charges on Holocaust reparations.

The state's chief financial officer, Tom Gallagher, recently said that charging the survivors and their families the fees, which range from \$10 to \$40 per transaction, is an "unnecessary and unjust burden," the Heritage Florida Jewish News reported.

Some banks in New York, Illinois and California already waive the fees.

Swastika burned into family lawn

A swastika was burned into the lawn of a Jewish family in a city near Atlanta.

Accompanying the swastika near Ginger Ragans' house in Lawrenceville, Ga., was the word "fascist."

In addition, toilet paper was thrown on her trees and someone urinated and defecated on the family porch, The Associated Press reported. Ragans said she believes the act is retaliation for her work as a community watchdog who recently mentioned in a newsletter that teens were caught out after curfew.

WORLD

Bulgarian Jews appeal property decision

Bulgaria's Jewish community appealed a court decision that rejected its claims to nearly half of the property now occupied by a Sofia hotel.

"We emphasize again that we are seeking no more than a fair and objective application of the rule of law in the Rila Hotel matter and, ultimately, for justice to be done," Emil Kalo, president of Shalom, the umbrella organization of Bulgarian Jewry, said in a statement released over the weekend.

The statement said Shalom had filed an appeal Aug. 19, seeking to reverse a July 5 verdict issued by the Bulgarian Supreme Court of Cassation.

The Rila Hotel stands on the site of a pre-World War II Jewish school.

The land was confiscated in 1943; in 1992, an administrative court ruled that the Jewish community was entitled to slightly less than 50 percent of the property.

Israeli film tops festival

An Israeli film won the top award at the Copenhagen Film Festival. "Live and Become," which tells the story of an Ethiopian who passes as a Jew in order to go to Israel, was named best film at the festival, which ended over the weekend.