

## IN THE NEWS

**Yuschenko asks elites to condemn hatred**

Ukraine's president urged his country's elites to condemn anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

"There can be no ethnicity issue in a European country," Viktor Yuschenko was quoted as saying Monday by the Interfax-Ukraine news agency.

Yuschenko directed his remarks to artists, journalists and academics.

He specifically condemned the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, known as MAUP, a group that has published anti-Semitic literature.

MAUP has drawn the ire of Jewish groups and Israel, most recently for endorsing the Iranian president's call to destroy Israel.

**DNC opposes effort to divest from Israel**

The Democratic National Committee came out against efforts to divest from Israel or the Palestinian areas.

The DNC executive, meeting Monday in Phoenix, passed a resolution calling efforts to divest from Israel "counterproductive."

Susan Turnbull, a DNC vice-chairwoman, told JTA that the initiative arose out of a meeting she and DNC Chairman Howard Dean had in October with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Conference leaders told them that efforts by some churches to divest from Israel were a prime concern for the community.

**White House kitchen goes kosher**

The White House koshered its kitchen ahead of its annual Chanukah reception.

Petak Caterers, under the joint supervision of the Bergen County, N.J., rabbinical council and Washington representatives of Chabad, will serve Glatt kosher meat at the dinner Tuesday night.

The meeting is taking place early because President Bush and much of the Washington establishment leave the city around Dec. 25, when Chanukah starts this year.



# WORLD REPORT

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## Israelis killed and wounded as suicide bomber hits Netanya

By DAN BARON

**T**EL AVIV (JTA) — Another Palestinian suicide bombing has sown tragedy in Israel and raised the stakes in a national leadership race.

An Islamic Jihad terrorist blew himself up Monday outside the Sharon Mall in Netanya, which has seen several such attacks due to its proximity to the West Bank. At least five people were killed and more than 50 wounded.

The bomber was identified as a 21-year-old man from the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, already under pressure following a weekend of rocket salvos into Israel from the Gaza Strip, convened his government's top brass for consultations.

Guards identified the bomber as a potential terrorist as he approached the mall around 11:30 a.m., and pinned him against the wall. But he managed to detonate explosives in his bag, killing a security guard and several other people nearby.

"The fact that the security guard and policemen managed to identify the bomber meant that they prevented a major disaster," Israel Police Commissioner Moshe Karadi said.

Netanya Mayor Miriam Fierberg said the day started out as a perfect one for her city. The weather was unseasonably warm and she was hosting a party at city hall celebrat-

ing the decision by Elbit, a major Israeli high-tech firm, to move to Netanya.

Then her cell phone rang and she got word of the attack.

"This is the way we have to live here and to cope," she said in a conference call with Jewish federation officials in Cincinnati, Netanya's sister city, between visits to the hospital to check on the wounded.

It was the third attack on the shopping mall, Fierberg said. The mall presents an attractive target because it is at the entrance to the city, and the facilitators who drop off the bombers are able to make a quick getaway. Netanya is located close

to Israel's pre-1967 border with the Palestinian territories.

The Israel Defense Forces was preparing Monday evening for a wide-spread retaliatory operation in the West Bank and strikes in the Gaza Strip. Ha'aretz reported that the operation could last up to a month.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered security forces to wage an intensified crackdown on Islamic Jihad in the northern West Bank. Reinforced army units are expected to reoccupy villages where Islamic Jihad terrorists are hiding. The army will also severely restrict travel in the West Bank, and Israel has clamped a near-complete closure on the territories, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The U.S. State Department said the attack

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**The Israel Defense Forces was preparing Monday evening for a wide-spread retaliatory operation in the West Bank and strikes in the Gaza Strip.**

## ■ *Palestinian suicide bomber strikes mall in Netanya*

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underscored the need for the Palestinian Authority and Syria, which hosts Islamic Jihad, to crack down on terrorist groups.

"The Palestinian Authority must take immediate steps to prevent these attacks, to end the violence, and to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism," spokesman Adam Erel said Monday.

Sensing that the situation could spiral out of control, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the Netanya bombing and pledged to arrest those responsible.

But belying Abbas' words, Islamic Jihad held a press conference in Gaza City, which is under full P.A. control, to celebrate the attack.

Sharon's right-wing rivals in the Likud Party — which he left last month, founding a new, centrist party to compete in March 28 general elections — lost no time in condemning him.

"Thanks to Sharon, we risk seeing a terror base being created right next to the Dan region," legislator Uzi Landau told reporters. "Today's terror attack is only a sign of things to come."

Landau withdrew from the Likud primary race Monday to endorse the front-runner, Benjamin Netanyahu. Other candidates include Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Mofaz.

Sharon's new Kadima Party also faces a challenge from the left, from Labor Party leader Amir Peretz.

A former trade union chief with little experience in making war or peace, Peretz

was quick to call for an "all-out crackdown on terror." But he also has appealed to Israeli doves by vowing that, if he's elected prime minister, he'll withdraw from large areas of the West Bank.

Sharon has a strong lead in popularity polls, thanks in large part to his alliance with veteran diplomat Shimon Peres, who left Labor last week after losing a leadership primary to Peretz.

When he was Labor chairman, Peres helped Sharon push through the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer, a move intended to kick-start mori-

bund peace efforts with the Palestinians. But there have been two suicide bombings since the pullout, as well as salvos of rocket fire from Gaza at Israeli border towns.

The latter tactic appears to be extending its reach. On Saturday, two rockets struck Shuva, a moshav five miles from the Gaza boundary that had not been hit until now.

Mofaz ordered a resumption of air strikes aimed at killing Palestinian terrorists involved in producing and launching rockets. ■

## Irish magazine article stirs protest

By JON IHLE

DUBLIN (JTA) — A Dublin cultural and lifestyle magazine has received more than 2,000 letters of protest after publishing an anti-Israel article by former Irish parliamentarian Justin Keating.

The torrent of correspondence began pouring into The Dubliner after Keating's column, which argues that Israel has no right to exist, was criticized by the media watchdog Web site HonestReporting.com, which compared the piece to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad's recent call to "wipe Israel from the face of the map."

Keating's article claims that the Jews did not originally come from the land of Israel, but only "occupied some land 2,000 years ago for a historically brief period."

Within days of the magazine appearing on newsstands, the press officer for the Israeli Embassy, David Golding, contacted Dubliner editor Trevor White to express his disgust at the Keating article.

"It crossed the invisible line from being anti-Israel to being anti-Semitic," Golding told JTA.

Golding is considering making a formal submission on the issue to Ireland's National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, a government-backed agency that tracks hate crimes.

Ireland's chief rabbi, Ya'akov Pearlman, was quoted in the Jewish Telegraph of Manchester condemning Keating's column as a "desecration" of Judaism.

In an editorial slated to appear in the next issue of The Dubliner, White describes his anger at receiving what he calls "abusive and vulgar e-mails" accusing the magazine of anti-Semitism.

"I was shocked at the ferocity of what was clearly an attempt to silence dissent," it says.

A selection of the letters will appear in the magazine and on its Web site, www.thedubliner.ie, on Dec. 16. White also has invited Keating to respond to the criticism.

The controversy has attracted the attention of RTE, Ireland's state broadcaster, which will feature a panel discussion on the topic Thursday. ■

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## Green Party: Divest from Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. Green Party called for divestment from Israel.

In calling for divestment this week, the party said it backs the "serious consideration" of replacing Israel with a secular democratic state in Israel and the Palestinian areas.

The resolution "calls for divestment from and boycott of the State of Israel until such time as the full individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people are realized," including a return of Palestinians displaced by Israel's 1948 independence war and their descendants. ■

# Atlanta study finds outreach efforts failing

By SUE FISHKOFF

ATLANTA (JTA) — Atlanta Jewish institutions think they're doing a better job at outreach than they really are, and that misperception means a lot of unaffiliated Jews are lost to the Jewish community.

That's one of the key findings of the Jewish Outreach Scan of Atlanta, a just-completed study of the outreach practices of 46 local synagogues and Jewish organizations conducted by the New York-based Jewish Outreach Institute.

The institute, known as JOI, this week brought together close to 120 lay leaders and Jewish professionals from around the country, half of them from Atlanta, for a three-day national leadership conference here.

They came to learn about successful outreach practices, and to share ideas for making their own organizations more welcoming to unaffiliated Jews, particularly the intermarried.

Keynote speaker Michael Rukin of Boston, a longtime Jewish activist, told the opening night crowd on Sunday that the Jewish community spends too much time developing programs for a core group of already engaged Jews, instead of reaching out to draw the majority of Jews, who are both unaffiliated and underengaged, into Jewish life.

His remarks focused on the ongoing debate over where best to expend Jewish communal energy and resources.

Rukin said that the traditional focus on "revitalizing the core Jews," a key priority of the Conservative movement, for instance, is misguided.

He drew a clear distinction between the extensive outreach approach that he and the JOI favor and the "small group of committed Jews" approach favored most publicly, he said, by Steven Bayme of the American Jewish Committee and Jack Wertheimer, provost of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

"We need a Jewish army committed to welcoming and embracing those who would grow near to us," he said, adding that "absent a profound cultural change, we will continue to shoot ourselves in the foot."

Atlanta is the sixth city whose Jewish institutions have been assessed by the JOI. The outreach advocacy group promotes a proactive approach to engaging

those on the periphery of Jewish life. That approach includes lowering barriers to access and cooperating among institutions.

With its model of "public space Judaism," the JOI exhorts Jewish organizations to hold events outside their own walls, work more collaboratively, do better follow-up with newcomers and partner with secular groups to organize events such as Jewish film festivals or Chanukah parties at local bookstores, all as a way of bringing Judaism out to unaffiliated Jews instead of requiring that they come into the Jewish institutions they are already avoiding.

As part of its research, JOI staffers e-mailed 44 Atlanta Jewish organizations anonymously, asking for information about their programs. Just 24 of those groups, or 55 percent, replied to the e-mails, and only 13 of them, 30 percent, asked for contact information to enable follow-up.

"We're not being critical of what's going on in Atlanta, it's the same situation everywhere," said Paul Golin, JOI's associate executive director. "We're saying, here's what we think you can do to reach more of the unaffiliated."

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, JOI's executive director, said that while Atlanta has "a very willing federation" in terms of outreach, the city's Jewish leaders should create a community-wide outreach committee headed by a neutral coordinator, so names could be shared and people could be referred to the institution that best meets their needs.

"Whatever the institutions are doing, and some of them are doing a lot, they seem to be doing it alone," he said.

Too many Jewish organizations fall prey to a "cult of scarcity," fearfully grabbing from what they mistakenly believe is a limited Jewish pot, he said.

"That may help individual institutions, but in the long run it won't help grow the community," he said.

At the conference, Lynn Schusterman, president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, told partici-

pants that the American Jewish community needs to shift its focus and realize that Jews connect in many different ways — some through synagogues, some through music, some through social justice work or trips to Israel.

"It would be so easy to focus our efforts only on the well-traveled routes," she said, when what Jewish groups should be doing is "helping the travelers who are finding their own routes to Judaism."

Getting Jewish organizations to share their lists of names isn't easy, particularly when dollars are at stake.

Jodi Mansbach of Jewish Arts and Culture, an Atlanta nonprofit that organizes Jewish events in secular settings, says she gets several calls a week from other Jewish organizations that want her mailing list of 4,000 names, most of them young, unaffiliated Jews.

The same thing happens to Dyan Wiley of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in West Springfield, Mass. She said she won't hand over the list of people who have signed up to receive her weekly e-mails of the local Jewish calendar.

"Jews who are unaffiliated don't want to be hit up by these groups," she said.

Golin agrees, which is why the JOI counsels federations that adopt its model to avoid soliciting new names for a specified period, usually one year.

"There are plenty of Jews out there that no one is reaching, but if you meet them once and ask for \$1,000, you scare them away," he said.

Faye Dresner, community engagement director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, "absolutely" agrees that Atlanta's Jewish community would benefit from greater collaboration.

She said the JOI community scan will be "a real useful tool" to help local groups from duplicating efforts.

"Not everyone I talk to wants to volunteer for federation, so I try to refer them to a different organization," she said. "If we don't share data and people, how will we accomplish that? We have to move out of this place of fear and territorialness." ■

The Jewish community spends too much time developing programs for a core group of already engaged Jews.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### PLO envoy praises Peretz

New Labor Party head Amir Peretz might be "an attractive option" as Israeli leader, the PLO's new envoy to Washington said.

In his inaugural speech last week as the Palestine Liberation Organization's envoy to the United States, Afif Safieh said that through Peretz, "today Labor has a window of opportunity for resurfacing and reinvigorating itself."

Safieh, who served 15 years as PLO envoy to London before assuming his new role last month, said the Labor Party did not deserve its positive international reputation, and its dovish demeanor served mostly as a "fig leaf" for the harder line policies of the Likud Party.

Safieh, one of the Palestinian delegates to the 1991 Madrid peace talks, also expressed satisfaction that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had left Likud and formed the centrist Kadima party ahead of the March 28 general elections in Israel.

Safieh said his priorities in the job include reaching out to Congress, the media, the Arab-American community and the American Jewish community.

### Likud candidate quits

Uzi Landau withdrew from the race to lead Israel's Likud Party. Landau, who had been trailing in polls leading up to this month's party primary, announced he was quitting Monday and said he would support the front-runner, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Also running are Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Atlanta Jewish outreach faulted

Atlanta Jewish institutions think they're doing a better job of outreach than they really are, according to a new community survey.

The Jewish Outreach Scan of Atlanta, a study of the outreach practices of 46 local synagogues and Jewish organizations conducted by the New York-based Jewish Outreach Institute, was unveiled at the institute's three-day national leadership conference, which opened Sunday in Atlanta.

This is the sixth city whose Jewish institutions the JOI has assessed. The JOI scan singled out three local organizations for their successful public-space Judaism practices.

### Congressional letter urges Rice to stay course

A bipartisan letter gathering signatures in the U.S. House of Representatives urges Condoleezza Rice to maintain her involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The letter, initiated by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), chairman of the House's International Relations Committee, and Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.), commends the U.S. secretary of state for "for achieving an historic agreement" on opening the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

Israel had resisted allowing the border to open, feeling the Palestinian Authority had not sufficiently secured the crossing since Israel left Gaza in September, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government gave the go-ahead under pressure from Rice.

### Reform condemns execution

The Reform movement condemned the 1,000th execution since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.

"Today's somber milestone is a tragic reminder of one of our country's greatest moral and social shortcomings," the movement's Religious Action Center said in a statement last Friday, after Kenneth Lee Boyd was put to death in North Carolina.

Capital punishment "diminishes our nation," the statement said.

"In the face of studies that tell us of the racial and social biases inherent in the death penalty and that the death penalty simply does not work as a deterrent to crime, we turn a blind eye and continue to execute the convicted."

The statement cited Jewish tradition, in which a Sanhedrin, or ancient Jewish tribunal, that put even one person to death every seven years is regarded as destructive. "What, then, could we call our justice system, but unjust?" the statement said.

### Spielberg defends 'Munich'

Steven Spielberg called his upcoming film about the 1972 massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes, and subsequent reprisals against Palestinian terrorists, a "prayer for peace."

The Hollywood director spoke to Time magazine about "Munich," breaking his silence after months of mounting speculation about the thriller's historical sources and how it would present Israel's assassination of the PLO terrorists who masterminded the attack at the Munich Games.

"We don't demonize our targets," Spielberg said. "They're individuals. They have families." Drawing parallels between the 1970s and today's Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Spielberg said, "Somewhere inside all this intransigence there has to be a prayer for peace ... Because the biggest enemy is not the Palestinians or the Israelis. The biggest enemy in the region is intransigence."

Spielberg also took the opportunity to announce a new goodwill initiative to distribute video cameras to Israeli and Palestinian children who will record their lives and then view each other's footage.

### Matching grant for Jewish camps

A Jewish philanthropist is launching a matching-grant program for Jewish nonprofit camps.

Harold Grinspoon, who launched "Meet Your Match" last Friday, says his goal is to encourage donors to give to Jewish camps, which have bred a significant number of American Jewish leaders. Some 20 Jewish camps will benefit from the program.

## WORLD

### Putin: Changes coming to NGO bill

Russia's president promised to amend a controversial bill on non-governmental organizations that was criticized by the international community.

On Monday, Vladimir Putin told his chief of administration to prepare the necessary amendments within five days, RIA Novosti reported.

Putin's move comes after fierce criticism of a preliminary draft approved by the Russian Parliament late last month, which would ban the use of foreign funds by Russian NGOs and make it illegal for foreigners to fund any political activity in Russia.

Russian Jewish groups that receive most of their funding from abroad hinted that the proposed law would not affect them directly since they're not involved in political activism.

### Center for forced converts opens

A center opened in Brazil for descendants of Jews forced to convert to Catholicism during the Inquisition.

The Jewish education center, geared specifically for Bnai Anousim, was launched to reach out to "lost Jews."

"The center will serve as a focal point of our outreach work to Bnai Anousim here in northern Brazil," said its director, Rabbi Avraham Amitai.

He said many descendants of converted Jews express an interest in returning to their roots.

The Center is being operated by Shavei Israel, a group that tries to seek to help "lost Jews" return to the fold.