



IN THE NEWS

Kadima-Likud coalition unlikely

Benjamin Netanyahu said his Likud Party was unlikely to join an Israeli government under Ehud Olmert.

Netanyahu said in comments published Sunday that the diplomatic platform presented by Olmert and his Kadima Party was irreconcilable with the Likud's views.

"Of course, we will not be able to sit in a government based on such principles," Netanyahu told Ma'ariv. Netanyahu, who quit the government to protest last year's Gaza Strip withdrawal, is opposed to Olmert's plan for further unilateral West Bank withdrawals if peace talks with the Palestinians remain stalled.

Purim closure on Palestinians

Israel closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the Purim holiday.

The closure, decided upon after intelligence warnings of at least 15 planned Palestinian terrorist attacks, was imposed Sunday and will be in force through Purim, which ends Wednesday. Past Purim holidays have seen major violence.

The Israeli army said travel would be permitted for Palestinians with medical emergencies.

E.U.: No aid unless Hamas reforms

The European Union ruled out aid for a Hamas-led Palestinian Authority unless the terrorist group seeks peace.

Hamas, which calls for Israel's destruction and refuses to renounce violence, won a landslide election victory Jan. 25, but has yet to form a government.

The Europeans have rushed \$143 million in supplemental aid to the Palestinians before Hamas takes power, but that will stop if Hamas continues violence, E.U. officials said. Hamas officials reacted angrily, saying the Europeans should make similar demands of Israel.

WORLD REPORT

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With substance abuse rising, Orthodox find they're not immune

By CHANAN TIGAY

BALTIMORE (JTA) — Peter Gould had his last drink on Purim night, seven years ago — or, more accurately, his last drinks.

"I drank more alcohol in a day than a human body can handle," he says, relaxing on a puffy couch in Baltimore in jeans, sneakers and a black knit kippah.

At the time, Gould — not his real name — had been a functioning alcoholic for years, and his body could tolerate a lot of booze. He lists the staggering litany of alcoholic beverages he consumed that Purim, a holiday some Jews mark by drinking to excess:

- three bottles of amaretto;
- two bottles of wine;
- one bottle of champagne;
- a fifth of scotch;
- a fifth of bourbon.

"And then I drove home with my kids in the car," he recalls. He made it home fine — after all, he was used to driving drunk.

Gould may be an extreme example, but he isn't unique.

Alcohol and drug addiction exist in every sector of American Jewry, but addiction and recovery specialists say Gould is part of a growing problem in the Orthodox community — a problem that, because of the pressures and particularities of an observant Jewish lifestyle, has hit the Orthodox community in different and sometimes more troubling ways than other segments of the Jewish community.

"The Orthodox community really does have a need," said Adrienne Bannon, executive director of Baltimore's Jewish Recovery

Houses, two centers in suburban Baltimore that house recovering Jewish drug addicts and alcoholics. Some residents require kosher food and are placed with local families for Shabbat meals.

"I thought most of the addicts and alcoholics filling this house would be long-estranged from religion, but it isn't true," she says. "So my mind is opened."

Part of the problem, experts say, is that for years people couldn't and wouldn't believe that drugs had found their way into Orthodox groups. But they had.

FIGHTING ADDICTION

Experts say the emphasis in some fervently religious Orthodox communities on finding marriage matches for young people, coupled with the community's traditional reluctance to air its dirty laundry, leads families and schools to cover up addictions. They call this "the shanda factor": Who wants to marry a drug addict, or even a drug addict's sibling?

As a result, addicts often don't receive treatment until their addictions have reached crisis proportions. Those involved in treating these addicts say that, until recently, members of the Orthodox community received treatment on average two years later than addicts in society at large — two years during which their dependencies have time to grow, worsen and become harder to beat.

Solid numbers on addiction in the Orthodox community are hard to come by. In the past five to 10 years the community has begun to more aggressively and publicly address the issue, but it still elicits silence and shame. Anecdotal evidence suggests the problem is getting worse, experts say.

"Dirty" hit rock bottom in July.

Continued on page 2

■ *In addition to substance abuse, many Jews suffer from eating disorders*

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The 23-year-old, former yeshiva day-school student had been thrown in jail for the second time in a month and was sharing a cell with a man accused of killing three people.

Dirty — he got the nickname in prison — says he was the only Caucasian at the time in Baltimore's notoriously rough Central Booking and Intake Facility and City Detention Center, and he was beaten daily by the other inmates. On one particularly gruesome day he was raped in the prison shower.

He also spent a good portion of his 29 days in the lock-up in withdrawal — cold turkey — from his \$400-a-day heroin habit. He endured the beatings and abuse while reeling from the physical pain of detoxification.

Central Booking was a long way from the modern Orthodox home in suburban Baltimore where he was raised. And yet, as resident after resident at Baltimore's recovery homes attests, Dirty — who is a resident in the men's home and has been clean for more than seven months — isn't an unusual case.

Lou Jacobs, executive director of the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters League in Baltimore, which runs the city's Jewish Addiction Services, says he believes nearly half the case load comes from the Orthodox community. That's a "dramatic change" from just five years ago, he says, when Orthodox clients comprised 10 percent to 15 percent of his clientele.

"To the extent that their willingness

to come here for help is an indication of a crisis, I would say there certainly is a sense that this is a problem that has gotten beyond one that can be dealt with quietly within the Orthodox community with its own resources," Jacobs says.

Some describe a chicken-and-egg question: Is the number of Orthodox addicts growing, or — because community efforts have made treatment easier, more available or more acceptable — are a greater number of addicts seeking help?

Experts say both might be true.

"What has opened people's eyes is that, first of all, there's been much more talk about the problem," says Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski, founder and medical director emeritus of Gateway Rehabilitation Center, a nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment system in western Pennsylvania. "Unfortunately there have been several young deaths from overdoses, and these were not covered up and they raised the alert of the community."

Rabbi Kerry Olitzky, an expert in chemical addiction in the Jewish community and author of "Twelve Jewish Steps to Recovery: A Personal Guide to Turning from Alcoholism and Other Addictions," notes that the Orthodox aren't the only members of the Jewish community with addiction issues.

"Alcohol and drug abuse is about an issue of individuals feeling an emptiness inside of themselves and they're self-medicating, trying to fill that hole and get rid of the pain they feel," says Olitzky, who also is executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute. "Alcohol and drug abuse, for similar reasons, impact upon members of the Jewish community from one side of the spectrum to the other."

Recovery communities for Jews like those in Baltimore are few and far between, but many communities are making efforts to fight abuse by forming support groups, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous societies, treatment centers and clearing houses for referral services. The religious streams also have made efforts to address the issue and inform their constituents about it.

The number of Jewish addicts is pro-

portionally similar to the rest of America, Olitzky says, but Jews are overrepresented in Gamblers Anonymous, and many suffer from eating disorders.

Insiders say the Orthodox lifestyle offers another gateway into and cover for addiction: the frequent availability and consumption of alcohol at religious life-cycle events. Habits developed at these celebrations can eventually lead

to alcoholism, observers say, and statistics show that individuals who abuse alcohol are more likely to use drugs.

Veronica Rose, whose parents are affiliated with a Chabad synagogue, said that an abusive boyfriend drove her to drug abuse.

Rose, a pseudonym, started using cocaine five years ago in what she says was an effort to self-medicate her clinical depression. What started as recreational use soon became a full-blown addiction.

"I spent all of my bubbe's inheritance on drugs," says Rose, whose brother is an alcoholic.

When she took up with an abusive man, she turned even more frequently to drugs — cocaine to dull the pain, followed by marijuana or atavan to come down from the high.

She began to think about cleaning up. Today she's a resident at Tovah House, the women's recovery home in Baltimore. She has been clean since Dec. 12.

Observers say it has become increasingly easy for kids to obtain drugs, even Orthodox kids.

Where the problem is more acute, some schools have instituted drug testing for students.

Some yeshivas eventually expel problem students, who are sent from school to school, their problems left untreated, chalked up simply to hanging out with the wrong group of friends.

"I think that the Jewish community has grown a great deal in its sophistication with regard to its acknowledgment of Jews and alcoholism and Jews as drug addicts, and there are some institutions that have been built," Olitzky says.

But, he notes, "We still have a long way to go before we are fully prepared to wrestle with the challenges."

**'I spent all of my
bubbe's inheritance on
drugs.'**

'Veronica Rose'
Former addict

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Head of 9/11 museum learned from Shoah site

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — For more than two decades, Alice Greenwald has been helping to give people a palpable un-

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ More than 150 rabbis from all streams mark the Fast of Esther by rallying outside United Nations headquarters in New York to press the organization to take a more active stand on the genocide in Darfur. The rabbis will meet with U.S. and U.N. officials after the rally.

■ A coalition of Jewish groups will conduct a vigil at Iran's mission to the United Nations to protest President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent calls to destroy Israel.

■ The Jordanian Embassy in Washington launches the publication in Arabic of New York Times columnist Tom Friedman's book on globalization, "The World is Flat."

THURSDAY

■ The European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism holds its biennial convention through Sunday in Hanover, Germany, to discuss the challenges of building progressive Jewish communities in European countries.

■ Zvi Gitelman, a political science and Judaic studies professor at the University of Michigan, delivers a lecture at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on "Why they killed their neighbors: Holocaust-era pogroms in eastern Europe and the myth of 'Judeo-Bolshevism.'"

FRIDAY

■ The Washington Jewish Community Center launches an exhibition of contemporary artists depicting the Passover seder. It will appear through June 18.

SUNDAY

■ More than 150 imams and rabbis gather in Seville through Wednesday for the Second World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace.

■ The Eighth Annual Professional Development Conference on Holocaust Education meets in New York, organized by the education department of the American Society for Yad Vashem, and co-sponsored by the Association of the Teachers of Social Studies/United Federation of Teachers.

■ The 2006 Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education Assembly for Jewish Day School Education, will meet for three days at the Sheraton in Boston.

derstanding of the Holocaust through her work with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Beginning in April, she will turn her attention to another terrible atrocity: Greenwald was named last month as the first director of the World Trade Center Memorial Museum in New York, which will commemorate the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and their nearly 3,000 victims.

Greenwald, a veteran of several Jewish museums, said the stories of the Holocaust and Sept. 11 are both contemporary ones that have a very deep, personal impact on people that may tour the museums, but that require exhibits that can educate future generations as well.

"Where the two intersect for me in my professional life is in the area of memorialization," she said recently in her Holocaust Museum office in Washington. "We deal with great loss here at this museum, incomprehensible loss. And we deal with trying to integrate that loss into our collective understanding of history, our personal history of what it means to be a human being."

Greenwald was a member of the Holocaust Museum's original design team, working from home as a consultant after stints with Jewish museums in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Chicago. She joined the museum full-time in 2001 as its associate director for museum programs.

Gretchen Dykstra, president and CEO of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, said Greenwald immediately understood the memorial's goals.

"What struck us so quickly was how immediately she understood the sensitivity of what we were doing," she said. "She's not somebody who comes knowing a lot about 9/11, but she knows a lot about memorializing and education."

The hardest part in designing the New York museum, Greenwald said, is that "there isn't a human being on the face of the planet who doesn't have a 9/11 story."

Emotions are still very raw for those who survived the Sept. 11 attacks, and for the families of those who died. But Green-

wald has experience dealing directly with survivors and families who may visit the museum.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

"Other museums have other constituency issues, but I don't think they have to deal with the sensitivities we have" at the Holocaust Museum, she said. "We are immensely fortunate to have the voice of authentic witness."

The proximity in time to the event will be one of her biggest challenges in New York, she said.

"The institution will have to be flexible, because the world will keep moving forward and we don't know what events will recharacterize our understanding of 9/11," she said. She has watched the Holocaust Museum evolve,

noting that it was built before "Schindler's List" and other mass-media portrayals of the Shoah.

The 9/11 museum will be part of several structures planned for the area where the

World Trade Center stood. The foundation is constructing the museum and a separate memorial, Reflecting Absence, that will honor those killed on Sept. 11 and in a previous attack at the World Trade Center on Feb. 26, 1993.

"You are dealing with a site that is a burial site. People died there. That gives it a sacred quality one has to respect," Greenwald said. She compared it to the Holocaust Museum, which she said garners its power from its proximity to other memorials and buildings of power in Washington.

The 9/11 museum is slated to open on the eighth anniversary of the attacks, in 2009. Greenwald said there is much to be done before then, and is excited to be a part of this "thrilling" stage of a museum's birth.

"Each stage will have its own challenges and its own rewards," she said. She calls it a "Dayeinu situation," saying that if she can at least advance the plans, it would be enough — although she hopes to see the museum built and operating.

"We have to remember that it's about people," she said. "There's a tendency to want to memorialize the building, and there is some significance to that. But this is not a memorial to a building; it's a memorial to people." ■

Greenwald draws parallels between the Holocaust Museum and the 9/11 project.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Olmert: Hamas PM could be targeted

A Hamas prime minister could be a target for assassination if he is involved in approving terrorist attacks, Ehud Olmert said.

"Anyone who is involved in planning terrorist attacks would be a legitimate target for liquidation," the interim Israeli prime minister told Yediot Achronot. Olmert gave a series of interviews last Friday to the Israeli media.

His centrist Kadima Party is favored to win elections March 28.

Three Israelis held in hate crime

Three Israelis are suspected of assaulting a Bedouin Arab who went out with a young Jewish woman.

The weekend attack near Haifa left the 20-year-old man, an army volunteer, hospitalized in critical condition.

Police said they arrested three Jews suspected of ambushing the victim and his brother with rocks and batons as they returned a Jewish woman to her home after an evening out.

The incident is being considered a hate crime.

Election ads nixed

Israel's Central Elections Committee criticized ads by both religious and secular parties.

In a weekend decision, the committee yanked a television broadcast by the religious party Shas in which its mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, promises loyal voters "a place in heaven" if they support his party in the March 28 elections.

The committee has also blasted the secular Shinui Party for an ad that showed black-hatted Orthodox Jews being dragged off the streets of Tel Aviv.

Cabinet candidate wants 'Axis of Pragmatism'

A man who may be Israel's next defense minister called for an "Axis of Pragmatism" in the Middle East.

Ami Ayalon, a former Shin Bet chief high on the Labor Party's parliamentary list, said in an interview published Sunday that if in government he would work to unite Israel with Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey against the spread of radical Islamism, he told Britain's Sunday Times newspaper.

Hamas, Abbas extend government deadline

Mahmoud Abbas gave Hamas an extra two weeks to form a government.

Hamas, the terrorist group that won a landslide victory in Jan. 25 elections, had until last Friday to present the P.A. president with a government, but the sides have yet to agree on crucial issues, including recognition of Israel and a renunciation of violence.

Ya'alon: Don't rule out force for Iran

Western nations should not rule out using military force against Iran, Israel's former military chief said.

"The military option shouldn't be excluded," Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said last Friday in New York to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "We have the capabilities to deal with it."

The U.N. Security Council is reviewing Iran's nuclear program, which analysts say is designed to produce nuclear weapons.

Hamas delegation meets with Saudis

A Hamas delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia to appeal for financial assistance.

The five-man delegation, led by Damascus-based Khaled Me-

shaal, arrived last Friday for meetings with King Abdullah and Saud al-Faisal, the foreign minister.

NORTH AMERICA

Dubai firm sells U.S. operations

Dubai Ports World announced it would sell its U.S. operations to an American company.

The move was, in part, a nod to congressional pressure that cited the United Arab Emirates' adherence to the Arab boycott.

Edward Bilkey, chief operating officer of the UAE-based maritime company, made the announcement Thursday, March 9 just hours after Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives informed President Bush that Congress would scuttle a deal granting the company control of operations at six major U.S. ports.

Near the top of Congress' list of grievances was the UAE's participation in the Arab boycott of Israel.

Dubai Ports World is owned by the UAE government, which enforces the boycott.

NYC mayor suspends imam

New York City's mayor suspended the head imam of the city's jail system. The move by Michael Bloomberg regarding Umar Abdul-Jalil came after the New York Post reported that the imam made several anti-American and anti-Israel comments in an April 2005 speech, including saying that Muslims in America should stop letting "the Zionists of the media to dictate what Islam is to us."

Abdul-Jalil has said the remarks were taken out of context.

Report: Slaughterhouse violated cruelty rules

A kosher slaughterhouse in Iowa violated animal cruelty laws, according to an internal report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Government inspectors also were faulted for sleeping on the job as well as playing video games, making faulty inspections, taking gifts of meat and failing to rectify sanitation issues at the AgriProcessors plant, The New York Times reported.

The plant raised the hackles of animal rights activists in 2004 when a videotape by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals showed workers pulling out animals' tracheas after their throats had been cut, leaving them staggering around as they tried to bellow in pain. The plant later changed its practices.

The Agriculture Department suspended one of its inspectors for two weeks and issued warning letters to two others, a spokesman told the Times, but Iowa officials did not find prosecutable offenses.

WORLD

Elderly Jew beaten in Paris

A 70-year-old Parisian Jew was struck in the head by a man who called her a "dirty Jew."

The woman, who runs a kosher soup kitchen, pressed charges against her attacker, who was described as a 30-year-old man of North African origin. Sammy Ghozlan, president of the National Office of Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, said that a wave of anti-Semitic attacks following the recent torture and murder of Ilan Halimi, a young Jewish man, has terrified the Jewish community.

Spain marks bombing anniversary

Rabbis joined their Christian and Muslim counterparts in marking the second anniversary of the Madrid train bombings.

Children placed wreaths at the Forest of Remembrance, a column erected to honor those killed in the March 11, 2004, bombings that killed 191 people.