

IN THE NEWS

Immigration law upheld in Israel

Israel's top court upheld a controversial law that prevents Palestinians married to Israeli Arabs from living in Israel.

The High Court of Justice, by a vote of 6-5, rejected petitions Sunday against the 2003 immigration law.

Israeli officials called it a security measure, but civil rights groups said the law is an attempt to limit Arab population growth in the country.

American teen dies of bomb wounds

An American teenager died of wounds sustained in last month's Tel Aviv suicide bombing.

Daniel Wultz, 16, succumbed Sunday in Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, becoming the sole American fatality of the April 17 attack.

Wultz, of Weston, Fla., was visiting downtown Tel Aviv with his father over Passover when they were hit by shrapnel from a Palestinian suicide bomber.

Tuly Wultz, who suffered light injuries, went on to organize prayer campaigns for his son's recovery.

Daniel Wultz was the 11th fatality from the bombing, which was carried out by Islamic Jihad.

Another casualty, 26-year-old Israeli Lior Enidzer, died last Friday.

He had recently married.

Iranian leader rejects European offer

Iran's president rejected any proposals that call on Iran to stop enriching uranium.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made the comments Sunday.

France, Britain and Germany are trying to increase a package of incentives offered to Iran last year if the Islamic republic stops its uranium-enrichment activities.

Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, but most of the international community believes Iran is building nuclear weapons.



WORLD REPORT

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As day schools rake in mega-gifts, some see a trend in Jewish giving

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — In February, news broke that the Jim Joseph Foundation would give some \$25 million a year to Jewish education.

The previous month, the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Md., received a \$15 million gift from a family foundation. In late 2004, a group of anonymous families made a \$45 million donation to three Boston-area day schools.

These gifts followed a \$20 million gift in 2001 from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation to The Raymond and Ruth Perelman Jewish Day School, a Solomon Schechter school in Wynnewood, Pa., that is affiliated with the Conservative movement.

Until recently, gifts of that magnitude to Jewish institutions were rare. The fact that such large gifts came so close together has left some in the Jewish community asking — fingers crossed — if they bear witness to a new trend: an increasing number of Jews making mega-gifts to Jewish organizations.

Others, though, wonder whether the spike in mega-giving has more to do with a concerted effort in recent years to boost day-school awareness than with a more general philanthropic trend. They're asking whether such large gifts now can be expected in other corners of the Jewish world, or will be limited largely to the educational realm.

Jews make a highly disproportionate number of gifts of more than \$10 million in America, but overwhelmingly these gifts go to non-Jewish institutions, from universities to cultural centers to health-care organizations.

According to a 2003 study by the San Fran-

cisco-based Institute for Jewish and Community Research, while Jews gave 22 percent of America's mega-gifts between 1995 and 2000, fewer than 10 percent went to Jewish causes.

But is that changing?

Jeffrey Solomon, president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, says an increasing number of large gifts now are likely to go to Jewish groups. He sees the fund-raising successes of both the day schools and of the birthright Israel program — which brings young Jews on free, 10-day trips to Israel — as indicative of a changing standard of giving in the Jewish philanthropic world.

At a moment when Jewish communal leaders are struggling to engage Jews young and old, this development comes as welcome news.

"The trend is just beginning," said Solomon, who was a co-author on the 2003 study, along with Alex Karp and Gary Tobin, the research institute's president.

"We're going to see an increasing number of mega-gifts for Jewish causes from Jews who've been involved in the Jewish community" but haven't yet made such mega-gifts, he said. "At the same time, I think we're going to see some people who have been giving mega-gifts find compelling Jewish causes to give to."

Still, Solomon cautioned, the trend has just begun, and it may take years to come to full realization.

But Tobin isn't convinced there's a trend at all. He's in the midst of another study on mega-gifts, to be released in the fall, which he says shows that the nature of Jewish mega-gifts is not changing.

"For every gift to a Jewish day school or JCC or any Jewish institution of \$10 million

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FOCUS
ON
ISSUES

■ *Philanthropists say there are great opportunities for large gifts to Jewish organizations*

Continued from page 1

or more, you're still seeing 15 or so gifts of equal and often larger size to universities, to secular cultural institutions and to health organizations," he said.

But he added: "You cannot dismiss that some of these mega-gifts to day schools are larger than many of the mega-gifts to Jewish institutions in the past. A few mega-donors are breaking the barrier and changing the standards. It's not yet a trend, but we hope it's setting a new standard for the future, where 10 years from now we're seeing something different."

That being said, several observers and professionals at a recent conference of the Jewish Funders Network told JTA that changes are indeed afoot — and they stem from several sources.

First is the general growth in private philanthropy, including a sizable increase in mega-gifts. In 2003, 104 gifts of \$10 million or more in the United States were reported in Giving USA, an annual report on U.S. philanthropy. In 2004, the last year for which data are available, 140 such gifts were reported.

Second is the growing awareness among Jewish causes of what attracts large gifts. Chief among such elements is the ability to inspire confidence that these gifts will be properly managed and will have maximum impact and longevity.

"Jewish people are giving Jewishly when they understand the need," said real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist Harold Grinspoon, founder of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

About half of all mega-gifts in the general nonprofit world have gone to universities. These gifts often take the form of endowments and are intended to address school needs in perpetuity. Properly managed, these gifts offer donors both impact and longevity.

"You need the same kind of confidence in a Jewish organization, that it's got the stability and all the elements to meet needs and to go on using the funds both appropriately and effectively," Solomon said.

When philanthropist Lynn Schusterman looks to make a gift, she wants to see not only that the recipient organization has the capacity to use the gift effectively, but that it offers "hope for the future."

"I see both birthright, especially, and BBYO," a Jewish youth group, "targeting an area that I think is vitally important: the unaffiliated," she said. But, "there are definitely still some groups that I would hesitate to give that kind of money to."

Perhaps the major change in the past decade, said Mark Charendoff, president of the Jewish Funders Network — a network of family foundations, public philanthropies and individual funders — is the emergence of partnerships like birthright israel and the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Pooling resources with others has "really allowed people to have far more ambitious goals for what they want to accomplish with their money," he said.

"Any of these things is enormously difficult to do by yourself," he said. "If you want to really solve a problem, it takes serious capital and it's got to be an ongoing commitment. And it takes an enormous amount of energy — and that's very difficult to do by yourself."

Among the best-known examples of such partnerships is birthright, which initially attracted 20 gifts of \$5 million or more.

Individuals also are getting involved in philanthropy at a younger age than in the past, Charendoff said.

"The more you get into philanthropy, the hungrier you get for impact," he said. "As

philanthropists in the Jewish world begin to talk to each other more, they're beginning to raise their sights."

Still, it's not enough for everyone.

"There could be 50" such gifts, "but there aren't," said Schusterman, whose Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation last year made 85 percent of its gifts to Jew-

ish causes. "I can't tell you the opportunities that are out there" for making major gifts to Jewish organizations.

Schusterman recently announced a \$6 million challenge grant to the University of Texas at Austin aimed at creating a Jewish studies department.

If indeed Jews are beginning to give more of their large

gifts to Jewish groups, it would mirror giving patterns in the general population. According to Giving USA, of the \$248.52 billion of philanthropic money raised in 2004, more than 35 percent went to religious organizations, and nearly 14 percent went toward educational causes.

Could the slew of large day-school gifts, and a number in other realms — for example, on the same day Kimmel gave \$20 million to the Philadelphia-area Schechter school, he gave another \$20 million to the city's Jewish federation; the following year he made a \$25 million gift to the city's National Museum of American Jewish History as part of its \$135 million capital campaign — indicate something other than a new philanthropic trend?

According to Eric Levine, vice president for Renaissance and Renewal at the United Jewish Communities, the federation system's umbrella group, a major push has been made in recent years to inform funders about the importance of Jewish education, and a higher level of sophistication has been achieved in approaching major funders. The recent gifts could be an outgrowth of this rather than an indication of a larger shift.

"I think Jewish education has grabbed a little bit more of the awareness than before, and there is an increased awareness, specifically, on funding day-school education," he said. "I guess we are seeing some movement — just how dramatic and ongoing it will be remains to be seen." ■

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Mark Charendoff

President, Jewish Funders Network

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Jews reach out on immigration reform

By RACHEL SILVERMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) — When Josh Protas, director of Tucson's Jewish Community Relations Council, lobbies for immigration reform, he doesn't enlist help

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

- The 12-nation commission governing access to Holocaust archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany meets in Luxembourg. Now that Germany has dropped its objections, the commission is expected to allow general access, opening up the last major trove of Holocaust-era documents.

- Jewish leaders meet at the White House with Stephen Hadley, the national security adviser, to discuss the visit next week of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

- "From Farfel to Falafel: Food, Wine and Jewish Culture" continues through Tuesday at the University of California, Davis. The conference brings a variety of academics and cookbook writers together to explore various aspects of Jewish cuisine and the role of food and wine in Jewish culture.

TUESDAY

- The Senate Health Committee hears testimony from Jewish federation officials on the need for continued federal support of naturally occurring retirement communities.

WEDNESDAY

- Tikkun launches a "Spiritual Activism Conference" conference in Washington through Saturday, to culminate in a "Spiritual Covenant with America." The conference will include a "pray-in for peace" outside the White House.

SUNDAY

- The music school at Catholic University in Washington performs "Defiant Requiem" at the site of the Terezin concentration camp in the Czech Republic. The work, by the school's dean, Murry Sidlin, chronicles the true story of how Jewish museums at the showcase camp performed Verdi's work as an act of defiance.

- Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert arrives in Washington for a five-day visit, during which he will meet with President Bush and address a joint session of Congress.

- University presidents and Jewish communal leaders will attend "Inspiring Values; Creating Leaders," the first international summit of academia and Jewish communal leadership. Held through May 23 in Washington, the event will explore the relationship between the Jewish community and academia.

just from his own community.

Instead, his call list includes Catholic and Presbyterian churches, local Latino agencies, imams, bishops, pastors and rabbis.

As Protas will tell you, Jewish community leaders pushing immigration reform are forging a growing number of interfaith and interethnic partnerships.

These coalitions are working to improve life for the country's illegal immigrant population, which the Pew Hispanic Center, a Washington-based research organization, estimates at 11 million to 12 million people.

Repairing the nation's border policies has become a hot issue in recent months, as immigration rallies have swept the country and Congress has been considering a number of reform bills.

A comprehensive immigration reform package, which would create pathways for legalization, a guest worker program, enforcement mechanisms and expedited family reunification, is slated to return to the Senate floor this week after several weeks of political stalemate.

While some faith communities have obvious reasons to join the dialogue — the Catholic church has a large Hispanic constituency, for example — some wonder why Jews join the fray.

The answer can be traced, in part, back to Ellis Island.

"We are motivated from trying to learn the lessons from our own history about the benefits of a generous immigration policy and the dangers of a restrictive policy," said Stacey Burdett, the Anti-Defamation League's associate director of government affairs.

Other Jewish groups say the Torah compels them to act.

"We're paying heed to the biblical directive that we're to treat the stranger among us well," said Richard Foltin, the American Jewish Committee's legisla-

tive director and counsel.

National security matters also weigh heavily on the Jewish community.

"When there's a large illegal flow we don't know who's coming in, and we're not effectively able to keep people out

who may want to do us harm," Foltin said. "The way we see it, providing for comprehensive immigration reform is not a security problem, it's a way to address the security problem."

Jewish groups also say they can't ignore the needs of

the nation's largest and fastest-growing minority.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Jewish groups cite diverse motivations such as Ellis Island, the Torah and national security when explaining their activism on the immigration issue.

"If we want to be active partners with these organizations, we can't look at issues of paramount importance to these communities and say we don't see it as a Jewish issue, so we're going to sit it out," said Gideon Aronoff, president and CEO of the Hebrew Immigrant

Aid Society. "We've got to nurture our common agendas — then we can get them to engage in our other issues, like Israel."

Hadar Susskind, Washington director for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, agreed, citing the Latino community's growing clout.

"When people see tens of thousands taking to the street in peaceful protest, I think that generates a lot of energy around the country," he said. "That energy has been contagious and has set into the Jewish community, as well."

In some cases, Jewish groups have underscored their common agenda with Latino organizations by putting immigration in the limelight.

Meanwhile over the past several years, Arizona Jewish leaders have participated in a statewide immigration conference, formed a Jewish-Latino coalition for teenagers and visited the U.S.-Mexico border with interfaith colleagues.

It's hard to ignore a "humanitarian crisis" playing out "in our backyard," Protas said. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

Olmert aides to Washington

Senior Israeli officials traveled to Washington to prepare for Ehud Olmert's visit.

Yoram Turbowitz, a senior aide to the prime minister, and veteran adviser Dov Weisglass flew out to the United States on Saturday for preparatory talks in the White House.

President Bush is to receive Olmert there next week for their first summit.

The prime minister is expected to push for U.S. recognition of, and financing for, Olmert's "convergence plan," under which Israel would withdraw from parts of the West Bank and annex others.

According to Israeli sources, Olmert may also be preparing to rebuff possible proposals by Bush to restart peace negotiations with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Autopsy shows Jewish leader had heart attack

Longtime Jewish community leader Jay Yoskowitz died of a heart attack, an autopsy found.

Yoskowitz, who was 59, passed away hours after burying both of his parents in New York earlier this month.

Senior vice president at the American Technion Society at the time of his death, Yoskowitz served in top positions at the Council of Jewish Federations, United Israel Appeal, Jewish National Fund and B'nai B'rith, and at federations in Iowa, Connecticut and Texas.

Following the funeral of his parents, Yoskowitz returned home to begin the mourning period when he apparently choked on some food and could not be revived.

An autopsy revealed, however, that he had suffered a heart attack.

Alabama politician denies Holocaust

A candidate for Alabama's attorney general denied the Holocaust. Larry Darby, a Democrat, said last Friday that only 140,000 Jews died in the Holocaust, and that the 6 million number agreed to by historians is a false claim propagated by the "Holocaust industry," The Associated Press reported.

Darby was scheduled to speak Sunday at a white supremacist meeting in New Jersey. A spokesman for Alabama's Democratic Party said his party is looking into the situation regarding Darby, who is running in the June 6 primary.

"Any type of hatred toward groups of people, especially for political gain, is completely unacceptable in the Alabama Democratic Party," Joe Turnham said.

MIDDLE EAST

Three Palestinians slain

Israeli troops killed three Palestinians in West Bank clashes.

Soldiers sent to arrest Palestinian fugitives in the town of Kabatiya on Sunday came under fire and shot back, killing two armed members of Islamic Jihad.

In nearby Jenin, troops wounded five Palestinians, one fatally.

Palestinians identified the Jenin casualties as members of the local security forces. It was not immediately clear if they had terrorist links.

Livni endorses bills on P.A.

Israel's foreign minister endorsed efforts in the U.S. Congress to tighten restrictions on dealings with the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.

In a Cabinet meeting Sunday, Tzipi Livni "emphasized the importance of the bipartisan efforts in both houses of Congress to increase restrictions on aid to the Hamas government while keeping the option of continued humanitarian assistance," a statement from the Foreign Ministry said.

U.N. official: Israel responsible for Palestinians

Israel bears responsibility for Palestinian welfare, the U.N. human rights chief said.

Louise Arbour, a Canadian judge who is the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said both sides are to blame for the human rights crisis in the region.

The Palestinian Authority "has the urgent duty to do everything in its power to maintain law and order, prevent attacks on Israeli civilians, investigate those attacks that have taken place, and bring to justice those responsible," she said in Geneva.

However, as the "occupying power," Arbour said, Israel bears responsibility for Palestinians' welfare, and she called on Israel to facilitate the entry of goods into the Gaza Strip.

Putin, Abbas to meet

Vladimir Putin will host Mahmoud Abbas this week. The presidents of Russia and the Palestinian Authority will meet Monday in the southern Russian resort of Sochi.

Russia gave the Palestinian Authority \$10 million last month.

Court charges alleged Ze'evi assassins

An Israeli court charged four Palestinians in the assassination of Israeli Cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Israel snatched the men, who belong to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, from a Jericho prison in March after the newly elected Hamas government said it would release them.

Palestinians detained the men under international pressure soon after Ze'evi was killed in 2001, but they were never tried.

Banai dead at 74

Yossi Banai, an Israeli cultural icon, died May 11 at age 74. Banai was buried at Kibbutz Givat Hashlosha last Friday.

He was a member of Israel's leading entertainment family and was a giant of the Israeli stage and recording business.

WORLD

Soccer fans warned on World Cup behavior

Racist and anti-Semitic behavior at this summer's World Cup in Germany could result in their country's expulsion from the tournament, a soccer official warned.

Sepp Blatter, head of FIFA, the managing body of world soccer, told the Sunday Times of London that racist behavior by the fans, players or management at this summer's World Cup in Germany could result in a country's expulsion in the tournament.

There have been stories recently on the planned activities at the World Cup by racist soccer hooligans from Eastern Europe known for embracing violence and anti-Semitic slogans and even Hitler as their inspiration.

The groups have sworn to engage in fierce battles with rivals at the World Cup to be held in Berlin from June 9 to July 9.

To create a positive atmosphere at the event, players will display banners saying "no" to racism and discrimination before each World Cup match.

Beginning with the quarter-finals, the captain of each team will swear an anti-racist oath.