

**IN THE NEWS**
**Rice arrives  
in Middle East**

Condoleezza Rice called on Palestinian factions to stop their internecine violence. The U.S. secretary of state made the comments Tuesday, shortly after arriving in the region on a tour aiming to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"Innocent Palestinians are caught in the cross-fire and we call on all parties to stop," Rice said in Saudi Arabia. On Wednesday, Rice is slated to travel to Israel, where she will meet with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

**Fatah gunmen  
threaten Hamas leaders**

Gunmen from Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction threatened to assassinate leaders of the rival Hamas. The Al-Aksa Brigade issued a statement Tuesday blaming Hamas for a flare-up in factional fighting in the Gaza Strip and vowed to execute the radical Islamic group's leader abroad, Khaled Meshaal.

The statement broke new ground in domestic Palestinian tensions and followed a weekend of clashes in which 12 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

**U.S. chaplains  
can't mention Jesus**

The U.S. Congress rescinded language in Pentagon orders that allowed military chaplains to mention Jesus in official prayers. Controversy over including similar language in the Defense Authorization Act, a critical spending bill, dogged attempts to pull the bill out of a Senate-House of Representatives conference before Congress suspended for midterm elections.

The conferees ultimately decided to strike the language and order the Pentagon to rescind its earlier instructions.

**Because of Sukkot, the JTA World Report will not be published Mon., Oct. 9**

# WORLD REPORT

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## Pro-Israel political funds in U.S. target friendly incumbents — and challengers

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) moved out of one political home when Democrats rejected him in an August primary, but an influx of campaign cash since his loss shows he's more welcome than ever in another — the pro-Israel community.

Since he lost the Democratic party's nomination — and its financial backing — for his Senate seat, Lieberman has become the top fundraiser among American Jews whose primary political focus is support for Israel.

Insiders say Lieberman is expected to earn as much as \$2 million from pro-Israel donors, about one-tenth of his total projected war chest.

Other candidates topping the list of pro-Israel financial support include Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.); Sheldon Whitehouse, who is challenging Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-R.I.); Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.); and Brad Ellsworth, who is challenging U.S. Rep. John Hostettler (R-Ind.).

The money is being raised by a loose network of donors, many of whom have strong ties to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby. Other Jewish donors may make Israel a high priority but also consider domestic issues, including reproductive choice, church-state separation and other social and welfare policy concerns.

With Democrats and Republicans vying for control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the Nov. 7 elections have generated an unusually high level of political donations and spending. Jewish donors, often central to

political fund-raising, are deeply engaged once again.

Numbers are hard to track, but multi-issue Jewish givers are believed to give much more overall than single-issue, pro-Israel donors.

Among the trends in pro-Israel money, fund-raisers say, is a rush to defend endangered Israel-friendly incumbents, the majority of whom are Republicans. There is also significant support directed toward challengers of incumbents who are not considered friendly to Israel.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, several Lieberman donors told JTA that the iconic Jewish politician is drawing heavy support from Republican as well as Democratic Jewish donors. Lieberman, who was the Democratic vice presidential candidate in 2000, is running as an independent after his primary loss, but has pledged to support the Democratic caucus if re-elected.

Lieberman backers have hosted major fund-raisers in Connecticut; in Boca Raton, Fla.; in Chicago; and in northern New Jersey. Those events earn a minimum of \$50,000, and a mid-October event in Los Angeles is expected to bring in \$1 million, organizers said.

"Joe's experience and his commitment to the State of Israel would be a huge loss" if he were ousted from the Senate, said Marvin Lender, a Connecticut entrepreneur and longtime Lieberman backer who has contributed to his campaign.

Few believe that Ned Lamont, the cable TV millionaire whose anti-Iraq war campaign defeated Lieberman in the Democratic primary, won't be supportive on Israel. Indeed, Lamont explains his opposition to the Iraq war by

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**FOCUS  
ON  
ISSUES**

## ■ *With control of Congress on the line, Jews have emerged as important donors*

*Continued from page 1*

saying that it strengthened Iran, Israel's deadliest rival.

But Lieberman's long record defending Israel, not to mention his strong Jewish identification, makes him the favorite for pro-Israel funders, Lender said.

Other major beneficiaries of pro-Israel munificence in midterm elections for the Senate include Santorum, Menendez, Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Sen. Jim Talent (R-Mo.).

Along with Lieberman, those senators have three things in common that are sure-fire magnets for pro-Israel money: They're incumbents, they're very friendly to Israel and their re-election prospects are grim.

"I believe in loyalty: You help people who were there when you needed them," said Lonnie Kaplan. Kaplan is the self-identified Democrat leading pro-Israel funding for Santorum, who is fighting an uphill battle against challenger Bob Casey, the Pennsylvania state treasurer.

Kaplan would not say how much pro-Israel money was raised for Santorum, but some reports have indicated that it is \$1 million of the \$21 million the embattled campaign has brought in so far.

Two Democratic non-incumbents benefitting from pro-Israel largesse are Whitehouse, a former Rhode Island attorney general hoping to unseat Chafee; and Ellsworth, an Indiana sheriff taking aim at Hostettler. Both challengers are leading the incumbents in polls, thanks in part to the infusion of pro-Israel funds.

Whitehouse can thank Chafee for the estimated \$1 million in pro-Israel funding

he's expected to attract across the country. Chafee, a Rhode Island moderate, is consistently cool on Israel, and didn't help himself earlier this month when he delayed confirmation of John Bolton, the strongly pro-Israel ambassador to the United Nations. Chafee cited Israel's settlement policy in explaining the delay on Bolton.

In Indiana, Hostettler, who often votes against legislation backed by AIPAC, is a social conservative, making him an especially tempting target for Jews, who tend to be overwhelmingly liberal-to-moderate.

In some races, those values ultimately clash: For many Jews, Santorum's strong pro-Israel support is not enough to offset his hard-line opposition to abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and support for tax cuts and expanding the government's subpoena powers.

His opponent, Casey, is getting far less purely pro-Israel money but overall, he is getting more Jewish money than Santorum's \$1 million, insiders say. Casey has easily raised \$3 million among Jews in Pennsylvania and other states such as New York and California, political insiders say.

A face-off between single-issue, pro-Israel givers who back friendly incumbents, and liberal Jewish donors who back challengers who also have proved their pro-Israel bona fides — is occurring in several states.

In Montana, Jews are giving to Sen. Conrad Burns, a Republican, and to his challenger, Jon Tester, the Montana Senate president. The same is true in a House race in Florida, where long-serving Republican Rep. Clay Shaw is fighting back Ron Klein, who is Jewish and the minority leader in the state Senate.

Shaw is getting much more purely pro-Israel cash than is Klein, while Klein, who also is supportive of Israel, is getting more money from Jews in general.

It's hard to assess overall giving levels, because individuals are likelier to donate directly to the campaign instead of to political action committees, which have a \$10,000 limit to any particular candidate in an election season. Direct donations are

more appealing because they offer better access and are difficult to trace.

The Center for Responsive Politics tracked 33 pro-Israel PACs that had given \$2,096,782 by the beginning of September, including \$1,135,383 to Democrats and \$873,899 to Republicans. Insiders say PACs account for about 10 percent of overall donations made by donors concerned primarily about Israel.

Many of the House incumbents earning pro-Israel attention are Republicans, including Reps. Curt Weldon and Jim Gerlach in Pennsylvania and Reps. Chris Shays and Rob Simmons in Connecticut.

That's partly because it's mostly incumbent Republicans, reeling from bad news in Iraq and an economy that many middle-class Americans still find daunting, who face strong challenges this season.

At the same time, Jews are heavily supporting some of their Democratic challengers, including Lois Murphy in Pennsylvania, who is challenging Gerlach.

"Some of it is legitimately attributable to this phenomenon of Republicans in power," said Steve Rabinowitz, a Clinton administration communications official who is a Democratic strategist. "The pro-Israel money goes grossly disproportionately to incumbents who have been good on Israel."

He expressed concern, however, that pro-Israel givers have been swayed by an aggressive Republican campaign to draw Jewish donors away from the Democrats, the party Jewish voters overwhelmingly have favored.

"Turning Israel into a partisan issue is just about the worst thing that can happen," Rabinowitz said. "Why would an Israel supporter want to make it a wedge issue?"

Republican Jews say Democrats have the problem, citing surveys that show rank-and-file Democrats much likelier to favor a more balanced U.S. approach to Israeli-Arab issues.

"We're illuminating the fact that support for Israel is eroding within the Democratic Party," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "They need to address the root causes."

I believe in loyalty: You help people who were there when you needed them.

**Lonnie Kaplan**  
Democratic fund raiser

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# Israeli troops out of Lebanon

By DAN BARON

**ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER (JTA)** — Israel's war with Hezbollah ended much the way it was waged — unpredictably, and with a good deal of self-doubt.

"It's over, Mom," one soldier muttered into his cell phone as he crossed back from Lebanese territory at the Israeli border village of Zarit before dawn Sunday.

One of his comrades jauntily clutched an Israeli flag. The rest abstained from ceremony, boarding buses ahead of the sleepy ride back home or to their bases.

The lack of fanfare was a departure from Israel's last Lebanon withdrawal, in 2000, and its 2005 pullout from the Gaza Strip.

Back then, journalists were encouraged to turn out en masse for the departing tanks and troops and the locking of border fences. This time around, the maneuvers seemed almost furtive.

"Our priority is security for our forces, of course, but I won't deny that no one felt a great need to trumpet this withdrawal," one Israeli source said. "There is a sense that the war began and ended, somehow, out of our control."

The observation appeared to be confirmed by Sunday afternoon, when the United Nations announced — contrary to Israeli declarations — that the withdrawal was not quite complete. Some soldiers remained in the northern half of Ghajar, a village bisected by the Israeli-Lebanese border but whose residents claim allegiance to neighboring Syria.

"I expect that they will leave this area in the course of the week, thus completing the withdrawal in line with Resolution 1701," said Maj. Gen. Alain Pellegrini, commander of the UNIFIL peacekeeper force in southern Lebanon.

He was referring to the U.N. Security Council resolution of Aug. 14, which halted Israel's monthlong war with Hezbollah on the promise that peacekeepers and Lebanese troops would take over and police the Iranian-backed militia's former strongholds.

Israel later confirmed that it had not left the Lebanese half of Ghajar. Israeli officials said they would leave Ghajar once security arrangements are complete.

On Monday, a Hezbollah leader said violence could resume if Israel did not

leave Ghajar and Shebaa Farms, a portion of the Golan Heights that Israel won from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and that Lebanon suddenly claimed after the Israeli withdrawal in 2000.

The United Nations checked the Lebanese claim and found it baseless, ruling that the status of the area should be decided between Israel and Syria.

As day broke Sunday above the orchards and hills of the border, the Hezbollah flags and armed patrols that had been a menacing presence for the past

six years were gone. Instead, a Lebanese army helicopter buzzed overhead, and blue-helmeted U.N. peacekeepers could be seen taking up positions.

"Finally, I can go out with my children without feeling we are being tracked by Hezbollah gunmen," said Eitan Davidi, chairman of the Fence Communities Forum. "We won the war."

But there was little Israeli jubilation at the pullout, which coincided with the somber run-up to Yom Kippur. Israel went to war after Hezbollah killed eight of its soldiers and abducted two in a July 12 raid. The fact that Hezbollah was pushed back from the border fell short of early Israeli promises to crush the militia and retrieve the two hostages.

The loss of 157 Israelis, some of them to thousands of Hezbollah rockets fired across the border, undermined Israel's

sense of national security.

In a round of media interviews, military chief Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz described Israel's performance during the Lebanon offensive as "mediocre."

The country's biggest newspaper, Yediot Achronot, mentioned the withdrawal

on its front page, alongside an expansive analysis of how well Israel could expect to fare in an exchange of ballistic missiles with its archfoe, Iran.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been at pains to highlight the

strategic gains of the war, noting the U.N. intervention in southern Lebanon and arguing that Israel has boosted its deterrence in the face of Iran and Syria, another Hezbollah patron.

But dissent has reached as deep as Olmert's own Cabinet. According to a Ha'aretz expose, one of Olmert's closest colleagues, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, campaigned for an "exit strategy" early in the war. Another Cabinet member, Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, predicted that the calm on the Israel-Lebanon border would not last.

"Whoever is banking on us gaining security from the Lebanese army's presence in the south is delusional," Ben-Eliezer, a former defense minister, told Army Radio. "I believe we'll be seeing all the usual sights of a Hezbollah presence very soon."



## Tent introduces Polish Jewish museum

By DINAH A. SPRITZER

**PRAGUE (JTA)** — A giant tent made its debut recently on the future site of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

The 796-square-foot Ohel, or tent in Hebrew, is intended to introduce the concept of the Warsaw museum with temporary exhibitions. The museum will open in 2008 or 2009.

Made out of metal and plastic, the structure was launched with an exhibi-

tion on the museum's vision to showcase 1,000 years of Polish Jewish history.

It is located next to a monument to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. A series of Jewish-themed lectures, films and musical performances is scheduled to take place there.

The museum is running a children's program in the tent, beginning with children from the Lauder Morasha Jewish School in Warsaw creating sukkah ornaments and learning about Sukkot traditions.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Israel attacks suspected terrorists

Up to five people were wounded when Israel fired missiles on suspected Palestinian terrorists traveling in the Gaza Strip.

No one was killed in Tuesday's strikes on two cars. Israel said the cars contained individuals involved in rocket attacks against the southern Israeli town of Sderot.

#### Group alleges outpost expansion

An Israeli watchdog group accused West Bank settlers of expanding outposts "under cover" of the Lebanon war. Peace Now said in a report Tuesday that 31 outposts, built without government authorization, were expanded this summer while Israeli authorities were focused on the war with Hezbollah.

The Yesha settler council denied the charge, and accused Peace Now of disgracing the memory of 11 West Bank settlers killed in the army while fighting in Lebanon.

Under the U.S.-led "road map" peace plan with the Palestinians, Israel is obligated to freeze settlement expansion and dismantle illegal outposts erected since March 2001.

Implementation has been spotty, but Cabinet members such as Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defense Minister Amir Peretz have recently called for a crackdown in order to maintain Israel's diplomatic credibility.

#### Israeli minister predicts another war

An Israeli Cabinet minister said another war with Hezbollah could be imminent.

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, Israel's national infrastructure minister and former defense minister, said Tuesday that the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers and the Lebanese army in former Hezbollah strongholds was no guarantee that the current quiet would hold.

"I predict another war with Hezbollah within months," Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio. "We must not take lightly Hezbollah's rhetoric about the Lebanese army's presence in southern Lebanon being no guarantee of security for Israel."

We should rehabilitate the Israel Defense Forces and the home front as fast as possible."

#### P.A. cuts off Israeli fuel company

The Palestinian Authority plans to stop buying from a top Israeli gas company.

Israel's Dor Alon announced Tuesday that as of 2007, it would no longer supply gasoline for vehicles and cooking gas to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Authority made the decision after it failed to talk Dor Alon into reducing its prices.

Dor Alon has been the sole supplier of fuels to the Palestinian Authority, sales that made up a third of the company's income. A rival Israeli company, Paz Oil Co., is in talks with the Palestinian Authority on a new contract.

### WORLD

#### Austrian extremists gain in elections

Two far-right parties with a history of anti-Jewish rhetoric made gains in Austrian elections. National elections held over the weekend saw a 50 percent rise since 2002 elections in the percentage of votes for the Freedom Party and the Alliance for Austria's Future.

Members of both parties have expressed antipathy toward Israel and are known for their campaigns against Muslims living in Austria. The left-leaning Social Democrats won the election with nearly 36

percent of the vote, followed by the center-right People's Party with 34 percent.

The Freedom Party came in third with 11 percent and the Alliance for Austria's Future, run by right-wing extremist Jorg Haider, received 4 percent of the vote. The Social Democrats and People's Party are expected to form a governing coalition.

#### Skinheads attack Jewish youths in Belgium

A group of skinheads attacked two young Jews in Antwerp, Belgium. The Belga press agency reported that the two, students at the Etz Chaim Yeshiva of Wilrijk, the suburb where the attack took place, were at a bus stop Monday when four skinheads attacked them. Police arrived at the scene quickly but the attackers had fled.

Kouky Frohman, chairman of the Forum of Jewish Organizations in Belgium, called the security situation for Antwerp's Jews "very difficult."

#### Remains of Czech Jewish cemetery found

Evidence of a medieval Jewish cemetery was discovered in the Czech Republic. Researchers from a preservationist organization in the city of Pilsen say they found documents in the city archive revealing details of what they believe was one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Czech lands in the 14th century.

The cemetery's existence was already known, said archaeologist Radek Siroky of the West Bohemian Institute for Heritage Conservation and Documentation, but the new documents reveal more specifics about its location. He said that only excavations, approved by religious authorities, could provide more details about the cemetery's size and the nature of the Jewish community there.

#### British Jewish girls school ranked high

A Jewish high school for girls in London has received top honors. The Yesodey Hatorah Senior Girls School, located in the largely Jewish north London neighborhood of Stamford Hill, was ranked as "outstanding" by the Office for Standards in Education.

The recent report lauded the school's blend of secular and faith-based curricula. About 10 percent of British public schools received such a rating.

### NORTH AMERICA

#### Reform condemns interrogation bill

The Reform movement condemned the U.S. Congress for passing a bill that allows President Bush to determine what interrogation methods constitute torture. The Military Commissions Act, passed last week by both houses of Congress, did not redefine the Geneva Conventions, as the president had wanted, but granted him considerable leeway in defining torture.

"We are taught in Deuteronomy, 'Justice, justice, shall you pursue,' " Reform's Religious Action Center said in a statement. "The legislation flies in the face of this exhortation to seek justice through just means."

#### States honor Raoul Wallenberg

Seven U.S. states will honor Holocaust-era hero Raoul Wallenberg on Thursday. Governors in Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey and West Virginia signed a proclamation making Oct. 5, 2006, a day to honor Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat in Budapest during World War II who risked his life to rescue tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.

New York celebrates the day every year. Wallenberg disappeared into the Soviet gulag shortly after the Soviets liberated the city in 1945.