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for tea



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May 20, 2002

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
The Wexner Foundation
551 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Herb:

Okay. The temptation was so great that I set aside some planned reading and took the time to at least skim read your May 14th letter and attachments.

The project still is an enormously ambitious undertaking. It will require tremendous leadership, knowledgeable, informed and serious leadership.

Are you satisfied that such leadership exists, is committed and is in place?

More, pardon me for having only skimmed it and therefore perhaps missed a point, but it does seem to me that existing and truly significant institutions (The Camp Ramah movement, JTS, The Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, etc., etc.) are not only omitted by name but the plan appears intended to bypass them and create a whole new infrastructure. There are, of course, two exceptions of named institutions – and the reasons seem to be self evident!

If my reading is incorrect, forgive me.

If my reading is correct, I predict it to be a fatal flaw of far reaching consequences to the entire community, beyond this effort.

Tea?

Best wishes,

JTA, Dec. 24, 2001

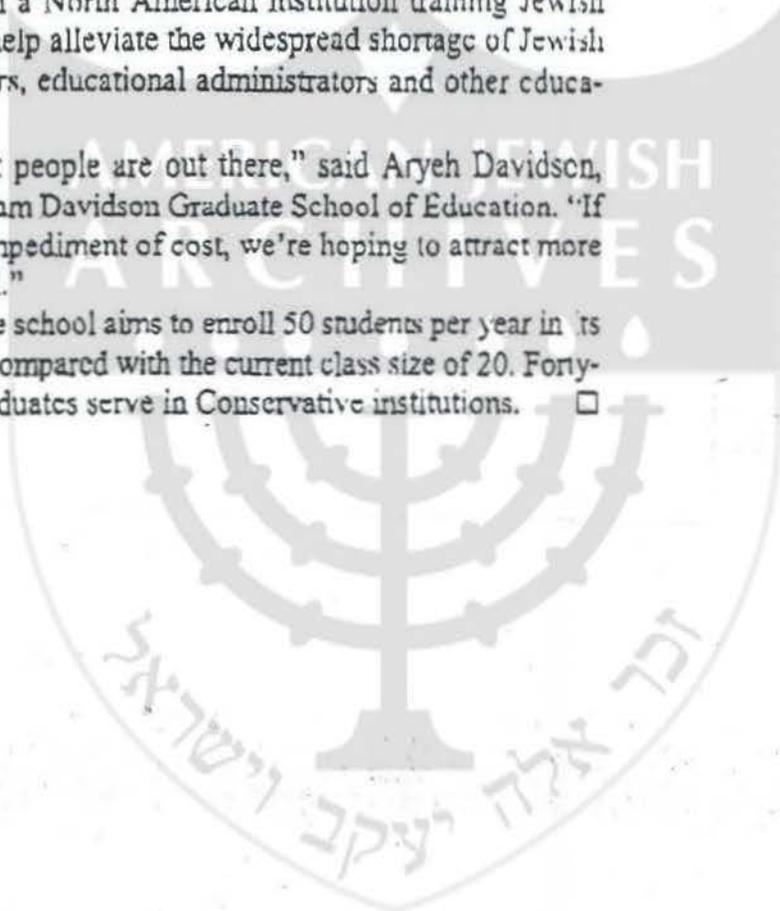
Fellowships intended for educators

NEW YORK (JTA) — A North American program training for Jewish educators is offering 30 full-tuition fellowships each year.

The Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary is hoping the new merit-based fellowships — the most extensive available so far in a North American institution training Jewish educators — will help alleviate the widespread shortage of Jewish day school teachers, educational administrators and other educators.

"We feel that people are out there," said Aryeh Davidson, dean of JTS' William Davidson Graduate School of Education. "If we minimize the impediment of cost, we're hoping to attract more people to this field."

Eventually, the school aims to enroll 50 students per year in its masters program, compared with the current class size of 20. Forty-five percent of graduates serve in Conservative institutions. □



HERBERT FRIEDMAN

FROM JTA (212) 643-8498 1/7/02

JTA Daily News Bulletin

JEWISH WORLD

Big dollars urged for education

A new report calls for an investment of more than \$2.5 billion in Jewish education. "Talking Dollars and Sense About Jewish Education" by Jewish Theological Seminary Provost Jack Wertheimer, estimates that improving Jewish day schools and congregational schools in North America is a multibillion-dollar endeavor.

Wertheimer's report, sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation and the American Jewish Committee, factors in plans to dramatically increase enrollment in Jewish day schools, build new facilities and recruit and train teachers.

It also notes the need for significantly more investment in Jewish early childhood programs, camping and youth work. "The needs of the field are vast," the report says.

Source of Information

1. JESNA - re schools

- What is the ~~or~~ average cost of building an elementary school K-8 for 300 students?
- What is the average annual operating budget for such a school?
- What is the average tuition charge for such a school?

2. HIAS, NYANA, AJC (Bayme)

- How many Russian immigrants came to U.S.^m 1991-2001? (400,000)?
- How many received any kind of Jewish education in basic history + religion?
What did that cost per capita?

Stephen Kraus at Jesna gave me figures
referred me to

will call
back

JACK WERTHEIMER at J.T.S. 678-8000
Direct Line 678-8065 ext. 8869 531-2572

Construction A.

K-8 average 6-10 ; large citiv - 30
9-12 average 40-50

annual
operating
budget

B. 8000 X per number of pupils -

school of 300 = 2.5 m ; school of 500 = 4 m.

Denver - 405 pupils
X 7287 = 3.0 m.

tuition

C. 8000 - 10,000

10,000
7,500

5000000
70000

25,000,000



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 46

Friday, March 8, 2002

85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. envoy to return to Mideast

President Bush is sending envoy Anthony Zinni back to the Middle East. "The United States will do all it can to help the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority restore hope to their people and to the region," Bush said.

The Bush administration had previously said it wouldn't send Zinni unless Palestinian violence decreased. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he welcomed Zinni's return to the region.

Vice President Dick Cheney also will be in the region next week, and probably would have heard Arab concerns about U.S. inactivity in the region had Zinni's mission not been announced, government sources said.

Earlier Thursday, the U.S. State Department urged Israel to halt its anti-terror operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israel Defense Force operations "clearly work against the overriding objective of reducing violence and returning to negotiations," State Department spokesman Richard Baucher told The Associated Press. "Such actions should be halted now."

Six injured by bomber

At least six people were injured when a suicide bomber struck Thursday in a West Bank hotel. The explosion occurred after the terrorist entered the lobby of the Hotel Eshel Hashomron, located at the entrance to Ariel.

7 Palestinians killed

At least seven Palestinians were reported killed as the army stepped up operations Thursday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As part of the operations, Israel entered two refugee camps near Tulkarm and made house-to-house searches for terrorists.

Report: Y.U. eyes Pentagon man

A Pentagon official is emerging as the leading candidate to succeed Rabbi Norman Lamm as president of Yeshiva University.

According to the New York Jewish Week, Dov Zakheim is believed to be the Y.U. search committee's only candidate and will be recommended this week to the selection committee. Zakheim comes from a long line of rabbis and holds rabbinic ordination, though he has never held a pulpit.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Economy forces day schools to learn new lessons on funding

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Hillel Day School, a Conservative school in suburban Detroit is raising its tuition by \$1,000 for next year — more than twice the usual rate of increase — to make up for shortfalls in its endowment revenues.

The Rabbi Jacob Joseph Schools in Staten Island, N.Y. and Edison, N.J., which are Orthodox, are experiencing a 50 percent decline in fund raising since Sept. 11, and had to raid their endowment to meet costs and expect to raise their tuition more than usual this year.

And the Pardes Jewish Day School in suburban Phoenix, which is Reform, is facing increased requests for financial aid at the same time that fund raising is "very taxed."

Whether from slashed fund-raising revenues, heightened requests for financial aid or forced tuition hikes, day schools throughout the United States are feeling the pinch of the recession. At the same time, they are facing additional financial burdens from new security requirements in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Tuition increases come as Jewish day schools are already under pressure to keep tuition low in order to attract more families that have opted for public schools to save money.

Tuition varies widely, but generally ranges from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

A recent American Jewish Committee study, "The Cost of Jewish Living," estimated that it costs approximately \$30,000 a year to belong to synagogue, and send two children to day schools and Jewish summer camp — a bill beyond the reach of the average Jewish family.

However, with talk of the U.S. economy showing signs of revival, schools are hoping the worst is over.

Schools report a variety of cost-saving measures, ranging from "doing without a secretary" to freezing wages to delaying implementation of strategic plans.

So far there are no reports that it is affecting day school enrollment, which had boomed nationally in the past decade.

Approximately 185,000 American Jewish children — and the vast majority of Orthodox ones — attend day schools.

And not all schools are hurting or raising tuition. The Perelman Day School, a Conservative school in suburban Philadelphia, received a record-breaking \$20 million gift this fall for its endowment. Two new day high schools — one in the San Francisco area and one in North Carolina — have raised enough money to offer completely free tuition for their first few years.

Rabbi Joshua Elkin, executive director of the Boston-based Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, said the recession has "certainly impacted" day schools.

"There are families that need tuition assistance that didn't a year ago," he said.

But Elkin is not expecting a long-term impact on the day school movement, which he said is maturing and becoming better at marketing itself to a wider group of students and donors.

Founded in 1997, PEJE advocates for Jewish day schools and provides consulting and matching grants. In the past year, it has stepped up training and matching grants to help day schools with fund raising and marketing. Seventy day schools attended a PEJE resource development conference last spring.

The recession is hitting day schools in different ways. Detroit's Hillel, which has

MIDEAST FOCUS

Sharon rejects U.S. criticism

Ariel Sharon rejected U.S. criticism of his policy toward the Palestinians. The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement that Israel never declared war on the Palestinians and that it was only defending itself from Palestinian acts of war.

The statement added that the Palestinian Authority can end the conflict at any time. It was issued following U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's rare public criticism of Sharon on Wednesday: "If you declare war on the Palestinians and think you can solve the problem by seeing how many Palestinians can be killed — I don't know that leads us anywhere."

Bomber nabbed in Jerusalem

A Palestinian bomber was caught Thursday when he tried to enter a cafe in Jerusalem. After he was questioned because he was carrying a suspicious-looking bag, a customer and a security guard who was posted at the entrance to the Caffit cafe in the German Colony neighborhood overcame the suspect, who had a triggering device in his hand.

An eyewitness said the terrorist was smiling throughout the incident, even after his capture by police.

In another development Thursday, Israeli police found a bomb hidden in a bird cage near Hodera. Bomb experts were called to a site near Pardes Hana and safely defused the device.

Report: Hezbollah ready to fight

Hezbollah gunmen in Lebanon are ready to renew a conflict with Israel, according to Lebanese security sources.

The sources, which were quoted in the Beirut-based Daily Star, said Hezbollah has the materiel and manpower to resume its fight with Israel, particularly now that the Jewish state is caught up in fighting with the Palestinians.



Daily News Bulletin

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approximately \$2 million in endowments — an unusually large endowment for a Jewish day school — was hit hard by the stock market plunge.

Hillel had few reserve funds and had budgeted for 6 percent to 7 percent returns on its endowment, according to the Detroit Jewish News.

"But, lo and behold, the spinoff on that was closer to zero percent," the school's headmaster, Mark Smiley, recently told the Detroit weekly.

The school now needs to "learn the biblical lesson of using the good years to prepare for a downturn in the economy," Smiley said.

Few Jewish day schools have sizeable endowments, however, so market declines have had a more indirect effect on them — hurting donors, who in turn are less willing or able to donate to the school. Many schools say fund raising — which supplements tuition revenues — has been especially challenging this year.

Rabbi Harvey Well, superintendent of Associated Talmud Torahs, an agency for traditional and Orthodox day schools in the Chicago area, said, "Schools are very nervous, fund-raisers are working very hard and dinners are not producing the same success that they did."

Many Chicago area schools are raising tuition more than usual as a result, he said, noting that one suburban school — which he declined to name — has raised tuition from \$7,500 to \$9,600 for next year.

The number of students receiving financial aid has risen to an estimated 45 percent system-wide, up from 35 percent to 40 percent, Well said.

Bonnie Morris, head of Pardes and president of the Progressive Association for Reform Day Schools, a North American network, said, "It's harder to find those angels to give money."

"As I've approached people who had told us they would give larger gifts, they said they had problems with the stock market even prior to Sept. 11, so it's harder for them to follow through with what they may have given a year or two ago."

However, Pardes and other Arizona day schools are having less difficulty meeting financial aid requests than Jewish schools elsewhere in the country, because the state recently implemented a policy enabling donors to receive tax credits for money donated to education.

For example, a married couple can donate up to \$625 for day school scholarships and have that amount knocked off their tax bill.

In the Phoenix area, Jewish day schools are collectively administering a \$900,000 scholarship fund with money collected as a result of the new law.

The Epstein School, a Conservative day school in Atlanta, has kept fund raising steady, but has faced increased expenses due to a variety of factors.

These include heightened security needs, more financial aid requests and more use of the school's health insurance and pension plans by teachers whose spouses have been laid off. "It's a very difficult year financially for all the schools I've been talking too," said Cheryl Finkel, the school's head.

The economic downturn appears to have one small silver lining.

Recruitment of personnel — long a major challenge for day schools, exacerbated by the competition from more lucrative careers in the economic boom — is becoming a little bit easier for some.

"It's very clear that I'm receiving more applicants than ever before and a large number of the applicants are people who are currently not certified teachers — people switching jobs and looking to get into education," said Rabbi Lev Herrmson, head of Temple Beth Am Day School, a Reform school in Miami.

"Some appear to be people who have been laid off from other markets. Whether or not they're credible candidates is a different story."

Herrmson has also received "tens, if not hundreds" of queries from Argentine Jews seeking to emigrate and work as day school teachers.

Atlanta's Finkel said teacher recruitment for general studies is "a little easier this year" after several years in which "you couldn't hire anyone to do anything."

However, Finkel said, it would be "wrong to be shortsighted" on recruitment and retention.

"We're really facing a shortage over time. There are large numbers who will be retiring in the coming years and there isn't as large a group coming behind them," she said. "Even if it's easier this year, it's not anything to get relaxed about." □



Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Security Council call rejected

Israel and the Palestinian Authority rejected a U.N. Security Council statement.

In a statement Monday, the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, China, Russia, France and England — called on Israel to withdraw from two Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank and also urged the Palestinian Authority "to take all possible steps to put an end to violence." On Tuesday, Israeli officials said they would withdraw from Jenin and Tulkarm after the Palestinians halt attacks against Israel.

Also on Tuesday, Palestinian Cabinet minister Hassan Asfour condemned the Security Council statement, saying it justified "Israel's terrorist acts against the Palestinian people."

Mistrial in rabbi murder case

The case of a rabbi accused of arranging his wife's murder ended in a mistrial.

The judge declared the mistrial Tuesday after the jury said it had been unable to decide on all three counts against Rabbi Fred Neulander. Jurors deliberated for more than 40 hours over seven days before sending the judge a note saying they could not reach a decision.

Local resident Ron Boben, of Cinnaminson, N.J., called the lack of a verdict "a shame. It's kind of like playing a sport and getting to the Super Bowl, and then saying it's a tie and having to play all over."

There is the possibility that Neulander will be tried again. Neulander's wife, Carol, was found beaten to death at the couple's home in 1994.

Bronfman bids UJC farewell

Jewish federations should create more partnerships with Jewish family foundations on new initiatives, said Charles Bronfman. In his departing speech to the United Jewish Communities, the outgoing chairman of the North American Jewish federation system also said federations should welcome a younger leadership.

"We have to change the perception that is out there that rich, old guys who write big checks — guys even older than me — are the only ones who count," Bronfman said Monday. "Because there are rich young men and women, who may or may not write big checks, but who may have a wealth of ideas."

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Federation system at a crossroads amid political, economic uncertainty

By Julie Wiener

WASHINGTON (JTA) — On the second day of the North American federation system's annual gathering, word began to travel of the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 in New York.

Some participants at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Washington crowded around the television in the lounge, others checked the Internet at a cluster of computers in the exhibit hall, and still others used their cell phones to check on the safety of their family and friends.

Reaction to the crash — with its echoes of the devastating Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington — only heightened a sense of uncertainty and transition facing the Jewish federation system right now.

It is unclear how global forces like the U.S. war in Afghanistan, the U.S. economy and the situation in Israel will affect the federations, both in terms of the needs they will be asked to support and their ability to raise funds.

Federations serve as the communities' central fund-raising arm and provide monies for local, national and overseas needs.

Echoing the external uncertainties is the fact that the UJC itself is at something of a crossroads.

Its top founding lay leaders are handing over the reins to new people, and it recently installed a new CEO and president.

The product of the merger of three Jewish groups two years ago, the UJC has been hammering out issues related to governance and confronting internal conflicts, both among the players in the different groups that formed it, as well as among the 189 Jewish federations across North America that are its "owners."

The merger has a few final steps left, most importantly developing a new budget and clarifying its priorities — amid pressure from many large federations that would like to see serious cuts in spending.

The organization will be undergoing a "rigorous budget review" in the coming months, said Stephen Hoffman, UJC's new president and CEO.

Neither he nor the top UJC lay leaders indicated where any cuts would come.

Discussions at the G.A. reflected "the transition going on in the American Jewish community right now," said Howard Ross, executive director of the North Louisiana Jewish Federation in Shreveport, La.

"We have new leadership in the UJC, both professional and lay, and we don't know where they're going to take us," he said.

In addition, Ross said, federations are awaiting the results of the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey to help determine domestic priorities.

Findings of the UJC-sponsored study — the first comprehensive survey of American Jewry in 10 years — are expected to be released during the summer.

"We've got to wait and see," he said. "But we know we're on the precipice of the future."

Most large federations are reporting that their campaigns are unaffected by the recession so far — and in some cases, they are enjoying campaign increases, at least in kickoff events with lead donors.

Many have also raised new funds for Israel, as part of an Israel solidarity campaign launched this summer aimed at helping the Jewish state as it faces an ongoing Palestinian intifada, which has lasted for 14 months. That campaign has already raised

MIDEAST FOCUS

U.S. reaffirms Israel support

A Bush administration official says the U.S. supports Israel unconditionally. Addressing the closing plenary of the United Jewish Communities General Assembly, Cabinet member Tommy Thompson said that "supporting Israel is absolutely essential to the security of the United States," and that "America will stand for Israel, period." Delegates responded with a standing ovation.

The health and human services secretary followed Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, who said that despite daily Palestinian attacks on Israel, the Jewish state must weigh its need for security with its responsibility to respect the Palestinians' humanity.

Israelis to appear in U.S. court

Eleven Israelis being held for illegally working in the United States may be deported.

The 11, who are slated to appear before a federal immigration judge in Ohio, were arrested after the Sept. 11 terror attacks against the United States. Some 100 Israelis have been arrested throughout the United States as part of a crackdown on illegal foreign workers following the attacks. Two Israelis recently returned home after being held in Philadelphia for two months.

Israeli troops search for bombers

Israeli troops briefly entered a Palestinian-controlled area in the Gaza Strip.

Tuesday's incursion came after a bomb was detonated near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom.

Israeli expertise sought

Demand for Israeli security products and expertise jumped following the Sept. 11 attacks. A spokesman for Israel's Trade Ministry said Tuesday that inquiries have come from all over the world following the attacks on the United States.

almost \$86 million. Leaders with many federations, including Cleveland and MetroWest, N.J., say the Israel fund-raising campaign has actually boosted contributions to the general campaign as well.

However, it is too early to tell the long-term impact of the recession, and many are nervous.

"We're all waiting to see how things shake out," said Mark Lainer, a member of the executive committee of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

Robert Aronson, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, said the economic uncertainty in the United States means "federations are taking hard looks at their expenditures."

"This is not an easy year," he added.

Many federations, like the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County, are making special appeals to their top-tier donors, asking them to significantly increase giving this year because the recession "could mean the average donor may not be as generous as previously anticipated," said Michael Hirsh, the federation's director of planning, budgeting and administration.

But many UJC officials are downplaying the recession.

"We've been through economic tightenings in the past. There's no reason to believe this will be worse," Hoffman said.

Carole Solomon, chair of the UJC's Campaign and Financial Resource Development Pillar, said campaigns are "doing very well so far," although "potential uncertainties in the economy may manifest themselves later."

However, she said, over the past eight years, many donors "have made tremendous sums of money," and market losses are not wiping out their fortunes.

In a speech to the UJC's Delegate Assembly, Solomon said, "We can worry, or we can redouble our efforts."

Some are hopeful that the difficult times — at least the events of Sept. 11 and the crisis in Israel — will actually spur giving.

"A lot of people may want to be more involved and are looking for meaning," Lainer said, echoing the sentiment of many others.

Others hoped that the Jewish community's visibility after Sept. 11 — particularly the work of Jewish social service agencies in the New York area — will draw in new donors.

"Social service agencies no one ever knew of are being talked about now," said Helaine Loman, a member of the UJC's Young Leadership Cabinet.

"People give in times of crisis," said Loman, a board member of the MetroWest federation.

"And this is definitely a crisis."

Joe Brodecki, a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and a former fund-raising director for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, said, "Sometimes when things get tough, people pull together and do things they never thought they could have accomplished."

It is not clear precisely what role the UJC will play in the coming years.

Many saw the Israel NOW rally scheduled for Sept. 23 as the group's first decisive act of leadership.

However, the rally — which had expected to draw approximately 150,000 people from around the country — was canceled in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The UJC's new volunteer leaders, James Tisch of New York, chairman of the board, and Robert Goldberg of Cleveland, chairman of the executive committee, are promising an expanded role for UJC and a smaller budget.

In an interview, Tisch said doing both is possible.

"Just because we cut the budget doesn't mean we're cutting services and doesn't mean we're not growing," he said.

It is also not entirely clear what Jewish federations want the UJC to be or do, although a variety of federation executives and lay leaders said they want it to be a combination of organizer, visionary, disseminator of best practices and a forum for collective action.

"We need an organization to coordinate our efforts," said Elaine Berke, a board member of the Los Angeles federation. "And it keeps us together like a mom and a dad keep a family together." □



Daily News Bulletin

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UJC's Israel campaign focuses on solidarity missions, fund raising

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the United Jewish Communities unveiled its "Israel Now and Forever" program several months ago, a key component was a very public expression of solidarity in the shape of a massive Sept. 24 rally in New York.

But Sept. 11 dashed those plans to stand up for Israel as it confronted a year of Palestinian violence and terrorism.

With the United States and New York transfixed by the search and rescue at Ground Zero, the rally was viewed as logistically impossible and politically sensitive.

Today, with Israel drawn into America's war on terrorism, the quandary affecting American Jewry's political wing also reverberates within the Jewish federation world. To what extent should American Jews publicly rally for Israel while the Bush administration is trying to maintain international and Arab — support for its anti-terror coalition.

So the UJC, the federation system's umbrella organization, is instead focusing its attention on the other elements of the Israel Now campaign: keeping the community well-informed, solidarity trips to Israel and fund raising.

"We're living in complicated times," said Karen Shapira, chairwoman of the UJC's Israel and Overseas Pillar.

"We're not afraid of public expression; our concern is knowing the right time to make that expression."

Shapira added: "In considering the best ways for American Jews to help Israel today, one of the most meaningful ways historically and culturally has been to support Israel financially."

The UJC announced in early October that the federation system had raised \$66 million for the 2001-2002 Israel Now campaign, much of it committed before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Federations have since asked their donors to dig deeper, and have raised an additional \$19 million through this week.

In all, then, the North American federation system has so far raised an extra \$85 million for Israel, according to Michael Fischer, a UJC assistant vice president. Israeli diplomats, for their part, seem to appreciate the fine line American Jews are walking.

"The community has been extremely responsible and measured in its public responses to everything that has happened since Sept. 11," said Alon Pinkas, consul general of the Israeli Consulate in New York.

"American Jews are first and foremost American, despite the tremendous importance that Israel plays in their lives. As Americans, they not only experienced and felt Sept. 11, but their collective response has been American, in terms of supporting their president and feeling that they have become as vulnerable as others."

The spending priorities for Israel today are a mix of the traditional and the circumstantial.

American Jewish money has long gone toward making up Israel's shortfall in spending on social services, due to heavy investment in military and defense; financial and psychological assistance to victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and absorption of Jewish immigrants.

Nowadays, the Jewish Agency for Israel and others are also asking for cash to bolster security for certain Jewish communities on the front lines of the yearlong Palestinian intifada.

This would come in the form of armored vehicles for public

transportation, bulletproof ambulances and bulletproof windows in places like Gilo, which regularly comes under fire from neighboring Beit Jalla.

Meanwhile, as Israelis continue to ask Diaspora Jews, "Where are you?" the UJC and others continue to urge Americans to visit Israel and show tangible solidarity with the Jewish state.

In one of the year's larger missions, organizers expect some 400 activists scheduled to attend the upcoming UJC General Assembly in Washington to fly to Israel once the five-day event ends on Nov. 13.

At the G.A. itself, the Israel Now campaign will be "inextricably intertwined," said UJC President Stephen Hoffman.

Several major sessions are slated to deal with Israel, including "A Year of Intifada"; "The Social Costs of the *Matzav* [Situation] in Israel"; "U.S.-Israel Relations in a Changing World"; and "Advocating for Israel During Crisis."

Still, some in the community believe enough time has elapsed since the Sept. 11 tragedy, and the needs of American Jews are well-tended to; Israel must now return to the top of the communal agenda.

Some in the community still believe that public rallying for Israel is the way to go.

The reasons behind the Sept. 23 rally, they say, are just as valid today: to tell Israelis, "We are with you," to notify Washington that a vocal segment of the population demands continued U.S. support for Israel, and to provide Jews a venue to express their frustration.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, national president of AMCHA — The Coalition for Jewish Concerns, is planning to lead an interdenominational group of rabbis, spanning the religious spectrum, in a prayer vigil near the United Nations.

Weiss' message will be both pro-Israel and anti-terrorism — and emphasize the belief that Jerusalem and Washington share the same foe. Weiss has postponed his rally until Dec. 2 after a request from New York police.

Meanwhile, the UJC sees education as another way of supporting Israel and its policies.

Shoshana Cardin, a veteran communal leader and former chairman of the United Israel Appeal, said, for example, the UJC, through its Web site, should provide analysis from experts on the reasons behind Israel's reoccupation of Palestinian territory and Arafat's failure to arrest terrorists.

The community, Cardin said, must be able to respond effectively to media errors in observation or fact: "Israel is in a war of words, as well as a war of terrorism." □

Thanksgiving 'Haggadah' created

NEW YORK (JTA) — A U.S. Jewish group is distributing a Thanksgiving "Haggadah."

The American Jewish Committee's leaflet, which comes in response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks, asks participants at the traditional autumn meal to light a candle of hope and a memorial candle for the victims.

The booklet includes inspirational words from the Bible, rabbis and poets echoing the traditional Passover themes of freedom, includes an activity to involve children in the discussion and asks people to consider, "Why is this Thanksgiving different? What have we lost? What have we learned? What do we tell our children?" The publication is available at www.ajc.org. □

JEWISH WORLD

Surveys show strong Jewish ties to Israel, America after Sept. 11

By Amy Sara Clark

Survivors: Claims process lagging

The Holocaust insurance claims process is under fire. Holocaust survivors and members of the U.S. Congress accused the international commission charged with resolving Holocaust-era insurance claims with being too slow and not getting money to policyholders.

At a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Government Reform Committee on Thursday, the International Commission of Holocaust-era Insurance Claims was called a "failure." Lawmakers called for a quick end to the claims process and an extension of the February 2002 deadline for filing claims.

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, ICHEIC's chairman, acknowledged weaknesses in the commission's work and said he would try to extend the filing deadline.

U.S. judge backs Yahoo

Yahoo does not have to comply with a French court order regarding Nazi-related content, a U.S. judge said.

The judge ruled Wednesday after a French court ordered Yahoo to prevent French users from accessing a broad range of Nazi-related material on its Web site.

The U.S. judge said that U.S. free-speech rights cannot be overruled by foreign countries that have more restrictive laws on freedom of expression.

Israel Studies chair created

Brandeis University is establishing what it believes is the first Israel Studies chair in the United States. The endowed faculty position was established with a donation from Karl, Harry and Helen Stoll of Long Island, N.Y.

Czech loses 'Mein Kampf' case

A Czech publisher lost his appeal for publishing a Czech translation of Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

As a result of the decision this week, Michael Zitko faces a three-year suspended prison sentence and \$50,000 fine for his decision last year to publish the book, in which Hitler spelled out his racist ideology, without footnotes or disclaimers.

Century-old mikvah found in N.Y.

A 100-year-old mikvah was found beneath the streets of New York. The Jewish ritual bath was found beneath a vacant lot near the Eldridge Street Synagogue on the city's Lower East Side.

"This important discovery will help us better portray the day-to-day lives of immigrant Jews at the start of the 20th century, said Amy Waterman, executive director of the Eldridge Street Project, which sponsored the excavation.

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jews are more likely than Americans overall to think the Israeli-U.S. relationship had something to do with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to results in two recent polls.

But some say the results merely reflect differences in the questions asked.

A survey taken for the Forward newspaper found that 44 percent of U.S. Jews believe the attacks were "at least partly" due to "America's support of Israel."

Meanwhile, a survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that only 22 percent of Americans believe the attacks were related to U.S.-Israel ties.

American Jews are more aware of U.S.-Israel ties and therefore more likely to cite them as a reason for the Sept. 11 attacks, Jewish observers say.

"It's not surprising that Jews would perhaps be more sensitive to, or pick up on, any implication of a linkage to Israel," because they follow reporting on U.S.-Israel ties more carefully, said Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But an official with the Anti-Defamation League said differences in the way the questions were asked account for some of the discrepancy.

The ADL survey forced respondents to choose between two statements: "If the U.S. were not such a close ally of Israel, the September 11 attacks on American would not have occurred," or "The terrorists attacked the U.S. because they don't like our values or way of life, not because of our relationship with Israel."

The Forward survey, on the other hand, asked if the attacks were "at least partly as a result of America's support of Israel." "Our survey was much more black and white," said Ken Jacobson, the ADL's associate national director.

Other results of the Forward survey include:

- American Jews were evenly split over whether Israel should heed Bush's call for restraint in fighting Palestinian terrorism, but strongly supported — by a 61 percent to 38 percent margin — American Jewish groups' strong rejoinder to Bush.

- More American Jews feel attached to Israel since the attacks on New York and Washington. The proportion of Jews who said they feel "somewhat" or "very" attached to Israel rose from 72 percent last January to 82 percent in late October, while the proportion saying they are "not attached" to Israel fell from 27 percent to 18 percent.

- American Jews feel both more Jewish and more American since Sept. 11. Just about 44 percent of respondents said they feel "more in touch" with their Jewish identities as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, and 74 percent feel their identities as Americans were strengthened.

J.J. Goldberg, editor in chief of the Forward, said the survey is important because it shows the Jewish-American point of view. "We've been hearing about the American point of view and the Israeli point of view, but this is a view that is distinct from both of them," he said. "American Jews really are of two minds about the upcoming confrontation. They are not simply on Israel's side."

The survey, which was designed by Hebrew University sociologist Steven M. Cohen, polled a representative sample of 606 American Jewish adults between Oct. 28 and Oct. 30. The margin of error was plus or minus 6 percent.

The ADL survey of 500 American adults revealed the following:

- The American people overwhelmingly blame the violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the Palestinians. Forty-two percent of those surveyed blamed the Palestinians, while only 13 percent blamed Israel.

- The public supports Israel's right to use force to defend itself against terrorism. By a margin of 46 to 34 percent, Americans reject the notion that Israel should limit its use of force.

- A third of respondents are critical of Israel's policy of "assassinating" Palestinian militants, but — given American tactics in its war in Afghanistan — 43 percent think American criticism of Israel on this point is hypocritical.

The ADL survey was conducted on Oct. 30-31. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percent. □



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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush, Arafat won't meet

President Bush will not meet Yasser Arafat at the United Nations this weekend, a top American official said. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice cited the Palestinian leader's failure to crack down on terrorism.

"There are responsibilities that come with being the representative of the Palestinian people, and that means to make certain that you do everything you can to lower the level of violence," Rice said Thursday. "These are responsibilities that we have asked Chairman Arafat to take and to take seriously. We still don't think there has been enough in that regard."

Rice also made reference to Arafat's willingness to support the U.S.-led crackdown on international terrorism while supporting terror at home. "You cannot help us with Al Qaida and hug Hezbollah" and Hamas, Rice said. "That's not acceptable."

Forum may criticize Israel

Switzerland will reconvene a forum on international humanitarian law that likely will target Israel for criticism. The Fourth Geneva Convention will meet Dec. 5 in Geneva.

Soon after the Palestinian intifada began in September 2000, the Swiss Foreign Ministry received requests to formally convene such a meeting — last held in 1999 — both from "contracting parties" to the convention and the U.N. General Assembly, a Swiss legal expert said.

The United States contested a formal meeting, maintaining that it likely would be one-sided against Israel and counterproductive to curbing Israeli-Palestinian violence. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations called the decision to convene the meeting "obscene" and "outrageous."

U.S. Red Cross backs Israel

The American Red Cross reaffirmed its support for Israel's humanitarian relief agency.

The chairman of the American Red Cross, David McLaughlin, said his group would continue to withhold dues from the international parent body until Israel's Magen David Adom is admitted to the movement.

The former president of the American Red Cross, Dr. Bernadine Healy, said she recently resigned because she struggled with her board over her decision to withhold the dues.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Falling identification as Jews has Jewish leaders concerned

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) - A new study reporting decreased identification with Judaism and rising intermarriage rates is generating concern, but not shock, in the Jewish community.

Instead, many leaders see the new findings, released last week, as a continuation of trends reported in the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey. Rather than viewing the study as a call to radically change course, most see it as a signal to step up existing efforts to strengthen Jewish continuity.

For some, that will come through day school education and making synagogues more spiritually meaningful to people. For others, it means support for nonreligious forms of Jewish expression — such as social action and the arts — that will appeal to people not interested in studying texts or going to synagogue services.

The American Jewish Identity Survey 2001 is an unofficial follow-up to the 1990 survey, conducted by three researchers who were involved in the original study.

Preliminary findings were released last week. The researchers — Egon Mayer, Anela Keysar and Barry Kosmin — are still analyzing the data and expect to offer more details in coming months, particularly about intermarriage and how children of intermarriages are raised.

The study is part of a larger examination of religion in America.

A larger and more comprehensive study of American Jews, National Jewish Population Survey 2000, is being conducted under the auspices of the North American Jewish federation system and will be released this summer.

As Jewish leaders analyze the new study, many say its importance depends on how one determines who is Jewish. The study's estimate of 5.5 million American Jews — of whom 1.4 million identify as members of another religion — includes people who say they are Jewish or of Jewish upbringing or parentage.

Some observers say it would be less surprising for a person with one Jewish parent and who was raised with no religion — or even raised as a Christian — to reject Judaism than for a person who was raised Jewish. Such distinctions are impossible to make from the findings reported so far.

But the study does report that even among people who identify Judaism as their religion, 42 percent profess a secular outlook and 14 percent say they do not believe in God. In contrast, only 15 percent of Americans describe their outlook as secular.

It also finds that while only half of American Jews are affiliated with a synagogue or Jewish community organization, most identify with a stream of Judaism. Thirty percent identify with the Reform movement, 24 percent with the Conservative movement, 8 percent with Orthodoxy, 1 percent with Reconstructionism and 1 percent with Secular Humanism.

Six percent used self-generated labels like "liberal" or "atheist," and 20 percent declined to identify with any label or branch of Judaism.

Yet the findings are contradicted by other measures that would seem to show that interest in Judaism is higher than ever.

Enrollment at Jewish day schools is up, and scores of new schools have been founded in the past few years. Sales of books on Judaism are up.

Adult Jewish education courses — including structured text-study programs that require two-year commitments — are proliferating. Jewish summer camps have long waiting lists of prospective campers. In addition, the Reform movement — which once



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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush envisions 'Palestine'

President Bush spoke of "Palestine" as a future state. In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Saturday, Bush said, "We are working toward the day when two states — Israel and Palestine — live peacefully together within secure and recognized borders."

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat called the speech "important, positive and constructive." Israel's ambassador to the United States, David Ivry, also found positives in the speech, telling the Israeli daily Ha'aretz that Bush's refusal to distinguish between terror and national resistance mirrors Israel's position.

Federation gathering opens

Approximately 3,600 people gathered in Washington for the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly.

At a press conference Sunday, the UJC's CEO and president, Stephen Hoffman, said the federation system's biggest challenges in the next decade are addressing the shortage of Jewish communal professionals, supporting Jewish education and strengthening ties with Israel.

The two incoming top lay leaders of UJC, James Tisch and Robert Goldberg, called for the organization to be fiscally responsible, cooperate with other national organizations, be strong advocates for Israel and keep focused on its mission of helping Jews in North America and around the world.

On Tuesday, the group's Board of Delegates will elect Tisch, of New York, chairman of the board, and Goldberg, of Cleveland, chairman of the executive committee. They will succeed Charles Bronfman and Joel Tauber.

Iran may one day accept Israel

Iran's president hinted that his country might one day accept Israel's right to exist.

In an interview that appeared in Saturday's New York Times, Mohammad Khatami said the Palestinians should have the final say on whether to accept the Jewish state. "It is the people of Palestine that have the last word, and naturally when the Palestinians themselves accept an issue, the rest of the world will accept it too," Khatami said. "We will respect the wishes of the Palestinian nation."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bush's speech does the impossible: Both Israel, Palestinians are pleased

By Michael J. Jordan

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Jewish observers are applauding President Bush for refusing to distinguish between terror attacks and acts of nationalist struggle that deliberately target innocent people.

In his first speech to the United Nations, Bush made a significant nod to Palestinian dreams of statehood — including an explicit reference to "Palestine" — but warned that not even "national aspiration" could "ever justify the deliberate murder of the innocent."

As the curtain rose on the 56th U.N. General Assembly, Bush also gave Jewish observers reason to believe that the U.S.-led war on terrorism will go beyond Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida organization.

"Some governments, while pledging to uphold the principles of the U.N., have cast their lot with the terrorists," Bush said Saturday. "For every regime that sponsors terror, there is a price to be paid. And it will be paid. The allies of terror are equally guilty of murder and equally accountable to justice."

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat made what Jewish observers saw as a standard stump speech Sunday, blaming Israel for the past year of bloodshed and resurrecting scurrilous charges that Israel is using weapons banned by international law.

Pro-Israel advocates had been concerned that Israel was being sidelined in the anti-terror campaign, and feared that it would not extend to those groups that attack the Jewish state.

Coming shortly after Washington froze the assets of Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, Bush's speech was reassuring to Israel's backers.

"They're realizing the nature of what we're fighting, this interlocking network that you cannot fight piecemeal, but has to be fought with absolutes," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"The president drew a line: You're either on this side or that side, and don't think that symbolic gestures will be sufficient to put you on this side," Hoenlein said. "Only decisive action will qualify."

Meanwhile, Arafat praised Bush's speech, which spoke of "the day when two states, Israel and Palestine, live peacefully together within secure and recognized boundaries."

Israeli officials also sought to put a positive spin on Bush's speech.

Bush's support for a Palestinian state was "not an anti-Israel statement, that's a pro-Israel statement," Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, said at a news conference Sunday at the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly in Washington.

"Israel has a government that supports the creation of a Palestinian state."

Though the explicit reference to "Palestine" shocked some Israeli officials, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that the language was deliberate.

In his speech, Arafat accused Israel of "state-sponsored terrorism" and "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians, and once again urged the world body to send international peacekeepers.

Arafat made no reference to Bush's refusal to condone terror related to nationalist grievances, or his statement that "peace will only come when all have sworn off."