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EDMONTON Jewish News

Vol. 13, No. 2 July 29, 2003

New building unveiled at Camp B.B. - Riback

by John Copley

July 13, 2003 is a date that won't soon be forgotten, not by the 750 parents, staff, campers and friends who gathered at Pine Lake, Alberta, to help celebrate the Grand Opening of Camp B.B. Riback's newly unveiled, Jack Abugov Centre, nor by the camp's administrators or the two men, Ted Riback and Jack Abugov, who were simultaneously celebrated for the vision and determination they've contributed to the popular summer camp over the past 48 years.

"It was a heart-warming moment, a special time in our lives," agreed Camp B.B. Riback's Chairman of the Board, Darren Bondar, who emceed the day-long event. "It was wonderful to be able to have both Mr. Riback and Mr. Abugov attend the Grand Opening ceremonies; their years of hard work and continued efforts on behalf of Camp B.B. have allowed thousands of young Jewish children and youth to take part in an enjoyable and meaningful summer program that reaches its goals and delivers a positive impact to the hundreds of young people who attend the camp each year."

Darren Bondar knows; he first attended the camp 21 years ago as a young camper, and he's been an active participant ever since.

There have been many changes to Camp B.B. over the years, both structurally and program-wise, but perhaps none has been more important than the latest addition, a new arts and crafts facility that has been designed not only to house purposeful indoor projects, but also as a shelter from the summer storms that frequent central Alberta during tornado season.

Last year marked the completion of Camp B.B. Riback's $1 million capital improvement

Continued on page 3

Camp BB-Riback paid tribute to architect Jack Abugov (centre) for his outstanding contributions to the Pine Lake camp. He is pictured above, with his family at the July 13 event which featured the unveiling of the Jack Abugov Centre, a state of the art, weather resistant, multi-use, arts and crafts facility.

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Sharon begins three-day visit to the U.S.

(JTA) - Ariel Sharon met Monday afternoon with President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice. The meeting precedes the Israeli prime minister's talks Tuesday with Bush. Sharon's three-day visit follows Bush's first White House meeting with Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian Authority prime minister. Given Bush's strong statement to Abbas about the need to disarm Palestinian terrorist groups, Israeli officials expect little discord in the Bush-Sharon meeting.

"The Israeli and American sides are strategically on the same page," Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, told JTA. "The new leadership in the Palestinian Authority is projecting a new vision. If that new leadership follows through, there really is a chance for peace." During his visit, Sharon is also slated to meet with Vice President Dick Cheney, Senate leaders and officials with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Meanwhile, Israel's Cabinet has approved more Palestinian prisoners for release than originally contemplated. Media first reported that the Cabinet approved the release of 110 Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners as a goodwill gesture toward the Palestinians. However, a senior official on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plane to the United States later revealed that in the coming weeks Israel will release some 560 Palestinian prisoners 210 from the Islamic organizations, 210 from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement and 120 common criminals.

The government initially had refused to release Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners, but changed its mind following heavy American and Palestinian pressure. An organization of terror victims appealed to the High Court of Justice not to allow the release of prisoners as long as the Palestinian Authority does not dismantle terrorist organizations.

Also, the Cabinet approved the easing of some restrictions on Palestinians, including the removal of several checkpoints in the West Bank. In addition, more Palestinian workers will be allowed to enter Israel from the Gaza Strip.

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EDMONTON Jewish News

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Canadian Publication
Mail Product
Sales Agreement No. 40050628

Volume 13, Number 3, July 2003

PUBLISHER: Dave Moser

EDITOR: Deborah Shatz

ADVERTISING: Christine Sauvé

CUSTOMER RELATIONS: Sharon McClure

FOUNDING PUBLISHER: Barry Slawsky

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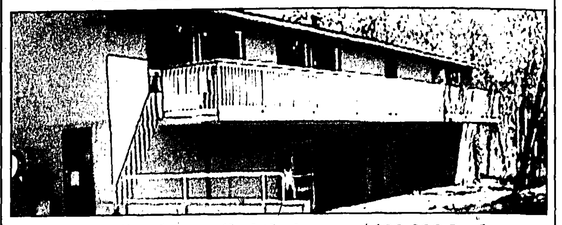
The House That Jack Built



Camp BB-Riback unveiled their new $400,000 Jack Abugov Centre which will serve as a multi-use arts and crafts facility for the Pine Lake based camp. The facility is constructed with weather resistant materials and can house the entire camp population in its basement level when faced with severe storm conditions.

Jewish leaders laud Abbas

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK,(JTA) -- Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is trying to convince American Jewish leaders and Bush administration officials that he's no Yasser Arafat.

In a White House meeting last Friday and in a meeting with Jewish leaders the day before, Abbas presented himself as a moderate and a supporter of a peaceful, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I'm gaining confidence in the Palestinian prime minister and the great Cabinet," Bush said, describing them as "people who do what they say."

Many of the 50 or so Jewish leaders who attended the July 24 meeting in Washington came away similarly impressed.

Abbas "is a breath of fresh air," said Michael Bohnen, chairman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella group for Jewish community relations councils and national organizations.

"There's a certain amount of trust now" in Abbas, added Marvin Lender, chairman of the executive committee of the Israel Policy Forum, a Washington group that supports Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives.

The JCPA and IPF organized the meeting at Abbas' request.

At the White House, Abbas told Bush that violence would continue "if Israel continues to grab Palestinian land," citing especially Israel's construction of a fence to keep terrorists from infiltrating from the West Bank.

Bush told Abbas that Palestinian terrorism must stop and that the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel should be examined "on a case by case basis" -- the Palestinians are demanding a mass release of thousands of prisoners -- but he too criticized the security fence, which he called a "wall."

"I think the wall is a problem and I've discussed that with" Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Bush said.

Sharon is expected at the White House on Tuesday.

Bush also pledged to send two Cabinet members to Israel this fall to begin work on bringing jobs and economic development to Palestinians.

For many of the Jewish officials, the July 24 meeting was their first with Abbas, who was appointed when the United States and Israel said any progress in negotiations required a change in Palestinian leadership.

P.A. President Yasser Arafat has continued to thwart Abbas at times, but the two recently worked out a power-sharing arrangement.

The 90-minute session at the St. Regis Hotel gathered members of a range of Jewish organizations, ranging from left-of-center groups such as the IPF and Americans for Peace Now to more centrist groups such as the JCPA, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee and Hadassah, as well as several major federation leaders.

Many of those who participated said they came away convinced Abbas is a moderate alternative to Arafat who wholeheartedly supports President Bush's "road map" to peace, even if he lacks Arafat's popular support.

"He expressed a strong desire for peace" in "an exceedingly moderate tone," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's synagogue arm, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"He wasn't patronizing, and he didn't gloss over the differences."

According to many at the meeting, Abbas described Israeli actions as "weapons" that Palestinian extremists could cite to scuttle the first signs of hope in the peace process in three years.

Those weapons, Abbas said, included Israel's continued building of settlements, its refusal to release all Palestinian prisoners, its construction of the security fence along the border with the West Bank and its maintenance of security checkpoints in and near Palestinian areas.

Israel last Friday announced several gestures designed to strengthen Abbas, such as the removal of key roadblocks in the West Bank, issuance of additional Palestinian work permits and a willingness to withdraw Israeli troops from two more West Bank cities.

Judy Yudof, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, that movement's congregational arm, said Abbas called the security fence a "modern-age Berlin Wall," but she said she reminded him that Israel erected the fence in response to "homicide bombers" attacking Israelis.

"I think there were certain things he needed to say because he was there representing the Palestinian perspective," she said.

One participant at the meeting said differing Israeli and Palestinian perceptions about the fence reveal themselves in the terms used to describe it.

While Israelis call the barrier a "security fence," the participant said, Palestinians call it "a wall," implying something more permanent and forbidding.

The overwhelming majority of the barrier is indeed a fence, with a wall used only in small portions where Palestinian cities are directly against the West Bank border.

Abbas also carried another message to the Jews: Promote further U.S. aid to the Palestinians to sustain their peace efforts.

Abbas told the group that he would seek additional U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority to rebuild infrastructure and make further peace moves.

The White House recently earmarked $20 million in humanitarian funds to the P.A., the first time the United States has designated direct aid to the Palestinian leadership.

During the meeting with Jewish leaders, Yudof said she asked Abbas whether he would consider using U.S. aid to build social service institutions to replace those run by Hamas. Abbas answered that "if he could replace the social services that Hamas provides, he could put them out of business."

Abbas has said he will not forcibly try to disarm Hamas and Islamic Jihad, despite his obligation to do so under the road map.

In the July 24 meeting, "he did not really deal directly with the question of dismantling" the terrorist groups, said Jess Hordes, director of ADL's Washington office.

Abbas said he believes strongly in fostering ties between Israelis and Palestinians through professional ties or via groups such as Seeds for Peace, which promotes co-existence, several participants said.

He told the group that the Palestinian Authority has created several committees to deal with such ties, and also to deal with incitement to terrorism -- a step the road map requires.

"Abbas achieved what he set out to do -- to present himself as a moderate person who is committed to a two-state solution," Hordes said.

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New building unveiled

Cont. from page 1

fund-raising campaign, an effort that was spearheaded by founder, Ted Riback. It was this initiative, aided by a grant from the Alberta government and funding accumulated through private donations, that allowed the new building to be constructed.

"Mr. Riback and Mr. Abugov have both been instrumental in the success of Camp B.B. Riback," explained Darren Bondar. "Ted Riback, a founder and longtime supporter (and namesake) of the Camp was instrumental in raising funds and spearheading construction of the new A & C building, and Jack Abugov, a substantial and tireless supporter over the years, was also instrumental in the design and construction of the new centre. We are all very grateful for their tremendous dedication to Camp B.B. Riback and for their hard work in making the new Jack Abugov Centre a reality. The new multi-level arts and crafts centre is a very welcome addition to the camp's Pine Lake setting. The new centre gives the term, multi-purpose, new meaning."

Jack Abugov agreed. In an interview he said he was proud to have been involved in the creation of the new facility and equally proud of the camp he's supported for decades.

"A very worthwhile endeavour and an important addition to the Camp," said Mr. Abugov, from his home in Calgary. "I've been involved in numerous projects over the years, but this project has been especially rewarding. I am deeply honoured that the new building has been called the Jack Abugov Centre."

The new arts and crafts centre wasn't built on a whim; it was designed with more than one purpose in mind, including the ability to act as a refuge and safe haven against sudden changes in the weather, such as the one that occurred on July 14, 2000, when a tornado hit the ground right across the lake from Camp B.B. - and not too far from where 300 young campers were enjoying a warm summer day. Mr. Abugov said that the fears the parents felt the day the tornado hit the Pine Lake region were a strong impetus to build a state of the art facility, and he added that now those fears can be greatly calmed.

"This building," explained Mr. Abugov, in a short speech to those attending the July 13 celebration, "is large enough so that during a very, very rainy day all 300 campers including can congregate safely, meet, learn and play inside, out of the weather. The lower floor by itself is large enough to provide a safe shelter for the entire camp population including all campers and staff at one time, against tornado-force winds such as the one that devastated a trailer park across the lake three years ago."

Mr. Abugov added that special care has been given to construction detail and that all eventualities had been considered.

"This lower floor design," he added, "provides a complete surrounding of concrete walls and ceiling, except for four large glass patio doors. These four openings can be closed off with steel doors capable of withstanding high winds. There is even an emergency generator in case the power goes down. Emergency lighting, fresh air ventilation, even an emergency siren - a substantial structure."

Mr. Abugov told the July 13 gathering that the dedication of the structure puts the finishing touches on a dream that began with Mr. Riback nearly 50 years ago.

"Ted is a man with vision and foresight," said Jack Abugov. "He decided 48 years ago that western Canada needed a camp for our Jewish children. He purchased this 126 acres of land on the shores of Pine Lake and directed its construction. More than 25,000 kids have benefited from his dream. Many of you know I was previously involved in the design and construction of this camp 48 years ago, under the wing of Ted Riback, who now at 93 years of age still derives pleasure in seeing the continued development of this camp facility and the smiling faces of young campers - like those of you here today. This camp, with this new facility, and especially the new storm doors, will now rate with the best anywhere."

Mr. Bondar said the new Jack Abugov Centre, which organizers last November estimated would cost in the neighbourhood of $400,000 to complete, was built on schedule and within budget.

Both Mr. Riback and Mr. Abugov returned to Pine Lake at the end of this year's first sesseion of summer camp to take part in Maccabiah, an annual three-day-long event that divides the camp into two teams that compete at various sports, dramatic presentations and other self-developed projects.

Though at the end of the event a winner was named, this year's event was really a tie - the names of the two teams were the Jack Abugov Team and the Ted Riback Team.

Since 1955, more than 25,000 campers and staff have passed through the gates at Camp B.B. Riback. Almost five decades after its initiation Camp B.B. Riback continues to offer Jewish children and grandchildren a safe environment to make lifelong friends, lasting memories and unique connections to their Jewish heritage.

Chairman of the Board of Camp BB-Riback Darren Bondar (at the podium) and Camp Director Max Lipsman look on as a representative of the youngest campers (wonderweek) and a CIT unveil a special plaque for architect Jack Abugov. The plaque will have a prominant place in the new multi-purpose Jack Abugov Centre at Pine Lake.

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B'nai Brith Canada Monitors Zundel hearing

B'nai Brith Canada will be present to monitor the Zundel hearing set to resume Monday, July 28. The Trial Division of the Federal Court will first hear Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel's constitutional challenge to the security certificate provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. "Zundel's attempt to assert that his right to life, liberty, and security of the person, as protected by section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms have been infringed by the security certificate process is doomed to fail." stated Rochelle Wilner, President of B'nai Brith Canada.

The certificate, signed by the Solicitor General and the Citizenship and Immigration Minister, declares Zundel a threat to the security of Canada and sets the stage for his deportation to Germany where he faces charges of inciting hatred. The Federal Court judge is currently reviewing the certificate. If the certificate is deemed to be reasonable, a removal order will be in place that cannot be appealed. Prior caselaw would suggest that the Federal Court does not have jurisdiction to hear the constitutional challenge, but even if it does, Zundel's prospects for success are slim, as the Supreme Court of Canada has previously upheld the constitutionality of similar security certificates.

Frank Dimant, Executive Vice President, commented "B'nai Brith Canada remains confident that the Court will view this stalling tactic for what it is — just one more desperate and baseless attempt to further delay Zundel's removal from Canada. The present Act was crafted to ensure the timely removal of security threats from Canada. It is abundantly clear that Zundel and his hatred have no place in a country that values diversity, tolerance and multiculturalism."

To contact B'nai Brith Canada, Western Region call Shoshana Szlachter at 483 - 6939.

Beth Ora Choir performs for Drop-in

Temple Beth Ora choir was a big hit with Drop-In members at the Volunteer Tea! Music Director: Maita Silver, Ann Goldblatt, Cathy Adachi, Sue Binnington, Karen Gall, Jana Hayward

Claims conference increases pension payments

Canadian Jewish Congress President Keith Landy and Michael Rosenberg, President of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, recently attended the Board of Directors meeting of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) in New York. Said Mr. Landy, "Our representation on the Material Claims Conference Board, together with the Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, is a key element of CJC's ongoing efforts on behalf of Canadian survivors and Shoah memorialization."

This year's Board meeting focused on a number of major issues. The Board announced a 5.6 percent increase in the pensions of 63,000 survivors after final agreement was reached this week with the German Ministry of Finance. The increased monthly payments from the Article 2 Fund and Central and Eastern European Fund (CEEF) will benefit survivors in 61 countries. The agreement, negotiated by the Claims Conference, was finalized just before the meeting. The increased payments will commence in the next quarter and be retroactive to January 1, 2003. The increases will come to an additional $11 million per year.

After extensive consultation, the Board also debated how available funds in the Institutional Allocations program should be earmarked, voting to maintain the current formula of 80% for survivor welfare and 20% for Holocaust education and research.

The Board of Directors passed a resolution in which it pledged to prioritize the issue of homecare in negotiations with the German government and to continue its current policy regarding funding for programs of Shoah research, education, and documentation. The resolution also pledged to work with the "larger Jewish community, including the federation system, to treat the issue of meeting the social welfare needs of victims of the Holocaust as an urgent communal priority, and to make every effort to find resources from restitution funds and from other sources for the critical social welfare programs that assist Holocaust survivors worldwide."

These funds derive primarily from the Claims Conference's recovery of and compensation for unclaimed Jewish property in the former East Germany (through its Successor Organization). The Board has now decided to establish a deadline for the Goodwill Fund, which the Claims Conference established almost a decade ago to enable original owners of these properties and certain legal heirs to share in the proceeds of restitution for these assets. The Conference will publish a list of the names of the owners of assets recovered by the Claims Conference or for which claims by the Claims Conference are still pending. After wide public advertising, a six-month deadline will be in effect after which remaining funds can be allocated to critical programs.

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SECOND OPINION *By Uri Rosenzweig*

The Bad News Census

In my last column I gave initial data I got from Stats Canada from the 2001 Canadian Census. I expressed concern that on the basis of that data, the growth of the Calgary Jewish community had considerably outpaced Edmonton since 1991.

Since then, more comprehensive data has been made available, by UIA/Federations Canada, the national body responsible for the study of Jewish Canada. While I don't have all the relevant data I would like, the news for the future of the Jewish community of Edmonton, based on the data I have available, does not look good. In analyzing this 2001 data, I have compared the information with that of the 1991 census study conducted by the McGill Consortium for Ethnicity and Strategic Social Planning.

According to the demographics, the Jewish community of Edmonton shrank from 5430 in 1991 to 4925 in 2001, or a loss of -9.3%. Calgary's Jewish community rose from 7155 in 1991 to 7950 in 2001, an increase of 11.1%.

A comparison by age cohorts should be of even greater interest and concern. Only three age groupings increased in Edmonton between 1991 and 2001. First, the 15 - 24 cohort increased from 715 in 1991 to 770 in 2001. The other two groupings were the 65+ year-olds and the aging baby boomers aged 45 - 64. In 1991 we had 555 aged 65 and over and in 2001 there were 765; in 1991, we had 970 between the ages of 45-64 and in 2001 we had 1485. In 1991, 10.2% of our total Jewish population was 65+ compared to 15.5% in 2001. We are an aging community.

The other two age cohorts represent net losses the community sustained since 1991. In 1991 we had 1225 children aged 0 - 14 and in 2001 there were 825; in 1991, there were 1960 in the age category of 25 - 44 and in 2001 there were 1080. The 25's - 44's represent a highly mobile and child bearing age group. But the data available does not show how many moved out of Edmonton, for one reason or another, and took their children with them. This might partially account for the loss in the 0 - 14 age cohort. In 1991, children aged 0 - 14 represented 22.6% of the total Jewish community and in 2001 were only 16.8% of Edmonton Jewry.

Our community almost doubled in size between 1971 and 1991, from 2910 to 5430. This was due primarily to migration from other provinces and immigration. The highest proportion of immigrants were from the former Soviet Union, South Africa and a distant third from the U.S. Even during this period of tremendous growth, Calgary attracted more Jewish immigrants than Edmonton and since 1991 Jewish immigration to Canada in general has dwindled.

Clearly, these demographics raise important issues and questions that must be addressed in an organized way. The net loss of 400 Day School age children from 1991 to 2001 has impacted on Jewish Day School registration in our community. The increase in our 65+ age cohort by over 200 in the same decade and the fact that we are an aging community with a projection that this age group will probably double within the next two decades, reflect a need for institutions and agencies such as Beit Horim, the Jewish Seniors Citizens Centre and Jewish Family Services to effectively plan for the needs and services that will be required in the near future.

Similarly, the shrinking of our community by a net loss of 505 men, women and children, between 1991 and 2001, and the net loss of almost 1000 in the 25 - 44 age cohort, raise questions about why we've failed to keep the same rate of growth as that of Calgary during the same period. The Census does not track intra-provincial migration. Is it possible that Calgary's gain is due in part to Edmonton's loss? And what about migration from other provinces and immigrants from countries other than the traditional sources of the former Soviet Union, South Africa, the USA and Israel? Does the "Alberta advantage" only work for Calgary?

We need more information to establish a meaningful profile of our community. Are those moving into our community more Jewishly committed or assimilated than those who have moved away? Is it possible that Jews included in the survey followed the trend in the last Canadian census to identify themselves ethnically as "Canadians" without any religious affiliation. Maybe there are those who don't identify themselves as Jews, and are not on any Jewish mailing list, which coupled with a shrinking community is even more devastating.

There are other various related issues too complex to discuss in the space available. The stats certainly pose a challenge to communal leadership and point to the need for establishing an agenda for strategic planning. Federation, by virtue of its By-Laws and therefore its commitment to the community is the only organization that has undertaken the responsibility for community planning. This is just one important area of its responsibilities that it has ignored for far too long.

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Using libraries and web to build Jewish identity

By Sarah B. Boxer

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Julie Sandorf recalls her immigrant grandparents telling her that they learned to be Americans at the public library, where they improved their English and learned more about American culture.

Now Sandorf wants this generation of Americans to use the public library to learn to be Jews.

Sandorf is the director of a new organization called Nextbook, a nationwide campaign dedicated to promoting Jewish cultural literacy through gateways such as the Internet and public libraries.

Replete with extensive reading lists, a daily cultural news digest and information regarding local library activities, Nextbook's Web site -- www.nextbook.org -- has been up since early June.

"There's an interest here in this being a gateway for disengaged Jews to learn about their culture, history and tradition," Sandorf says.

Part of the program's appeal is that it is not rooted in any particular denomination or synagogue, Sandorf says.

Reading lists have been a huge project for Nextbook. Books are listed in four separate categories: *Discovering Myself, Portraits of the Artist, Sense of Place* and *Struggle & Justice*.

Authors range from Isaac Bashevis Singer and Chaim Potok to Grace Paley and Amos Oz.

Books include "*Open Closed Open: Poems*" by Yehuda Amichai, "*Ideas and Opinions*" by Albert Einstein, "*Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*" by Jacobo Timerman, and "*The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews*" by Edda Servi Machlin.

"By nature, the book lists are very eclectic," Sandorf says. "They offer a broad, eclectic view of Jewish life that is consistently high quality."

Nextbook is a project of Keren Keshet-The Rainbow Foundation, a philanthropic organization formed by the Zalman Bernstein estate to enhance the religious background of Jews in the United States, Europe and Israel.

Nextbook currently has a "multi-million dollar budget," with no set end date, Sandorf says.

As a result, "there are no dues, no membership, no test; you can just go in and learn," Sandorf says.

Robin Cembalest, executive editor of ARTNews Magazine, says she uses Nextbook's Web site to stay abreast of the latest Jewish cultural news.

"I often end up sending articles to friends and family," says Cembalest, who says she has been checking the Web site virtually every day since its creation.

Library sections devoted to books donated by Nextbook, and including information on upcoming events, have been installed in three libraries in Chicago and seven in the city's suburbs.

Pilot library programs also should begin soon in the greater Seattle area and the Washington metropolitan area, Sandorf says.

Amy Eschelman, director of development and outreach at the Chicago Public Libraries, says it's a "terrific idea to use libraries as an access point" because they're free and open to everyone.

Eschelman says she has been "pleasantly surprised" by the swift success of Nextbook's implementation in the libraries.

"The only difficult thing is that we have too many ideas," she says.

Sandorf intends to employ a "library fellow" in each of the locales where Nextbook programs can be found.

Abigail Pickus, one of two Nextbook library fellows based in the Chicago area, says part of her job is "to work as a liaison between the New York Nextbook headquarters and participating libraries."

Beyond installing an extensive Nextbook literary section in the libraries, there are plans to "engage the public at large in Jewish literature and culture," Pickus says.

Events are in the works at venues ranging from libraries and other cultural institutions to coffee shops and book stores, Eschelman says.

Eschelman and Pickus are working to integrate literature with culture, music, art and dance, aiming to attract the 20-40 age group.

"We're just hoping that Nextbook will have a universal appeal," Sandorf says.

Nextbook advisory committees have been set up in the Chicago and Seattle areas.

Nextbook's official launch isn't planned until September. But with its Web site up and books already being checked out of libraries, it already has proven a success for user Carol Glazer.

"It's so important for unaffiliated Jews like me," says Glazer, who says she "got hooked on the Web site" and now checks it "on a pretty regular basis."

Glazer was raised in the 1950s in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, where "family was really important growing up, but religion wasn't."

"As I approached 50, I found myself wanting to reconnect to parts of my heritage and the culture that I had never learned about," Glazer says.

A single mother of two who works full time, "my ability to read novels, biographies or historical accounts of my heritage is non-existent -- my time is very limited," Glazer says.

As a result, it's critical for her "to have quick reading materials, whether it's for pleasure, work or current events," she says.

"This is the perfect media for me," she says. "I think it's a fabulous venture."

Drop-In celebrates June birthdays

June birthday honorees: Joyce Galante, Minn Leibo, and Helen Spevakow

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Undercover in the war on terror

by Aaron Leibel, Washington Jewish Week

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- She's had some frightening moments during the past several years. As an undercover investigator, Rita Katz attended pro-Palestinian rallies and fund-raising events disguised as a Muslim woman in order to expose the links of American Islamic groups to foreign terrorist groups.

At one conference, the Potomac resident relates in her recently published book, she was seated on the right side of the room, with the other women and children as is the custom at such events, when suddenly someone from the left side of the room screams, "You are not a Brother! Get out!"

"I hear raised voices again," Katz writes. "Someone shouts, 'The insolence! Who do they think they are? The next one we find we'll tear apart! No recording in this hall, everyone! We mean that!'

"My heart is beating fast, and I am sweating. I pray to God that my perspiration won't cause the $5,000 digital camcorder and back-up voice-recorder [that she is wearing under her clothes] to malfunction and that nothing will go wrong. Putting myself in danger is one thing, but risking my baby [she is pregnant] there's too much at stake. If I'm discovered, I'll never be able to do this again."

"It was scary, especially in small meetings," Katz, author of *Terrorist Hunter: The Extraordinary Story of a Woman Who Went Undercover to Infiltrate the Radical Islamic Groups Operating in America* (HarperCollins), says in an interview. "I tried not to think about it.

"My husband used to tell me it's good that I'm scared because that will make me more alert."

One fear for Katz, who spent much of her childhood and years as a young adult living in Israel and often spoke a mixture of Hebrew and Arabic, was that she might blurt out some word in Hebrew.

She considered giving up this dangerous work. "I wanted to be a normal woman," says the author, who is the mother of four children. "But I thought If I don't do this, no one else will do."

In May, Katz told her story on the CBS news magazine, *60 Minutes*, but in disguise. She also wrote her book under the name "Anonymous" to protect herself and her family from retaliation from groups, whose hidden links to al-Qaeda, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah she has exposed.

However, last month, two of the groups she discussed in her book and on TV -- the Heritage Education Trust and the Safa Trust -- sued her and revealed her name and the identity of SITE (The Search for International Terrorist Entities) Institute that she heads.

Because the lawsuit is pending, Katz is reluctant to talk about the case. But she does say "this attempt to silence her" will not prevent her from continuing her work.

Katz has good credentials to be hunting terrorist-connected Muslim groups. She was born in 1963 in southern Iraq's Basra into a wealthy Jewish family. She remembers a happy childhood amid a small, but tight-knit, Jewish community.

Her world fell apart when her father, who was in the import-export business, was accused of spying for Israel and arrested shortly after Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party seized power in 1968.

The family, all of whose property was confiscated by the state, moved to Baghdad to be near her father. He was publicly hanged in 1969.

Two years later, her mother, fearing for her life, organized an escape for the whole family through northern Iraq into Iran, then still ruled by the shah. From there, the family made its way to Israel, where Katz grew up.

After earning a degree in Middle Eastern studies from Tel Aviv University, Katz joined her mother in a business venture, manufacturing and selling clothes to the fervently Orthodox.

Often, on business visits, she remembers changing her clothes in her car to garb more appropriate for the Orthodox community -- a precursor to her future work undercover in the Muslim community in America.

Katz says she resisted coming to live in the United States because of her Zionist views ("I believed that Jews belong in Israel"), despite her physician-husband's opportunity to advance in his field by working here. But after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli in 1995, she and her husband decided "to try a different life [in the U.S.]," she says.

She attempted to be a stay-at-home mom after her arrival, but soon became bored.

So about five years ago, Katz answered an ad and was hired by a Middle Eastern research institute. (Because of her lawsuit, she doesn't want to reveal the institute's name.)

On her first day on the job -- much of her work was to entail "administrative stuff and copying," her new boss had told her -- she started reading documents in English and Arabic about the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development.

"I saw differences in the translations," Katz recalls. "The Arabic list was longer, and I recognized that some organizations mentioned in Arabic and not in English were Hamas front organizations."

That realization propelled her to start doing research on that group, collecting Arabic documents and eventually going undercover.

Continued on page 8

Campers pause to pay tribute

Two hundred and twenty campers at Camp BB-Riback took a break from all the fun this month to attend the unveiling of the Jack Abugov Centre, a new all weather multi-use facility and pay tribute to architect Jack Abugov and camp founder Ted Riback. The campers were joined by some seventy staff members and close to four hundred parents and friends. The first session of camp is now complete and second session is underway with one hundred and seventy campers.

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Ex-Nazi found hiding in Michigan

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON,(JTA) -- U.S. federal officials have arrested a Nazi guard who escaped deportation 16 years ago and was found hiding out in a secret compartment underneath the stairs of his former Michigan home.

Johann Leprich, 77, was stripped of his citizenship in 1987 after a federal court judge found that he served as an armed SS Death's Head guard at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria in 1943 and 1944.

But Leprich's attorney said he had fled the United States for Canada before he could be officially deported.

After an exhaustive search, agents from the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement found Leprich on July 1.

"We caught him on a visit," said Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

Rosenbaum said federal officials had received numerous reports of Leprich's visits to the United States over the years, including one trip to Michigan to renew his driver's license.

Investigators believe that Leprich spent most of the time after his citizenship was revoked in Canada, and it was easy for him to cross the border back into the United States, even without a passport.

Neighbors described Leprich, who apparently spent considerable time in the United States, as a "good man," who gave tomatoes from his garden to people, according to the Associated Press.

Rosenbaum said he hopes Leprich will receive an abbreviated deportation trial because of his previous conviction, and that Canada will refuse him entry.

Investigators were aided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Rosenbaum said.

"This arrest makes clear that those who participated in the atrocities of the Holocaust will not escape the determined reach of U.S. law enforcement, regardless of how much time has passed," Attorney General John Ashcroft said in a news release.

"Nazi collaborators will not find safe haven in the United States."

Leprich, who was featured on television's "America's Most Wanted" in 1997, immigrated to the United States in 1952, and became a naturalized citizen six years later. During his time at Mauthausen, inmates were used as slave laborers in a quarry located at the camp, and inmates were starved, beaten, tortured and killed by numerous methods, the court that prosecuted him said.

The Office of Special Investigations and Department of Homeland Security claimed in court papers filed last week that Leprich should be deported because of his service at Mauthausen and because he failed to comply with a statute requiring aliens residing in the United States to report their address to federal authorities.

Since 1979, 71 Nazi persecutors have lost their U.S. citizenship and 57 have been removed from the country.

Computer Fun at Talmud Torah Play School

Arielle Feber, Age 3, learns computer skills while playing games on the Talmud Torah Play School computer. The Play School is for children aged two to four years old. The children learn songs and games in English and in Hebrew. They learn about Jewish holidays and traditions and most importantly, they learn to socialize with new friends their own age.

Undercover *Cont. from page 7*

Her work, through her SITE Institute, which is funded by various federal agencies and private groups needing to know about radical Muslim groups operating in the U.S., has led to closures of organizations, deportations and ongoing investigations. She also has provided the media with information.

Two of her victories have involved the White House. In 2000, Katz learned through a Holy Land Foundation newsletter that HLF had been approved to receive federal aid. "I freaked out," she says. A call to the White House put an end to a situation in which "the U.S. government could have been [indirectly] funding Hamas."

In another case, Abdurahman al-Amoudi, who was considered a moderate, had access to the Clinton White House. The author recorded him at an event at which he said he supported Hamas and Hezbollah. The tape she sent to the media ended his intimate relations with that administration, she says.

Katz says her book is a wake-up call for the American people. "I wrote the book because Islamic fundamentalism doesn't only exist in Pakistan and Afghanistan," she says.

"It is here and if we don't understand it, we can't fight it."

Despite being subjected to virulent anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda in her undercover work, Katz believes that most Muslims living in America are moderate. A small group of people, however, funded by the Saudi Arabians and others, are trying to radicalize them.

Katz is convinced that they will be stopped, and that the U.S. will eventually triumph over international terrorism.

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Drop-In Centre Update

Summer is underway and there are lots of enjoyable activities planned to keep the Drop-In members busy. If anyone is interested in foot care assessments and treatments, please call the Jewish Drop In Centre at **488-4241**. The service, provided by fully qualified nurses, includes nails, callouses, corns, padding to relieve pressure, as well as other treatments.

The Edmonton Heritage Days Festival will be held **August 1 to 4** in Hawrelak Park. There is a bus that leaves from Jasper Avenue, every 10 to 15 minutes, to Hawrelak Park for those people requiring transport to the Festival. The cost is reduced for Seniors.

The Drop In Centre will be closed on Thursday **August 7th** for Tisha B'Av.

On **Sunday August 10** the Drop-In members will be having a Northlands Day at the Races from noon until 4pm. There is a minimum cost of $5, which includes programs and tokens. For transport please sign up at the Centre – 488-4241. No outside food is permitted at Northlands.

Join the Centre for a ride in the High Level Bridge Streetcar on **Monday, August 11** departing at **12:30 pm**. Cargo and James on Whyte Ave. will provide a tea tasting and eats, then ride the street car back downtown. Cost: $9.00, which includes streetcar fare, tea tasting and dessert.

On **Monday, August 25 at 1:30 pm**. we will be taking a Tour of City Hall. Bus will depart the Drop In Centre at 1pm. Meet with Councilors Karen Leibovici and Steven Mandel.

Join Queena Klein on **Tuesday, August 26th at 11am**. for a session of "I Remember I Remember." Come and enjoy a wonderful morning of memories. Refreshments served. No Charge.

On **Wednesday, August 27** Drop In members will have a picnic at Elk Island Park.– Please call the office for more information

Fitness starts **Thursday, September 4 at 10:30**. The classes will run intermittently due to the Chagim. Please call the office to find out the dates and to sign up.

Back by popular demand: The Drop In Centre annual trip to Calgary is being planned for **October 28-29**. Watch for upcoming details on theatre, Glenbow Museum, Eau Claire market. Accommodation has been reserved at the Carriage House Inn. Meet, eat and visit with Calgary Jewish Seniors. Call the office for more info. 488-4241

The Sunday Club is taking a break for July and August.

A good time at the Volunteer Celebration was had by Marty Blatt, Eve Jason, Harry Nolan, and Ted Aaron.

Volunteers enjoyed being feted at the Volunteer Breakfast convened by Joyce Galante and Rosemary Kitay.

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Tastes of the summer

by Jeff Nathan
Kelly Siegel-Ritchie
Reprinted from NJ Jewish News

I'm inspired by the easy spirit of summertime and the bountiful harvest of my garden. As much as I can, I bring tastes of the outdoors into my culinary creations.

The unparalleled satisfaction that comes from using your own garden-fresh foods is well worth the effort it takes to start and maintain a garden.

The Jewish calendar of events dictates to us one holiday during the summer. Tisha B'Av, solemnly observed on the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av -- this year Aug. 7 -- is a day of fasting. The mournful event of the fast is preceded by nine days of not eating meat. Meat is a sign of prosperity, and is therefore avoided as we commemorate the destruction of two temples on the same day hundreds of years apart.

Along with not eating meat, we avoid elaborate productions of our foods. Instead, we aim for simpler tastes and more basic foods. Traditional menus at Tisha B'Av include dairy dishes and fish.

The guidelines of this holiday keep to the theme and spirit of easy summer cooking. The simplistic tastes of the summer garden are a good basis to work from for your meals of Tisha B'Av. The recipe I've included for you this month reflects the tastes of summer in a perfect duet with the principles of the holiday. Pareve

Salmon Confit with Gazpacho Relish and Dill Oil.

Makes 6 servings.

Dill Oil

1/2 cup packed fresh dill, stalks and fronds
3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

Salmon Confit

3 cups extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
6 whole black peppercorns
2 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed under a heavy knife
1 bay leaf
Six 6-ounce salmon fillets

Gazpacho Relish

1/2 cup yellow grapefruit sections
1 cup (1/4-inch dice) red plum and yellow tomatoes
1/4 cup (1/4-inch dice) seedless English cucumber
3/4 cup (1/4-inch dice) green yellow and red bell peppers
1/4 cup rough chopped purple or green basil
1 tablespoon rough chopped, fresh mint
1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme
1/4 cup (1/4-inch dice) red onion
2 teaspoons seeded and minced jalapeno pepper
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
8 ounces mixed baby lettuces washed and dried

To make the dill oil, bring 1 quart of lightly salted water to a boil in a large saucepan. Plunge the entire bunch of dill into the boiling water and cook for 5 seconds, just to set the color. Drain and rinse under cold water. Blot the dill dry with paper towels. Process the dill and oil in a blender until smooth.

Transfer to an airtight container. (The oil can be made up to 5 days ahead, covered and refrigerated. Return to room temperature before using.)

To make the confit, combine the oil, peppercorns, garlic, and bay leaf in a 12- to 14-inch skillet. Place the salmon in the oil, being sure the fillets are barely covered with the oil; add more oil as needed. Turn the heat to medium. As soon as the oil begins to bubble around the edges of the salmon and the surface of the salmon turns opaque, remove the skillet from the heat.

Cool the salmon in the oil, where it will continue to cook. Using a slotted spatula, transfer the salmon to a platter and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 2 hours or up to 1 day.

To make the relish, combine the grapefruit pieces, red and yellow tomatoes, cucumbers, green, red and yellow peppers, fresh herbs, onion, and jalapeno in a medium bowl. Toss with the oil and season with salt and pepper.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until chilled, at least 30 minutes and up to 6 hours.

To serve, place a mound of greens in the centers of each of 6 plates. Top each with a salmon fillet. Place spoon about 1/3 cup of the gazpacho relish on each filet, allowing some to drip down the sides of the dish. Drizzle the salmon and greens, as well as the plate, with a tablespoon or two of dill oil. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Recipes from Adventures in Jewish Cooking by Jeffrey Nathan. Copyright 2002 by Jeffrey Nathan. Reprinted by permission of Clarkson Potter, a division of Random House Inc.

Fun activities at the Drop-In

Jokes and sorbet are a winning combination with Queena's Happy Hour at the Drop-In Centre.

Edmonton Hebrew Association Hosts Cyclathon

The Edmonton Hebrew Association is hosting a Cyclathon on Sunday, August 17th, at 3:00 p.m. in front of Beth Israel (131 Wolf Willow Road). Children, adults, young and old, can bike ride, roller blade, job, or walk 5 km, 10 km, 25 km, or 50 km. Raise money by collecting pledges and donations. The registration is $15 a person (adult) and includes a t-shirt, and a coupon for the BBQ after the event. The cost for each child is $5.00 and includes a coupon for the BBQ dinner.

All participants will be entered into a draw box for awesome prizes. Every person who raises $50 or more, will have a chance to win a new DVD Player.

After the cyclathon, at 5:00 p.m., come to the parking lot of the Beth Israel synagogue, for a fantastic BBQ. There will be lots of hamburgers and hotdogs for sale for those who just want to partake in this fun-filled activity.

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"Speaking of "Normal"

by Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW Clinical Social Worker

In the last issue of this paper, there was an article about the issue of same sex marriage and how that has split the community. To say I was dumbfounded is to underestimate my response.

As Canadians we have a strong split between faith communities and the state. The state does not tell the faith community how to behave as long as the rights of all are protected. Sounds pretty simple. Faith communities get tax benefits from the state but are not told how to run their business or their beliefs. The faith community does not direct the state. Seems pretty simple, at least in principle.

In this instance, the state is making some changes and is not insisting that the faith community go along with them. The state is making a change and each faith community can decide how to handle it. Lots of people get married outside of the faith communities; this is not new. And marriage has little or nothing to do with religious faith for many people.

This state/faith community separation seems to be getting blurred in the debate, although the government is deliberately asking for clarification on this point from the Supreme Court.

But what dumbfounded me was to see, in the Jewish community, the blurring of the safety of church/state line and the exclusion of those who were comrades in the concentration camps from full membership in the faith community.

The pink triangle, for many a symbol of liberation in the lesbian and gay community, originated in the camps of the Holocaust. How can any group that was part of that horror turn away from others who were there with them? That is what I don't comprehend.

Perhaps it is that when we have been so traumatized, we want to move into safety. For some, that means ensuring that only those who are really like us are safe. To some extent this is a common response – a good example is AA. A frequent comment expressed by recovering alcoholics is , "If everyone else here is an alcoholic, then I am safe from ridicule and the shame I feel and fear."

Recovery comes only when the safety is mostly internalized and felt within ourselves. Only then are we free from the domination of the fear and able to move about in our world with a sense of safety. Only then are we able to open to others who are different from ourselves. Yet we keep being reminded of our inadequacies, of our failures to be acceptable and so that makes it hard to be open to difference.

In a recent letter to the editor of the *Edmonton Journal*, a dad commented that he had been at the legislature pool on a day when there was a demonstration against same sex marriage. He commented that the kids, of all shapes, sizes and descriptions were playing happily and he wanted all kids to be able to grow up without fear.

And so when we adults impose our fears on other adults or indirectly onto kids, when we teach them that certain kinds of folks who are somehow different from us are to be vilified and excluded, perhaps we should all pause a moment and think of the costs some have paid for being different.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author alone. They are not intended to replace consultation with a qualified psychotherapist. Any identifying information has been thoroughly altered to protect privacy.

Campers salute Jack Abugov and Ted Riback

Jack Abugov and Ted Riback addressed an appreciative crowd of campers, staff, families and friends at a special open house at the Pine Lake Camp BB-Riback held this month to unveil the new multi-use arts and crafts facility. Assistant Director Joel Bernbaum is pictured above holding the microphone.

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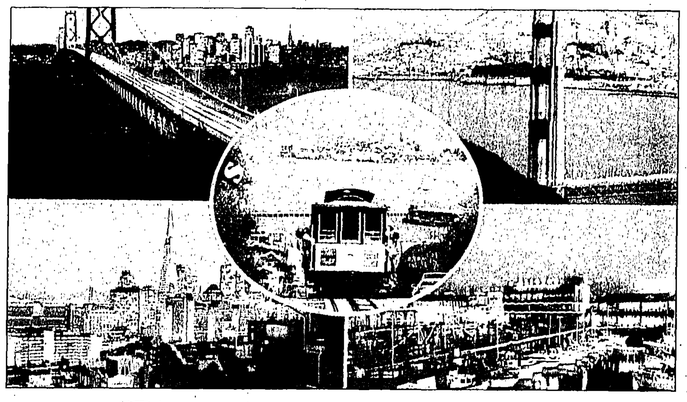

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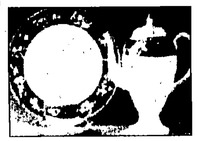

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EDMONTON Jewish News

Vol. 13, No. 3 August 27, 2003

Massive bus bombing prompts all sides to reconsider peace policies

by Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) Last week's massive bus bombing, which killed 21 people, most of them fervently Orthodox Jews and some of them children, may turn out to be a defining moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It signaled the collapse of the cease-fire, or "hudna," declared by Palestinian terrorist organizations in late June and generated potentially far-reaching Israeli, American and Palestinian policy reappraisals.

Israel launched a string of targeted strikes against terrorist leaders, warning that it would no longer distinguish between political and military echelons of any organization waging terror, including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. The United States exerted unprecedented pressure on the Palestinian Authority to unite its armed forces, collect illegal weapons and smash terrorist organizations before a new cycle of terror and reprisal spins out of control. And the Palestinians made some tentative moves against terrorists, while urging a new cease-fire that Israel suspects is designed to tie the Jewish state's hands and avert the need for the Palestinian Authority to take more tangible steps against groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Officially, Israel and the Palestinians continue to back the American-initiated "road map" peace plan. Indeed, both parties claim the breakdown stems from the other side's failure to implement its obligations under the road map, and both maintain that their new moves are designed to force more scrupulous execution.

Some critics, however, say the flaw is not in the failure to implement the road map but in the plan itself, and they are calling for a new approach. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, never a fan of the road map, has revived his call for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Martin Indyk, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, has reiterated his proposal for an American trusteeship over Palestine. For different reasons, both say the road map in its present form will never work. Still, Israel remains committed to

Continued on page 2

Dr. Charles McVety, President of Canada Christian College, joined Jewish leaders in condemning the "Jews for Jesus" movement which is dedicated to converting Jews to Christianity under the guise of Judaism. B'nai Brith Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress are stepping up their efforts to educate the community about the group's recent activities in Toronto.

Rebecca Waserman photo reprinted from the Jewish Tribune

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Canadian Jewish officials compile census data

by Bill Gladstone

(JTA) -- Jewish officials hope that newly released census data will give them a more comprehensive picture of the Canadian Jewish community, helping them prepare better for the community's future needs. (Certainly the 9 percent decrease in the Jewish population of Edmonton since 1991, compared to an 11 percent increase in Calgary, should have far reaching implications for community planning.)

UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella organization for 11 federated Jewish communities across the country, has paid about $300,000 to the federal census office, Statistics Canada, for the detailed numbers on the size, shape, age and other variables for communities across Canada.

Dubbed the National Jewish Demographic Study, the project constitutes "the largest comprehensive demographic study ever undertaken of the Jewish community in Canada," according to research coordinator Charles Shahar.

Unlike the 2000 U.S. census, the 2001 Canadian census asked citizens to identify both their religion and ethnic background. The two variables will allow demographers to determine the number of Jews with greater accuracy, Shahar said.

"Basically we're going to be looking at about 150 small-, medium- and large-sized communities across Canada, from St. John, Newfoundland to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, British Columbia," he said.

Shahar, who usually does demographic studies and surveys for the Jewish community of Montreal, plans to compile about a dozen reports in the coming year based on census information he is scheduled to receive in four packages between now and October.

The data will enable him to compile statistics on everything from whether Jews are living singly or in family units, their marital status and economic brackets, their intermarriage rate and even their level of affiliation in the community.

It also will allow him to determine where are the most concentrated populations of Jews and where the "dependency ratio"

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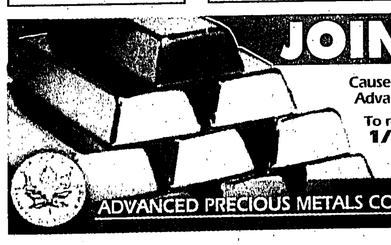

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