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The Atlantic Jewish Council Quarterly

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Message from the President

by Ivan Levine



Ivan Levine

Shalom:

For many years we have been trying to offer educational and cultural services throughout the Jewish calendar for you and your children as well as the Atlantic community as a whole. This year we come forth with a revolutionary and most comprehensive pro-

gramme, designed and created by our Executive Director, Emmanuel Zabar. This year we offer you the **Atlantic Haggadah**. (The Hebrew word "Haggadah" means: History telling—generally done by passing life experience by telling it from one generation to another). You were mailed detailed information about this project which I trust you will find most interesting and exciting.

The **Atlantic Haggadah** is *our own* story. This is the story of ourselves from the arrival of our Jewish forefathers to Atlantic Canada until the current days. This story will be specially written, staged and video-taped by both professionals and volunteers who will come from our communities to create the big show—heralding a new annual tradition in the Atlantic Region.

The **Atlantic Haggadah** is a very large undertaking which we have embarked upon to accomplish. This decision was unanimously taken by our Executive on January 18, 1990, believing that we are heading towards a new decade of much more enriched and valued cultural activities. *Your help and participation can make the difference!* If you have some-

thing to offer—or if you are asked to give a hand in this project—please come forward and encourage us in our work for the benefit of the community at large.

In this issue of **Shalom** your *personal invitation* is included. In your calendar please note the date of **Sunday May 27, 1990** for the Gala Event in Halifax and try to be with us on that memorable evening. We urge you to participate—and let us know it by sending back your reply-card. *This program is for you and about you, including all the Jewish communities in the Atlantic Region.*

The **Atlantic Haggadah** is a growing project. Educational and cultural activities of a wide range will start taking place in different locations throughout our region—aiming to involve as many people as possible. The highlight of this year's event will be the **Gala Evening on May 27, 1990 at the Hilton Hotel in Halifax.**

I hope that you become excited about the **Atlantic Haggadah** project, and I look forward to your participation.

My best wishes to you for a Happy & Health Pesach.

Sincerely,

Ivan Levine
President

Emmanuel's Message

The Saint John Ru'ach

I am highly impressed!

In a kind of festive mood the **Atlantic Haggadah** project was unanimously approved by a fully attended Executive Meeting of the Atlantic Jewish Council. All members expressed their hope that our communities will respond to the challenge offered by the **Haggadah**, and participate in the variety of activities proposed.

I regard the executive decision as an act of leadership, taken by our responsible leaders who felt the time has come to do more in Atlantic Canada.

The **Atlantic Haggadah** project is already running with more and more people getting involved with every passing week. Many people are offering their talents or expertise to the project and it seems that we really struck gold in our programming, but . . .

The Saint John Community's response to the call is the most impressive of all. From the word "go" (even before the official introductory letter was sent) a group of dedicated volunteers started creating committees and running agendas under the title of the **Atlantic Haggadah**. Their names must be mentioned for the record: Marcia & Jerry Koven, Teri Levine, Sidi Schaffer, Dr. Polowin, Herzl Kashetzky, Ben Cohen, Benny Bloom and Lou Michelson.

They all got so excited and enthusiastic about the project, so much that they are chasing ME to do more and more, developing ideas and "mushrooming" them into more and more activities! Wow, what a Ru'ach they have in Saint John! I already came to a point where I hinted that I won't be able to use all their material for this year's **Haggadah**, and Marcia Koven (or was it Teri Levine?) said to me "Don't worry, we will use it for next year's **Haggadah**, which is planned to be held in New Brunswick." What a Ru'ach!

Personally, I feel proud to have the privilege of working with such people . . . and this is after only six months in Atlantic Canada. . .

I wonder what is going to happen next?!



Emmanuel Zabar

Excerpts from Soviet Jewry – The Analysis of Contemporary Situation

By Alan Rose

Chairman, Soviet Jewry Committee
Canadian Jewish Congress

We are witnessing now, one of the most interesting and, to a considerable extent, unexpected period in the history of the Soviet Union. The latest developments burden us with the necessity of a deep understanding and analysis of the situation before coming to any decision which might tell on the overall policy.

We attribute great significance to our contacts with the Jewish organizations abroad as we, having the third largest Jewish population, feel ourselves to be members of the world Jewish family with Israel as the centre of the world Jewry. Having been asked too often about the whole idea behind the notion of independence of our movement, I deem it would be most appropriate to dot the i's in this respect from the very start of my report, which will save you the trouble of putting this question to me. The whole cluster of the Jewish non-official organizations comprising the Jewish movement in the Soviet Union today is a specific political heritage of thousands of Jewish refuseniks who have been fighting through vicious repressions for many a year to initiate the process of national revival of the

Excerpts continued on page 3

Excerpts continued from page 2

Soviet Jewry. Having no chance of leaving for Israel they wrote a new page in the book of Jewish history. The merit of Shcharansky, Begun, Slepak, Eidelstein, Kosharovsky and others is not reduced only to the fact that they managed to keep their ideals through the appalling conditions of Brezhnev prisons, today we can say with confidence that their greatest merit lies in the initiation of chain reaction of tremendous strength among the Soviet Jews. And now we can characterize the Jewish movement in the Soviet Union as the movement of people united by the same ideals carrying and relating the torch which was kindled in the beginning of the 70's.

The modern Jewish history can boast a number of glorious accomplishments and one of the brightest is the struggle of all Jewish people for the right of their brothers in the USSR to emigrate to Israel and repatriation. Although the struggle is still going on, some feasible results have been achieved. It demanded the solidarity of all Jews which demonstrated the strength of Jewish spirit and unity to the whole world. The history of humanity does not know any other example when a people dispersed throughout the whole world joins in one single effort to fight for the right of their brothers. The activities of the American, European, Canadian, Australian and certainly, the Israeli Jewish organizations have elevated the issue of the Soviet Jewry to an unprecedented height of political importance, placing it on equal footing with the most significant humanitarian problems of the modern world. However, the status of the problem is not to the liking of the Soviet government. In the climate of new political thinking, top Soviet officials, including President Gorbachev, would not like to have the Jewish issue linked with the problem of solving their own issues of foreign policy. The aim of the Soviet leadership is to see the Jewish issue ousted beyond the framework of political discussions, and this also provides an explanation of the partial solution of the problem of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and of some liberalization in relation to Jewish culture in the USSR. However, the development of parallel structures designed to channel the Jewish issue in the entirely new direction by splitting into separate aspects - religious, cultural and regional - is a means of bringing the issue outside the framework of politics. The Jewish organizations under the initiative of the Party apparatus were designed to explicitly illustrate the changes which are taking place in the Soviet society, though the genuine interests of Jewish people are openly ignored, thought of as absolutely irrelevant.

Today, more than 2 million of Soviet Jewry are going through a crisis. Seventy years of official oppression and suppression of Jewish culture have borne the bitter fruit. The national self-awareness of the Jewish people has ceased to exist. With the generation who keep in their memory the elements of the Jewish Shtetl culture passing into the shade, just a few fragments of the once rich national heritage link now the Soviet Jews with their organic back-

ground. Today, the Soviet Jews see the reality through the prism of the Russian culture and the Russian language. In these circumstances we proceed from the assumption that the main task of Jews in the Soviet Union can be formulated as **National Survival of Soviet Jewry as Integral Part of the Single Jewish People.** Given the serious demographic problems the world Jewry is facing, the struggle for survival of the Soviet Jews acquires particular importance within the context of the global Jewish interests in the world.

Just a few years ago free emigration was thought of as the only solution to the problem. We believed that only those who could manage to leave the country had the possibility of preserving their Jewish identity. And we have to remember that besides those hundreds of thousands of Jews who are likely to emigrate, there are not less than 2 million people of Jewish descent living in Russia, and a great deal of them will stay there for many generations to come and they will be able to preserve their Jewish identity if we think about it now. And even if only a small percentage of these



Lydia Trazova, 32, a gynecologist from Leningrad with her children, Gregori, 7, and Sonia, 6, at Ben Gurion Airport, in the early hours of the morning after their flight from Bucharest (Michael Kramer).

will open their souls to Jewish culture, religious and spiritual values as the result of our activities, that is surely a cause to fight for. And there is another aspect of this problem immediately coming into the fore. We are greatly disturbed by the fact that Jewish emigration from the USSR is losing its national character. Our task is to impart the character of national self-expression back to it.

On the whole, we expect that when cultural activities make more considerable gains both in depth and breadth, when social and national mechanisms of protecting the Jewish minority are developed, the emigration will no longer mean the escape from poverty, suppression and anti-Semitism, but it will turn into a civilized process of repatriation stimulated by national motives. However, it would be appropriate to stress that we are against any forceable control of the emigration flow and we strongly believe that some special measures should be discussed which will make it possible to keep those who are leaving for the

USA, Australia and other countries in the Jewish family. So this is the brief description of the emigration problem as it stands now.

In contrast to the previous years there are now a lot of various societies, clubs, groups, associations springing up throughout the country which have no direct relation to the process of emigration. Their purpose is to normalize the Jewish communal life in the country. In the absolute majority they came into being through a grassroots initiative without any official sponsorship. These groups constitute the foundation of a now shaping Jewish movement and they represent a whole spectrum of varied national and cultural associations. These are well established cultural societies of the Baltic Republics which have been registered by the local authorities and which have their own press, schools, along with real changes of realizing their programs at the official level. There are also groups and societies in the Ukraine, where a string and united regional organization is being set up under the leadership of Joseph Zissals. Multiple organizations which have appeared in the Caucasian Repub-

lics are also actively supporting the political platform of the independent movement. In general, as per the data provided by our Information Centre, there are now more than 200 Jewish organizations representing practically all regions of the USSR.

One of the most serious factors which has a profound impact on all our actions is **Anti-Semitism.** The specificity of the present situation is demonstrated by the sharp upsurge of public anti-Semitism in a very short period of time which was caused, strange as it might seem, by the process of democratization. Born are some non-official groups a few years ago, it is now acquiring well organized and fortunately, legalized forms. The official anti-Semitism of the state bureaucracy has been practically dissolved in the powerful flow. The Soviet anti-Semitism of today poses a great danger first of all because it is based on a thoroughly built theoretical platform, armed

Excerpts continued on page 5

Operation Exodus

Jews in Tadjikistan Frightened

The Jews fled the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, seeking refuge at Moscow's Choral Synagogue, said a spokesman of the United Jewish Appeal, because they fear violence directed against them as a result of ethnic tensions between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

The UJA delegation is in Moscow on a fact-finding trip as part of the organization's preparation for Operation Exodus, the \$420 million fundraising campaign for the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel, which is to be launched in April.

In their meetings with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials, the UJA delegation called for Soviet leaders to speak out against anti-Semitism, in order to calm the panic in the Jewish community.

Meanwhile, the ethnic violence that rocked Tadjikistan brought no physical harm to the Soviet Asian republic's estimated 22,000 to 25,000 Jews, according to early reports reaching the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

But a Jewish resident of Dushanbe, where much of the violence took place, reported by phone that the Jewish community was frightened. The grass-roots advocacy group obtained its information from the Caucasus Network, which focuses on Jews in the Caucasus and central Asia.

The Trud article on the events in Kharkov was obtained and translated by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

The committee received a skeptical reaction to the Trud article from Natasha Khassina, a former refusenik now living in Jerusalem.

"How will they be able to investigate? Who investigated?" she asked, referring to the Kharkov's role in the anti-Semitic violence.

"We know that is a tactic that has been used for a long time to know that no one has even been brought to trial for anti-Semitism," she said.

Former Prisoners of Zion Call for Urgent Action on Soviet Jews

Jerusalem—A demonstration in front of the Prime Minister's office was held (the week of February 8) by several prominent former prisoners of Zion, including Yosef Begun, Ida Nudel, Yull Edelshtein and Yosef Mendelevich, to demand that the Israeli government step up efforts to rescue Soviet Jews.

"We don't think the Prime Minister is pressing hard enough for direct flights, or that the government is doing enough to explore other alternatives, such as flights through Warsaw, Prague and Finland, Mendelevich said. He added that there are 60,000 Jews with exit visas, and that the turmoil in the Soviet Union meant it was important to act quickly.

Ida Nudel added that among Israeli leaders and the need to I hope," she said, "that I

Romanian Jews Worry About Future, Despite Assurances from Government

By Gil Sedan, JTA

The Jews of Romania are seriously concerned for their future, despite assurances by officials that the new government will continue to guarantee their well-being.

The assurances were given to Sylvia Hassenfeld, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Michael Schneider, its executive director, who arrived in Jerusalem on February 15, after visiting Romania and Czechoslovakia.

Romanian Jews, who had a stable if precarious existence under the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, are fearful of the emergence of fascist elements in the turbulent atmosphere that has prevailed since the revolution three months ago, the JDC officials reported.

"Anti-Semitic slogans such as 'Jews go!' can already be seen on the wall," they said.

Assenfeld and Schneider met with Romania's new president, Ion Iliescu, and other senior officials in Bucharest.

Iliescu said Jews were free to emigrate, to stay or to work, as they wish, Schneider reported.

There are at most 22,000 Jews in Romania. Before 1945, 1200 to 1400 immigrated to Israel each year.

less the situation worsens appreciably, no one can be expected from that country, because the Jewish population is too old to make the move, Schneider said.

Just In! Soviet Jews Get Shabbat Dispensation

by David Landas, JTA

Israel's Sephardic chief rabbi, Mordechai Eliahu, has given Jews leaving the Soviet Union for Israel dispensation to travel on the Sabbath.

In issuing his edict February 4, the chief rabbi invoked the principle of "pikuach nefesh", the saving of lives, which overrides the religious ban on travel on the Sabbath and other Jewish holy days.

Eliahu expressed concern for the safety of Jews in the Soviet Union.

Soviet Jews in Terror of Gorbachev's Fall

By Elle Wiesel

For some years (Russian Jews) have lived with a low level of terror. A visitor can sense an intangible phenomenon. Soviet Jews are frightened.

... every Russian with whom I spoke was concerned about Mikhail Gorbachev's political fate. Will he last? ... and Gentiles pray that he will remain in power. His fall could be followed by a monstrous bloodbath. And they might well be the principal victims. ... Pamyat is not only group agitating against excessive Jewish influence in the halls of power. It is simply meaner and more brutal than the others.

Pamyat's hate-mongering pamphlets sell in the thousands—and they remind one of the propaganda disseminated by Streicher and Goebbels. Meanwhile, other groups, though just as fanatical, use ultra-nationalism to disguise their anti-Semitic obsessions.

While in Moscow late in January, I had an opportunity to speak with Jewish friends from Odessa, Kiev, Leningrad and Tashkent. All are worried ... anti-Semitic hooligans (are active). The police and the militia rarely interfere ... Only Gorbachev can reassure Soviet Jews. Even he may not succeed. It may be too late.

How many have initiated applications for Israeli visas? Eight hundred thousand?

They are afraid of missing a final opportunity. Time, they fear, may run out. Their anxiety turns on the simple fact that today or tomorrow—or any new day—could bring radical change of regime. And the gateway to freedom may again be locked.

Hence their sense of urgency. Did I say urgency? I mean: emergency.

Dare we contradict them?

(New York Post, Feb. 13, 1990)

KGB: No Pogroms

Moscow—The KGB, in an unusual move, has issued a statement, carried by the Soviet news agency Tass, chiding the news media for assisting in the spread of pogrom rumors for which "no concrete evidence" exists. And a senior Soviet official has stated that Moscow will not limit Jewish emigration, despite Arab pressure.

The KGB statement (a copy of which was sent to the World Jewish Congress) said the only information about supposed Anti-Jewish pogroms "are the rumors themselves, reports of them in the mass media and requests by individual citizens for explanations about one rumor or another". Nevertheless, the KGB pledged to "take the necessary measures if the tension escalates." (The Soviet government is traditionally silent on anti-Semitism, which officially does not exist in the Soviet Union.)

Violence Against Jews Reported in the Ukrainian City of Kharkov

Anti-Semitism activity turned to violence in February in the Ukrainian City of Kharkov, according to Soviet press reports. Jewish apartments were broken into, and about 20 Jews were beaten, although no deaths were reported.

The chief of Kharkov's Department of Internal Affairs was quoted in the Moscow newspaper Trud as saying that court proceedings have begun against "several people who took part in the pogroms against Jews".

The article also reported that a "great meeting of people who support the democracy movement in Kharkov" took place on February 11.

The mayor of Kharkov and the Department of Internal Affairs chief promised those at the meeting "that they will stop the activities of all nationalistic organizations and anti-Semitic organizations, like Pamyat, and all incidents will be investigated."

The article said that "a lot of leaflets with anti-Semitic propaganda appeared in Kharkov during the past year."

Word of the Kharkov incident reached a United Jewish Appeal delegation visiting the Soviet Union, a UJA spokesman reported from Moscow on February 15.

The spokesman also reported that several Jews from the city of Baku, in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, have sought refuge at Moscow's Choral Synagogue.

Three Jews Killed in the Northern Caucasus

Three Jews were killed in early February in the city of Orgenikuraza, after being held for ransom. Having received the money, the murderers killed the family's daughter, the son and their aunt who happened to be visiting them at the time of the kidnapping. The horrific murder came as a great shock to the tiny Jewish community in the city, who live in constant fear ever since.

Are Jewish Pogroms in Russia Under Way?



Dr. Sol Fleisher

(An interview with Nicolay A. Shiryaev, founder and chairman of "Pamyat" in Leningrad. The interview was conducted by A. Khokhlov (an ethnic Russian) for the newspaper "SM", published in Riga. Selected questions and answers, translated from Russian by Dr. Sol Fleisher of Halifax.)

Q: What is the main goal of the organization "Pamyat"?

A: To revive the past glory of Russia. To make Russia again a great world power. In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to destroy the rule of Zion. Zion has complete domination in this country for many decades.

Q: From history, however, we know since 1917 our society has been ruled by the Communist Party.

A: There are too many white spots in our history. The occupation of Russia by Zion began long before the October Revolution. Not by accident, in full view of "Pamyat", that many Jews were among the leaders of the victorious party. Recall the slogan of world

revolution. It fits very well into the Zionists' plans to subdue the entire world.

Q: You are saying Zion, Zionists. When, what kind of forces do you imply?

A: All Jews plus Russians who married Jewesses, and those who were bought by Zionists.

Q: Don't you think that this kind of definitely racist definitions contradict the common sense?

A: We believe in our rightness. During the last seventy years the Russian people were subject to a genuine genocide, organized by Zion. The best people perished in the torture chambers of NKVD and in concentration camps everywhere ruled by Jews. Look around now! Who accustomed and who continues to accustom slaves to hard drinking, who juggles erotics, rock 'n roll, drinking into newspapers and TV? All this is done by Jews in order to complete the enslavement of the Russian people.

Q: Oh, come on! Don't you think that your "postulates of faith" are all based on the sand of idle lies? Why, for instance, doesn't the powerful Jewish community of the US try to destroy America? And toward us "miserable" Russians, the Jews experienced such a pathologic hatred, in accordance with your views?

A: In each particular case the Jews are choosing specific tactics. Probably, in the USA they have their plans.

Q: Sorry, but not convincing.

A: This is because you have studied history with textbooks written by Jews... Do you know how the Jews executed Russians in Leningrad?...

Q: Do you seriously dare to claim that Jews and representatives of other nationalities exclusively, with no Russians, led the executions? Drunk sailors were Jews? Do you have supporting confirming documents? Do you possess reliable facts?

existing fascist movements, extremist groups and officially sponsored organizations of Afghan war veterans and nationalistic groups of Russian intellectuals. The country has been literally drowned in the flow of anti-Semitism making pogroms a feasible reality of the nearest future. Information collected by our Anti-defamation league speaks of 50 instances of desecration of Jewish cemeteries only during the period of the last few years. More than 1000 mass rallies have been held under the slogans inciting to pogroms. We receive more and more information about direct violence against the Jews - killings, arsons, persecution. Thousands of leaflets are distributed among the people, a whole number of official journals like "Kash Sovremenik" and "Molodays Gvardiya," where chauvinists reign uncontrollably, feature anti-Semitic articles in every issue openly calling for pogroms.

Ed. Note: Alan Rose was recently in Russia for the First Conference of Jewish Communities in Moscow.

A: "Pamyat" is now in the process of collecting facts. As far as the drunk sailors are concerned, of course, they were Russians, but just fooled by the Zionists.

Q: ... Of course, for the misfortunes of our people it is easier to blame non-Russians rather than to admit our own mistakes. ... What is the attitude of "Pamyat" to Stalin?

A: Our attitude to Stalin is dual. It is unacceptable to blame him for everything. Stalin, of course, was a butcher. However, he wasn't an idiot. And nor was he leading the terror against the Russian people. He was controlled by Zion in the image of all those Kaganoviches. Still, of course, there is not reason to idolize him, either.

Q: ... Why such an unacceptable hatred to Jews?

A: We are not against Jews as Jews. We are against Zionism.

Q: However, your definition of Zionists is a racist one, based on race, blood. Isn't this the reason that you find little support among the people?

A: Let's not speak about people. The people are deceived. The media is almost completely controlled by Zionists. ...

Q: What is the attitude of "Pamyat" toward democratic movements, democracy in general?

A: ... The philosopher Plato said that in a democratic republic even animals disobey. ... Therefore, "Pamyat" stands for a strong, moral personality as the head of the state. ...

Q: I don't see a big difference between the notions of a "strong personality" and a "dictator". Wasn't it suffice for us to have Stalin?...

(Excerpts from an interview with the first secretary of the Communist Party in Leningrad, B.V. Gidasov, conducted by A. Khokhlov)

Q: ... What is the attitude of Leningrad's communists toward organizations like "Pamyat", "Patriot", etc.?

A: Communists do support all patriotic forces in the society. "Pamyat", for instance, has a non-homogeneous membership. There are many people genuinely concerned about the fate of Russia. However, we have nothing in common with those who share chauvinistic, racist, anti-Semitic views ... I do not accept "Pamyat" such as it is at the present time.

ATLANTIC HAGGADAH

Send your reply card
TODAY – and make
sure you will be with
us on Sunday, May
27th in Halifax!

(See invitation on the back
cover of this issue!)

Excerpts continued from page 3

with aggressive methodology worked out by "Zionologists" who have been waging anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist propaganda for many years. Today anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union is a mass movement under the banner of the Black Hundred and the Union of Russian People which uses the Protocols of the Zion passages as an argument in political discussions and which holds responsibility for masterminding another forgery - the Catechism of the Jew in the USSR. Streets and squares of the Soviet cities are open for their onslaughts on Jews and those who show any sympathy toward them, accusing the Jews of all misfortunes which have befallen the country, or of being a part of the world Judo-Masonic plot. A powerful public movement on the political platform of anti-Semitism is most likely the basis of the impending Soviet Thermidor. The notorious Pamyat group, well-known in the West, is only one concrete example representing the new wave. We would also mention that openly

The Keren Hayesod-UIA Update

Urgent Need for Absorption Funds

At a meeting held on January 15 in New York, with the top leadership of the United Jewish Appeal and the Keren Hayesod, Jewish Agency representatives requested World Jewry to increase its emergency campaign for Soviet Jewish absorption in Israel to \$1 billion.

Originally, Diaspora Jewry was asked to raise \$500 million over a period of five years for the absorption of an expected 100,000 new immigrants. But, as a result of the sharp increase in the number of Russian and Rumanian immigrants in December and the increasing political and economic instability in both of these countries, experts predict 100,000 arrivals within one year.



Operation Exodus

He has just arrived at Ben Gurion airport in Israel, and is already waving an Israeli flag given to him with a warm welcome of "Shalom". This young man is one of the thousands which have arrived at the airport in recent weeks. This is their first point of encounter with a new homeland. Here they register, get their *oleh* (Immigrant) card, and their first information as to living accommodations. The average cost in bringing a single immigrant from the Soviet Union with personal belongings is \$1,000 *US.

Invitations

From January to December 1989, the Jewish Agency processed 141,000 "invitations" for Aliyah for a total of 448,250 Soviet Jews. Invitations are currently going out at a rate of 2500 per day. In effect, prospective emigrants should receive their exit visas within two to three months. Top priority is being given to the 250,000 Jews living in the Soviet Asian republics, such as Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Bukhara, due to ethnic tension and the steady rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

Soviet Immigrants to Arrive by Ship

There is an urgent need to arrange massive transportation to alleviate the ever-increasing queues for flights to Israel. Consequently, Israel will seek to charter ships for Soviet Jewish

immigrants, embarking from Odessa and other ports on the Black Sea. The government is confident that Soviet authorities will permit sea travel, since they recently permitted cargo shipments to Israel.

\$6.3 Million for Soviet Scientists

The Israel Academy of Science has allocated \$6.3 million for the employment of senior Soviet Jewish scientists who are expected to settle in Israel this year. Candidates will be chosen according to their distinction in specific scientific fields. They will be given research grants, housing loans as well as financial assistance for a period of six years.

Israel's First Ethiopian Synagogue

The first ever Ethiopian synagogue to be opened in Israel was inaugurated in Beersheva on December 28. The landmark synagogue is called "Shuvu Banim LeYehudei Ethiopia", or Return of the Children of Ethiopian Jewry. The synagogue, established by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, will serve one of Israel's oldest and largest Ethiopian communities.

When the synagogue is not being used for prayer services, it will serve as a study centre where Ethiopian youngsters can do their homework and where community elders can gather for classes in Torah, Talmud and Jewish history.

Top Secret Now Revealed!

According to *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's most popular daily newspaper, the Government of Israel paid former president Nicolae Ceausescu approximately \$5000 to \$7000 per person for allowing Rumanian Jews to leave for Israel. Overall, Ceausescu earned some \$50 to \$60 million from this rather lucrative business.



Dina, one of three Ethiopian women soldiers, is a paramedic in an IDF transport unit (Giora Salmi).

In the last ten years some 1500 Rumanian Jews per year arrived in Israel, reducing Rumania's Jewish population to 20,000 of which 60% are above the age of 50 and 6% are under the age of 15. Nine thousand Jews currently live in the capital, Bukarest.

Remnants of North Yemen Jewry

The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Office have been trying, through various official channels, to secure the release of the approximately 1000 to 2000 Yemenite Jews still living in North Yemen. According to official sources, there are no Jews living in South Yemen.

The Miracle of Soviet Aliyah Must Be Made Real by the Jewish People

by Frederick Krantz

The revised projection of up to 1 million Soviet immigrants to Israel over the next 3-5 years, a figure undreamed of as recently as six months ago, is a kind of miracle, in terms both of modern Jewish history and of the Zionist movement. But it is a miracle which can come to pass only with the immediate and sustained action both of Israel and of the Jewish people as a whole.

Reports from the USSR indicate that the large majority of the country's over 2 million Jews, fearful of rising anti-Semitism and the possible collapse of Gorbachev's regime and effectively blocked US entry by new refugee-immigration restrictions, wishes to emigrate to Israel. 2000 immigrants a week are already arriving, and the largest planeload yet of Soviet Jews, over 400, recently debarked at Ben-Gurion airport.

It is as if fate has given Israel, and the Jewish people, a second chance. Zionism's dream of upbuilding the fragile pre-War Yishuv through massive immigration from Eastern Europe was destroyed by Britain's blocking of immigration, Western acquiescence and then, definitively, by the German-Nazi Shoah. The young Yishuv, the Zionist movement and organized world Jewry, weak and often divided, were largely impotent in the face of tragedy.

Now, the miracle. The remnant of the East European Jewish community—after 70 years of Soviet suppression—once again turns towards Jerusalem. Circumstances are, thankfully, different—Israel exists, a strong and independent Jewish state, and Western Jewry is well-organized and, above all, in the United

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The Miracle continued from page 6

States, politically strong.

The tragedy of the '30's, the closing gates which doomed East European Jewry, must not be repeated. Every effort, every fiber and sinew of our collective Jewish will, must now be turned towards getting as many Jews out of the Soviet Union as quickly as possible, before Gorbachev is either removed or forced into a more conservative stance. If the Russian gates close, as rising Soviet anti-Semitism and the vivid examples of the Azerbaijani anti-American pogroms indicate, Jewish tragedy could well repeat itself.

The Jewish world must, therefore, become conscious of the crisis situation, and of the decisive, long-term upbuilding of Israel it represents. Second, it must develop a clear, Jewish political perspective on the Soviet and Eastern European situation. Intelligent policies articulating Jewish national interest must be developed and consistently applied, and focused on saving the last, great Jewish Diaspora community outside North America.

We identify with and support, surely the democratic stirrings of the East European peoples—but our political effort must place Jewish interest first. This means, clearly, Jewish political support for Mikhail Gorbachev, and for any other East European regime, so long as they implement, maintain and extend those policies which have made the current situation possible.

In face of a miracle, we must yet be practical. Israel absorption policies are currently woefully inadequate, as Natan Sharansky and others have made clear (and the heads of Israel's Absorption ministry and the Jewish Agency's Aliyah Department has admitted). Western, and above all American, Jewry, must rise to the immense financial challenge—estimates now range up to \$1 billion over the next 3-5 years—Soviet aliyah represents.

The Soviet Jews, many of whom are largely without Jewish, let alone Zionist, consciousness, also pose cultural-religious problems. For many, their current desire to go to Israel is a function of fear, even panic, and narrowed choice. The successful absorption of this aliyah, after its arrival in Israel, will therefore pose problems radically different from those of the 685,000 immigrants absorbed in the difficult 1947-1952 period. Not only housing and jobs, but Jewish education and commitment, will have to be addressed.

The Jewish community faces an immediate emergency situation of unparalleled challenge. Israel's citizens must be asked, now, to make sacrifices for their Soviet brethren, and so must we. Israel's government agencies, and the World Zionist Organization/Jewish Agency, must act immediately and efficiently, and so too must our Jewish organizations and leadership.

We must shoulder our responsibilities toward our Soviet Jewish brethren, now. The miracle must be made real: neither they, nor

Israel, nor we, can afford another tragedy.
(Frederick Krantz, a professor of history at

Concordia University in Montreal, is Director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research).



Operation Exodus

A group of Soviet Jewish immigrants are getting off an El Al flight which has brought them directly from Moscow to Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. This was one of four direct flights from Moscow—Tel Aviv which has taken place to date. It is hoped that when direct flights begin on a regular basis, the way will be clear for many thousands to come to Israel, in addition to the thousands now arriving via Budapest and Bucharest. (David Haas photo)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are compiling a directory of all Camp Kadimah Alumni. Please complete the information below (using additional pages as necessary) on all of the former campers in your family.

Name _____	Name _____
Maiden Name _____	Maiden Name _____
Current Address _____ _____	Current Address _____ _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____
Date of Birth _____	Date of Birth _____
Years at Kadimah (if known) _____	Years at Kadimah (if known) _____
Name _____	Name _____
Maiden Name _____	Maiden Name _____
Current Address _____ _____	Current Address _____ _____
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Date of Birth _____	Date of Birth _____
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Direct Absorption in Ra'anana

by Mark Benson

Leonid Rankov and his family never imagined their path from the Soviet Union would lead them to Israel.

As they waited in a transit camp near Ladispoli in Italy, following their emigration from the USSR, they had only one target—to reach America. They had even sent ahead five suitcases to Chicago.

But, gradually, through discussions with Jewish Agency officials in Italy, their perspective altered. Instead of dreaming of a new life in the USA, they considered for the first time an alternative, Israel.

The Rankovs ultimately changed their minds, and so became part of a revolutionary scheme of 'direct absorption'—a substitute for the traditional absorption centre—being pioneered in Ra'anana, one of Israel's more prosperous towns, north of Tel Aviv.

Ra'anana's Mayor Ze'ev Bielski, together with the United Jewish Federation of Metro-west in New Jersey which is funding the project, eventually plans to settle 50 Russian families from Ladispoli in the town.

Leonid, 39, formerly a librarian at Lenin-grad University, his 39-year old wife Faina, an English teacher, and their two daughters, can hardly believe the transformation in their lives since they arrived in Israel in August.

Sitting in the spacious three-bedroom apartment (rented for them by the South African Zionist Federation—Telfed), Faina says:



Leonid and Faina on arrival at Ben Gurion Airport.

"From the very first minute we came here we have felt at home. We have a perfect flat and a very nice, intelligent 'adopted' Israeli family. In fact, we have found everybody extremely attentive and helpful."

Faina goes on: "We had planned to go to America because we have many friends and

relations there and none here, and we did not know anything about Israel. But we received a large amount of information from the Jewish Agency in Italy and eventually decided that only Israel is our real home, especially for our children."

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UIA—Where The Money Goes?!

Jewish Agency expenditure for the direct absorption of an immigrant family of three

Item	Amount \$
Transportation & Luggage	4,500
Pocket Money	175
Hotel	1,500
Rent (12 months)	3,960
Municipal Tax	150
Electricity, Gas, Water (12 Months)	450
Coop Housing Fees	300
Rental Agency Fee	225
Living Stipend	348
Ulpan (5 months)	1,733
Education	150
School Registration	88
Day Care	383
Travel to Ulpan	240
Basic Household supplies	560
Basic furnishings	413
TOTAL ABSORPTION BASKET	\$ 15,175
Ministry of Absorption participation	5,130
Jewish Agency estimated Net Cost per family	\$ 10,045

"For The Love of Mordecai"

By Rabbi Marvin Pritzker, Halifax

There is a striking Hebrew expression which offers a pungent and poignant explanation of the true meaning of Jewish historical events and current events. It goes approximately as follows: "Not for the love of Mordecai, but for the hatred of Haman." It is a sophisticated and ironic explanation why certain things happen or do not happen to Jews.

For instance, given the long term hostility of the Soviet Union, from its inception, to Zionism as a political movement, and to the State of Israel, why did the Soviets grant "de jure" recognition to the infant Medinat Israel on the day it declared its independence? The answer is: "Not for the love of Mordecai but for the hatred of Haman", ie, not because of friendship for Jews or a Jewish State, but for the hatred of the British and the desire to see them removed from Palestine and the Middle East. In other words, there is a good reason and a real reason for all national policies.

Over the four decades of Israel's existence their only ally, some would say sponsor, has been the United States. That support has been vital because of the unyielding hostility of the entire Arab world to the presence of a Jewish state, where Jews dominate Arabs and Moslems.

In the decade of the eighties, American Jews emphasized the strategic asset that Israel provided the United States. We could be cynical and say that all friendships are not completely disinterested. Enmity to the Soviets was the spur to United States' concern for Israel's welfare. Now that an era of good feelings has arrived between the super powers, there is less concern for the strategic asset and

the United States now leans on Israel in order to curry Arab favours.

Looking at current conditions in the world, we must remember the lessons of Jewish history, especially what can be learned from the events of Purim. King Ahasuerus did not turn on his favourite courtier, Haman, until he saw in him a threat to his own throne. Hatred for Haman then meant love for Mordecai.

For us, we must remember our duty to love Mordecai because he is our own. It is not religious bigotry or racial prejudice to be concerned for our own people. This concern is not based on hatred for others as so often we have seen in our own age or a primitive urge to deny them rights. But when Jews are a minority in the world and the state of Israel is facing such hatred we can not turn against her because of the moral dilemmas she faces. We must accept the fact that nations have interests as well as principles and self preservation is a legitimate reason for public policy. Too often the appeal for an overreaching moral stance demanded by an adversary or a friend can become part of an overall strategy which uses public opinion as a weapon to weaken one of the parties to the controversy. We must help Israel because it is our duty to love when so many countries in our generation have based fundamental national policies in hatred of her, to the exclusion of all other interests, even the welfare of their own peoples.

The last thing Israel needs is Jews, living at ease and prosperity, to join with her enemies to force upon her concessions which can weaken her in the vital struggle for existence and bare her to attack in the next round.

Direct continued from page 8

While daughters **Rina**, 15, and **Anya**, 6, begin school in Israel, their parents are learning Hebrew for the first time at the ulpan based at the JAFI sponsored absorption centre in town. "I have a headache from all the studying," jokes Leonid, who nevertheless is eager to learn more of the history and geography of Israel, as well as the language.

Enrolling the families at the ulpan or in local schools is just one of the functions of the Ra'anana municipality, under the control of absorption coordinator, **Tzipi Tzederbaum**.

She also helps the family with the inevitable run of form-filling as well as with joining a sick fund (kupa cholim), opening a bank account, and learning to shop in a supermarket.

"Everything is done for them," she says. "If Vladimir needs his fridge repaired or if Igor's cooker is broken, I will pick up the telephone and make the necessary arrangements."

Such support has been invaluable to the Rankovs, who were among the first families to arrive in Ra'anana.

Faina says, "I only have good words for the project, and we have already learned one good thing from it: while we can never repay all the

kindness we have received, we must do the same for those who come after us."

The Ra'anana project like that in Rishon Le Zion upon which it is patterned, was established by the Jewish Agency, which supervises its implementation. It is administered by a steering committee, chaired by the mayor, Ze'ev Bielski, and consisting of representatives of the Jewish Agency, Ministry of Absorption, and the immigrant associations. The day to day management of the project is in the hands of the municipal coordinator who is assisted by members of the voluntary group, the Israel Forum, who have organized the adoption of immigrant

families by veteran Israeli families, and by the members of the Zionist Forum, an organization of Russian olim who provide guidance and counseling with the professional assistance of the South African Zionist Federation.



The Goshen family of Ra'anana prepared Friday Night Dinner for the Rankovs on their first Shabbat in Israel. Leonid, at table head, Faina on his left, Rina to his right, Goshen child, Anya, Mrs. Goshen serving.

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The Cairo Road

Editorial from the Jerusalem Post - February 6, 1990

Sunday's attack on a bus carrying 31 Israeli tourists on the road to Cairo is yet another chapter in the glorious saga of the 'armed struggle'. Buses have provided favoured targets for Arab 'freedom fighters', school buses, tourist buses, commuter buses and plain urban buses. By now there must be a commando unit somewhere which specializes in buses. Just as there must be crack units which specialize in murdering athletes, booby-trapping markets, slaughtering school children, stabbing hikers, chopping up 'collaborators', burning forests and, now poisoning water tanks and falafel - all vying for a place of honour in a future Palestinian museum of heroism.

True, the most recent slaughter was not directed only against Israel and Israelis. It was aimed, we are told, at Egypt, too. Killing visiting Jews seems a rather roundabout way to get at Mubarek. But who can fathom the subtlety of the 'freedom fighter's' mind? In any case, Israel cannot let a terrorist act change its policy. Those who say that the murder of tourists, diplomats, fishermen and bathers must not affect relations with the only Arab nation which has signed a peace treaty with us are absolutely right. Unfortunately, so are those who say that this incident would serve to remind us - particularly when coupled with murder-as-usual news from Beirut - that we live in a region where fanaticism reigns and terrorism is endemic.

Undoubtedly, Egypt is truly angry and upset. Such horrors do not serve its interests. It will surely do whatever it can to apprehend and punish the culprits. It may even execute them.

But can Egypt claim total innocence? Last March 8 some of Arafat's boys, members of his own Fatah, crossed over from Egypt and hijacked a bus in the Negev. Two women and a man were killed in the ensuing battle. Last December 4, five other Fatah gunmen who had crossed over from Egypt were discovered and killed by the IDF. They had 52 hand grenades in their possession.

Not that Egypt actively encourages these murderous forays. On the contrary. It tries its best to prevent them. But these gunmen must

find it difficult to take the Egyptian prohibition on border-crossing seriously. After all, their leader, who gives them their orders, is received like a king in Cairo, and their commanders and officials have the run of the country and its government offices. They must find it even more difficult to view their intended victims as full-fledged human beings, when the establishment press in Egypt depicts

them as Nazi-like monsters who should vanish off the face of the earth.

One is thus tempted to ask an unfashionable question: How long can a country tacitly condone an 'armed struggle' which consists of slaughtering women and children in buses in another country, without expecting precisely the same acts to be performed within its own borders?

Holocaust Survivor's Photos

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is in the process of establishing a photo archive devoted to survivors and victims of the Holocaust. This information will be accessed into a computerized photo archive system in the Center's new Beit Hashoah—Museum of Tolerance, scheduled to open in the fall of 1990.

In order to ensure that your photo can be used, please identify to the best of your knowledge the name of the individual or individuals, as well as the date and place of each photo, and include as much information as you can about

that individual. If your photo includes more than one individual, please indicate on the form which person you are writing about. Please do not write directly on the photo, as this will prevent us from using the photo in the archive. All photos will become the property of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and are not returnable.

If you have a photograph you wish to donate to this archive, please contact Adaïre Klein, Coordinator, Library/Archives, Simon Wiesenthal Center, 9760 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90035.

German Companies still produce Poison Gas at Libyan Plants

West German companies are still helping Libya produce poison gas despite the public scandal two years ago that supposedly put an end to it, the news weekly *Der Spiegel* reported.

The magazine said the ongoing collaboration has been confirmed by the BND, West Germany's intelligence agency based in Munich.

But it is at sites other than the plant at Rabta, south of Tripoli, which was exposed late in 1988 as a producer of chemical weapons using German material, equipment and technology, *Der Spiegel* said.

The Immhausen Chemical Co. in Bavaria was implicated and its owner and chairman,

Jurgen Immhausen, was taken into custody.

But the Rabta plant nevertheless continues to function, and is still a closed military area, the report said.

A spokesman for the opposition Green Party noted that more than a year after Immhausen's arrest, no formal indictment has been issued.

The Bonn authorities have said they lack conclusive evidence of wrongdoing by German firms.

But the government has been forced to admit it had prior information about Immhausen's and other companies' heavy involvement in the production of poison gas by Libya.

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PLO "Peace Process"

Libyan News Service (Tripoli) - Yasir Arafat and Moammar Khaddafi, warmly embracing during a recent meeting in Tripoli, are reported in an official news release to have reached agreement that the state of Israel must disappear, just as the Berlin Wall and other outcomes of World War II are disappearing.

The *Boston Globe* - Farouk Khaddoumi, PLO "foreign minister", told the *Globe* in an interview that he does not accept Israel's right to even its pre-1967 borders. Salan Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, PLO second-in-command, urged terrorist attacks on Israel proper.

Response to Archbishop Desmond Tutu

by Frank Medjuck, Halifax

A call from ATV required us to respond quickly to statements made by Archbishop Tutu of South Africa during his recent visit to Israel. Tutu suggests Jews forgive the Nazis. Fortunately, when the ATV camera arrived at the AJC office to interview Emmanuel Zabar, Mr. Herman Newman also happened to be there and, as a survivor of the Holocaust, Herman gave a personal interview with first-hand testimony of the treatment for which the Nazis are suggested to be forgiven.

Emmanuel Zabar emphasized "the living difference between Apartheid and Genocide", and related to the loss of credibility Archbishop Tutu suffers because of his ridiculous comparisons of the situation between Israel and the Palestinians and South Africa's cir-

cumstances.

Firstly, Herman pointed out that the Nazis themselves did not request and do not seek our forgiveness. In particular, at his trial in Jerusalem, Eichman stated that he would jump into his grave laughing for having killed so many Jews. Hitler's last will urges his people to continue the war against the Jews.

If the perpetrators of the greatest crime have not requested forgiveness nor even expressed the slightest regret, then what business is it for an unrelated, unaffected third party to inject gratuitously some foreign moral principle totally unacceptable to either party.

Secondly, Jews have not yet come to grips with the role played by the Church in fuming anti-Semitic feelings throughout Christian

Europe for generations, and for supporting the Nazi regime to the very end, even by helping thousands of Nazi war criminals to escape capture by the Allied Forces. There is no place for Christian morals to be applied to Jewish victims of Christian soldiers, especially when such lofty morals were tragically absent during the Holocaust, except for the righteous few.

It would be more fitting for a distinguished church leader like Archbishop Tutu to request first that the Jews consider forgiving the church and Christianity for its complicity with Nazi rule and turning a blind eye to the gas chamber and the camps.

Thirdly, although we condemn the white racist regime of South Africa and support the struggle for freedom for blacks and all races here, however, the cruelty of the government is tame when compared to the Nazi war effort to eradicate an entire race from the face of the earth. The Nazi war against the Jews was carried out even at the expense of their war against the rest of the world. It trivializes the Holocaust to dare to compare it to current political offences of South Africa. There is no attempt in his country to wipe out his race. It may be that Tutu just has not grasped the full reality of the Holocaust. In fact in the Middle East, it is the Arab nations who wished to "drive the Jews into the sea". If he has learned nothing from history, we certainly have.

Archbishop Tutu also saw fit to comment on the internal political affairs of Israel, and not by first giving thanks for making Christian holy sites available as they never were before when under Arab rule. His comments were not in keeping with his Clerical Robes and even betrayed the very objective he seeks at home.

Space here does not permit a full and complete response, but suffice it to say that during the very week of his visit to Israel, the people of Eastern Europe were revolting for the same free elections that the Arabs have refused in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Tutu's own blacks of South Africa would dearly love to hold the same free elections offered by Israel to these Arabs. The massacred Chinese students wanted far less than free elections.

Also, that same week I caught the end of a TV interview with one of Tutu's fellow black clergymen demanding that the South African government stop creating smaller black states within the country. South Africa should remain one unified country, not splintered. Curiously Tutu preaches a different tune to Israel.

A Palestinian State for Arabs was created by the United Nations in the same resolution

Response continued on page 13

Ontario Court Upholds Conviction of Zundel

By Ben Kayfetz, JTA

The Ontario Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the 1988 conviction of neo-Nazi pamphleteer Ernst Zundel on February 6 and sharply reprimanded his lawyer.

The three-judge panel found no merit in Zundel's appeal, which claimed he was being punished for holding certain political views.

It found "irresponsible and reprehensible" the charge by defense attorney Douglas Christie that the judge who presided at Zundel's trial was personally biased against him.

Zundel, who operated a print shop in Toronto, was the centre of a massive neo-Nazi propaganda ring that circulated hate material worldwide.

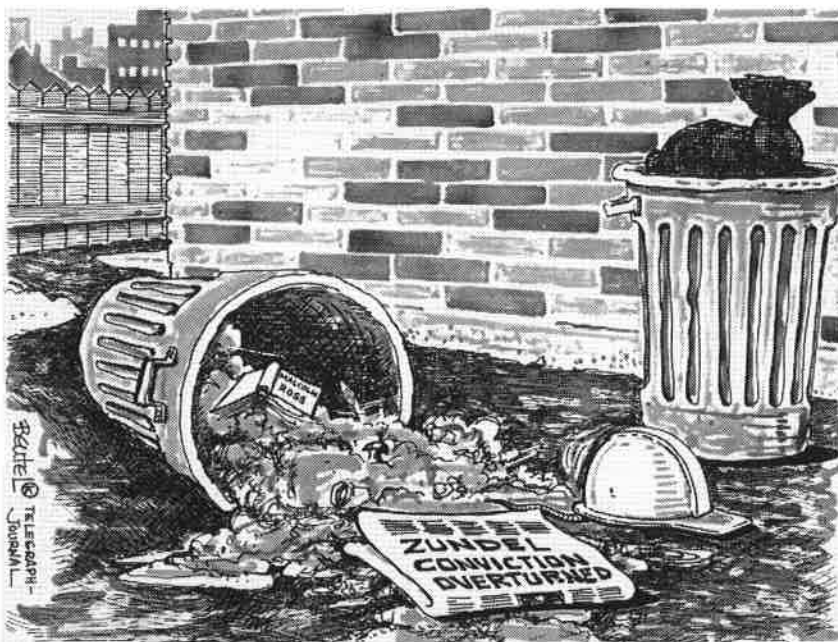
He was the subject of a complaint by the

Bundestag, the West German parliament, for sending neo-Nazi material to the Federal Republic, where it is outlawed.

Zundel was twice convicted of violating the "false news" section of Canada's criminal code, for distributing the pamphlet "Did Six Million Really Die?", a tract that questioned the authenticity of the Holocaust.

His first conviction was reversed on a technicality. His second, in May 1988, drew a nine-month sentence.

Zundel was released on bail pending the verdict of the court of appeals. If he carries the appeal to Canada's Supreme Court, he will need to apply for new bail.



Compliments for Kessar

by Yakir Tzur

FREE TRADE UNIONS' REPORT PRAISES HISTADRUT ON HANDLING OF WORKERS IN TERRITORIES; GOVERNMENT CALLED UPON TO RETURN SOCIAL BENEFIT TAX MONIES TO WORKERS

The latest session of the ICFTU's Executive attended by Histadrut Secretary-General **Israel Kessar**, was different from other international meetings, where the atmosphere is generally anti-Israel. Kessar, who is Vice-President of the organization, not only received a resounding round of applause on his decisive victory in the recent Histadrut elections, but was also praised for the Histadrut's handling of an especially sensitive matter—workers and free trade unions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The ICFTU consists of 134 national federations from 90 countries in the West and the Third World, representing over 800 million workers. Last July, the confederation sent a special delegation—consisting of free trade union heads from the US, Canada, Europe, Australia and other countries—to Israel to study conditions of workers and trade unions on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Their report, submitted to the ICFTU Executive Board, is highly complimentary to the Histadrut and its people who, according to the report, were exceptionally cooperative, provided them with vital information and were prepared to discuss frankly even the most sensitive topics which came up during the course of the visit.

The report praises the Histadrut's efforts to find ways and means for peaceful coexistence between Jewish and Arab workers. It states that the Histadrut has an important role to play in helping to create an atmosphere of trust between the two peoples, in anticipation of a peaceful solution to the region's political

problems. "Representing as it does the overwhelming majority of trade unions in Israel, the Histadrut is a crucial factor in efforts to prevent illegal exploitation of workers from the territories. As Israel's largest employer, the Histadrut is in a position to establish standards of conduct for all Israeli companies. It is also entitled to present the Israeli government with an unequivocal demand—to stop private employers from taking unfair advantage of workers from the territories and to introduce more effective measures of supervision and enforcement."

The delegation completed its report by expressing the hope that its visit helped to "create a positive atmosphere in all matters involving increased freedom of activity for trade unions in the territories and for increased cooperation of the workers in order to achieve the common goal of peace in the region." The General Federation of Labour in Israel, according to the report, has an important part to play in this common effort.

After the report was approved unanimously by the Confederation's Executive Board, **Israel Kessar** said, "We might have written the report somewhat differently, however, under present conditions, this is the best we could have hoped for."

UN's Failure to Condemn Iraq

The fact that Iraq was able to openly use chemical weapons on an unprecedented scale against Iran during the eight-year war and "get away with it" in terms of the international community only increases the threat of such weapons being used in future conflicts, according to an Australian researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Tim McCormack, a Golda Meir post-doctoral research fellow at the Hebrew University last year, found that, despite unequivocal findings by United Nations-appointed experts that Iraq used both mustard and nerve gas against Iranian troops and against its own Kurdish civilians, neither UN Security Council nor the General Assembly adopted resolutions specifically condemning Iraq or calling for sanctions against it.

Both Iran and Iraq are among the 114 signatories to the Geneva Protocol, which specifically bans the use of chemical weapons

in war.

McCormack said several factors led to the failure of the international community to condemn Iraq; the backing of Iraq over Iran by nearly all the Arab states, Western European nations' extensive arms and technology sales to Iraq, the Soviet Union's search for greater influence in the Middle East, including with Iraq, and the Arab bloc's influence over the non-aligned nations.

The US has also failed to condemn Iraq, he noted.

"It is a sad indictment on every state that political expedience has been permitted to prevail over the exigencies of the rule of law in international affairs," McCormack said.

"Iraq's actions severely undermined the value of the [Geneva] protocol. The complicity of the international community contributes de facto and de jure to the weakening process."

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that created Israel. Jordan is the Arab Palestinian State. Jordan currently occupies two thirds of Palestine and is totally inhabited by Palestinian people, excepting only the King. A diplomatic fraud is being perpetrated by Arab propaganda that has already convinced a wide range of people, including some of our fellow Jews, that a "third" Palestinian State is required in order to achieve peace in the Middle East.

No thanks, Archbishop Tutu. Take your political double-standards and your Christian forgiveness of our murderers elsewhere. We are all too familiar with your kind "in sheep's clothing" that seem to arise against us in every generation.

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Lawmakers Ask Bush To Intervene on Behalf of the Jews of Syria

by Howard Rosenberg, JTA

More than 100 members of Congress have asked **President George Bush** to act "on behalf of the beleaguered Jewish community in Syria."

In a letter written by **Rep. Stephen Solarz** (D-NY), the lawmakers implored Bush to make "continued expressions of concern" that Syria allow "at least unmarried Jewish women, and hopefully the entire Jewish community, to emigrate."

The letter, signed by 122 members of the House of Representatives, said there are roughly 4000 Jews in Syria who "face a number of deprivations and hardships, the most serious of which is the denial of their right to emigrate."

It asked Bush to persuade Syria to let about 100 single Jewish women, emigrate "for whom there are few marriageable Jewish men available."

"In this very traditional culture, if a woman is not married by an early age, it can become a real stigma that jeopardizes her chances of every marrying," the letter stated.

Jewish women in Syria have a difficult time finding husbands because many young men have fled Syria. Women are more fearful about trying to escape, out of fear of being caught and raped.

Canadian Group Says Jews in Syria being Abused

As Canadians, we are concerned with the human rights of minorities everywhere. It is in this spirit that we appeal to the government of the Syrian Arab Republic to permit its small Jewish community to rejoin their families overseas. The Jews in Syria are subject to arbitrary detention, imprisonment and horrendous torture, without charge or trial.

Jack Lalo, Eli Swed and Salim Swed were arrested in Damascus between September and December 1987. They remain in detention without charge or trial. We are deeply concerned about these men and call for their freedom. To date, an official response from the Syrian government to Amnesty International and other concerned organizations has not been forthcoming.

Only one of the tragedies of the Syrian Jewish community is the large number of single Jewish women who, because of the demographics of that community, are unable to marry within their faith - yet are denied the right to emigrate.

We appeal to the Syrian government to honour its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which it is a signatory and to release the aforesaid three prisoners of conscience and to permit those of the Jewish community who wish to emigrate the right to do so. We also call upon our own government to insist that the Syrian government meets its international obligations in this regard.

Signed: Charles Bronfman; Edward Bronfman; Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka; Professor William Dunphy; Judy Feld Carr; Sister Donna Geernaert; Dr. Heather Johnston; Edith Land; Sister Kay MacDonald; Sister Josephine McCarthy; Rabbi Dr. Gunther Plaunt; Les Scheininger.

Ed. Note: Dr. Messod Salama of St. John's Newfoundland, was recently nominated to present Atlantic Canada on the Jews in Arab Lands Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Queens County Clergy Discussion Group

By Nardy Nathanson, Halifax



Approximately one year ago a letter to the Editor appeared in the **Halifax Herald**. This letter was signed by all the members of an association called the Queens County Clergy which consists of representatives of all Christian denominations in the South Shore area, near Liverpool, Nova Scotia. It stated their concern about the hate literature being distributed in their area and what they see as a rise of anti-semitism.

Because of that published letter some correspondence developed between that group and **Lee Cohen** of Atlantic Jewish Council. This resulted in our Executive Director, **Emmanuel Zabar** being invited to Liverpool on Wednesday, January 10th, to participate in a discussion with this group on the topic of anti-Semitism. Emmanuel invited **Nathaniel Cohen** and myself to accompany him.

On arrival, we were met by 8 clergy members: **Charles Webster, Bruce Ward, Tom Stephenson, John Sullivan, Basil Carew, Dennis Leamont, Peter Armstrong, Maxwell Clattenberg and Alex Farquhar.**

They made us feel very much at home. What ensued was a very relaxing, and very

Pope Urges Christians to Change Their Negative Views About Jews

by Ruth E. Gruber, JTA

Christians must change their negative attitudes toward Jews if relations between the two faiths are to improve, **Pope John Paul II** said in January.

The pontiff's remark was contained in a message issued during a "Day of Judaism" organized by the Roman Catholic clergy in Italy.

In what is to become an annual event, January 17 was set aside by the Italian Catholic Church as a special day to foster dialogue with the Jews. The event proceeded a weeklong period devoted to encouraging Christian unity.

It is believed to be the first time the Catholic hierarchy in any country has undertaken such an initiative.

The pope's message was made public by **Bishop Clemente Riva** during a conference on Christian-Jewish relations that culminated the Day of Judaism on January 17.

Panelists at the conference included Riva; Rome's chief rabbi, **Elio Toaff**; **Tullia Zevi**, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities; and **Maria Vingiani**, president of

the church's ecumenical organization.

"The hall was packed. People were standing," Zevi reported.

Riva told the meeting that the Pontiff authorized him to convey his greetings and the message that the day must represent the beginning of a change of mentality for Christians.

"Among Christians there is still too much difference, too many misconceptions," he said.

"Negative sentiments like anti-Semitism or historical prejudices are hard to die out," he added, noting that among the most tenacious of all was "the infamous accusation against the Jewish people for the death of Jesus."

The collective guilt of Jews was expunged by **Nostra Aetate** (Our Times), the historic proclamation of the Catholic Church at the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

But church leaders admitted that one reason for establishing the Day of Judaism was because despite the passage of 25 years, the teachings of **Nostra Aetate** are still not well known among the Catholics at large.

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A Convert's Story

"And she said: 'Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god; return thou after thy sister-in-law.' And Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.'—Ruth 1:15

My story begins many years ago when as a child my grandmother saw fit to send me to Sunday School, to enhance my moral well-being. As it soon turned out this was to be the highlight of my week for many years. I was fortunate in having a teacher who loved her Bible and managed to convey this love to me; she was a gifted story teller. Also fortunate was the fact that the Church I attended was Episcopalian and set great store by the so-called "Old Testament", which is not true of all other Christian sects.

There were many times which I could not resolve in what I had learned and was being taught in religion. The "New Testament" seemed so at variance with the "Old Testament". If the Jews had written and lived and preached and passed these wonderful writings on to posterity, why then were Jews so condemned and despised and portrayed in such a bad light in the "New Testament"? Could it be that the "New Testament" was deliberately edited to pander to a gentile audience?

As a teenager I continued attending religious classes designed especially for my age group. I soon lost patience with these as the subject matter was all too often "sin" and all its variations, what I was looking for was some practical methods for dealing with life, a working philosophy. And so, I dropped out

and started reading different writings on my own. I went through many of the Jewish writers of the time, their words, their philosophy captured my intellect as no Christian author had ever done.

At sixteen I decided to convert to Judaism, and secretly harboured this desire for the following twenty-five years. Unfortunately, I did not act on my convictions at the initial time, certainly I was immature and undeveloped emotionally, mentally and spiritually. How different my life would have been if I had only

turned to the right instead of the left at that junction in my life.

Many years were to pass and many adventures transpired before this desire became a deed.

I want you to understand me and so I convey to you these words, which I believe in. First and foremost I believe in freedom of choice, both in this world and in the world of the spirit because regardless of your beliefs the

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From the Ministerial of the Queens County N.S. Association of Churches

by The Rev. Bruce Ward

Early in January a productive dialogue took place between members of the Ministerial of the Queens County Association of Churches and representatives of the Atlantic Jewish Council. The meeting was held in Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Last year the members of the Ministerial together with the clergy along the South Shore wrote to a number of newspapers expressing concern about the distribution of leaflets denying the Holocaust. They referred to an apparent increase in the printing and distribution of anti-Semitic literature in Canada.

At the Liverpool meeting we discussed this and other related concerns. We appreciated the way in which the questions from the Ministerial members were answered with sincerity and respect by the Jewish Council representatives. For us it was an important time to learn about Jewish experiences in Canada and to express our respect for the Jewish community and our intention to remain vigilant about bigotry against the Jewish people.

Although we were brought together over the issue of anti-Semitism and the Christian response to that evil, the most pressing concern for us as God's people is, as one Ministerial member put it, "the need for further discussion, intentional education, and above all, compassion". The Ministerial desires that there be other opportunities for this kind of sharing with and learning from one another in our community and elsewhere in the Atlantic Region where Christians and Jews can meet for cordial dialogue.

One of our members, the Roman Catholic priest, noted that the people of his parish in their intercessions pray in union with the Jewish people on their major feasts and penitential periods. And over the years students have gone to visit a synagogue in Halifax.

In conclusion we affirm the tap root from which the vines of our Christian and Jewish traditions draw nourishment—"The Land Our God—The Lord is One!"

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enlightening round table discussion on the proposed topic. Some of us cited cases of anti-Semitism in which we were personally involved; we talked about the hate literature being distributed; wondered aloud about the origins of this hate propaganda. Prejudice on many levels and in a number of areas was discussed.

Reverend Alex Farquhar related his experiences as President of a group called Interfaith Task Force for Soviet Jewry to which he belonged for 8 years while in Montreal; how he was the only non-Jew picketing the Soviet Embassy; and how he travelled to Russia—to Moscow and Leningrad—in 1985 with a group of non-Jews where they met with 27 Refuseniks; how they brought into Russia medicine, books and religious items; and even how they were continually followed by the K.G.B.

Some of the questions posed were:

1. How does anti-Semitism show itself in this area?

2. Do the media sensationalize the incidents that do occur? Is their reporting biased?

3. Can we trust the Communist countries of Eastern Europe with all this apparent democratization?

4. What will this great influx of Russian Jewry do to Israel economically?

5. How will this influx affect present tensions within the Middle Eastern Arab countries?

6. It has been said that the reason Jews are looked down upon and restricted is because they bring it on themselves, and because they are so insular! We are asked to comment!

7. Is New ageism—a means of communicating with the spirits of the dead—a new and subtle form of anti-Semitism?

8. Was the Waegwoltic Club ever restricted to Jews? Is it still that way? Does that attitude apply to any other clubs in Nova Scotia?

9. Does Dalhousie University have a quota for Jews?

10. There was a Beach on the Southern Shore Road that years ago posted a sign saying "No Jews or Dogs Allowed". Has that type of sign appeared elsewhere?

Father Basil Carew of the Gregory's Parish in Liverpool told us that everyone of our Jewish Religious Days are acknowledged in his church by a prayer for our community. He has a list of all our Holy Days, and this was being done for sometime.

When the meeting closed, we were invited to join the group in a taste of local fish chowder prepared by Mrs. Sue Ward, the wife of our host for the day, the Reverend Bruce Ward, Pastor of the Anglican Parish of Trinity Church in Liverpool—in their home.

I want to commend both Emmanuel Zabar and Nathaniel Cohen for the manner in which they joined in the discussion, and how they responded to the numerous questions and comments posed to them. I feel AJC can feel very relaxed about the two representatives they sent to this gathering in Liverpool.

physical world hinges on the spiritual world; without the spirit to animate all of life this realm would be a lifeless heap. Following that little homily I would like to return to the subject matter "freedom of choice". I believe this freedom to be the ultimate reality. The vast majority of people believe we have no choice in who our parents are. I disagree. Now I am going to delve into metaphysics for a moment so you can skip this paragraph if you are so inclined and pick up the story later on. But it might help you to comprehend my motives. We all share a collective amnesia regarding the spiritual plane. For if we all knew exactly where, how and why of our being here in this time and place there would be no challenge, no struggle in learning to cope with and in surmounting our roles, in this world of ours. Life would be rather dull without these surprises. Discovery comes through intuition and sometimes ecstatic flashes of revelation. I believe that we choose the time, place and parentage of our earthly lives, in order to experience life in all of its variations and to achieve different goals in our personal spiritual development. We then proceed to forget consciously, as we become overwhelmed by the physical realm of being. This is the easiest way of living; by being born into a culture. The more difficult way is by adoption or conscious choice in this world. Thus armed, with this philosophy and rationale, I approached the dilemma of conversion.

Convictions, life without convictions, is a poor imitation of the real thing. I felt I had been living that poor imitation and determined enough was enough. I was starting a new life on my own, following a disastrous marriage. It was time to follow through on my decision to convert. This was not an easy option, conditioned and socialized as many in today's world are to believing the lot of a Jew is a wretched one for various reasons. Many Gentiles think of Jews as poor wretches in grave danger of missing out on Paradise, because they have not been "saved" by the Lord Jesus. Some Jews resent the "burden" of Judaism; the ancient and more recent history of blood, sweat, tears and martyrdom, keeping kosher in a city without a kosher butcher or even one kosher deli, to be true to one's traditions in an overwhelming Gentile world, hoping and forever fruitlessly seeking a nice Jewish spouse to take home to the folks, because all the single Jews are marrying Gentiles, trying to be accepted as one of the gang (or assimilated) and do not let your Jewishness hang out too far, you might be treated like an oddity. Oh! really, you're Jewish? Well, that is not so bad, is it? Well what's wrong with being Jewish? These types of inane remarks of mild amazement, sympathy, or dubiousness one encounters from time to time. I sometimes respond with like statements, just to demonstrate how foolish they sound. Are you Gentile? Tell me, what is it like to be a Gentile? or What's wrong with being a

Gentile? Usually they laugh when they realize how silly these questions are.

Getting back to the issue at hand, one sunny Shabbat morning, a few years ago, I took my fate in my hands and presented myself at the synagogue. On this momentous occasion I experienced some quaking in the area of my knee joints and some minor palpitations as my automatic nervous system kicked in. Much to my relief, the faces I encountered were all friendly ones and most bespoke a kind welcome. I was invited to join everyone for Kiddush following the service, where I met and conversed further with some of the congregants. Since then I have always made it a point to approach new people or guests and pay my respects or offer a welcome, as I remember well my first service and how much it meant to feel welcomed.

Therein followed weekly attendance, learning the format of the service, the hymns, hearing the Rabbi expounding the doctrines and philosophy of Judaism. Enrollment in Hebrew and Torah classes, where I continued to learn more about Judaism and Hebrew; I thank the Lord that Judaism translates so well into English.

About ten months later, I approached the Rabbi on the subject of a formal conversion. He advised making an appointment with the Religious Committee. This meeting proved a terrible disappointment. I was counseled to wait at least a year, since my life, at the time, was in a state of transition, it would be too burdensome to take on the role of a Jew. It was also suggested that, perhaps, I was not in my right mind because of all the changes in my life, and I should not make a hasty decision that I might regret. I went home and wept.

After the weeping came anger. Who were these people to examine and judge me unfit and unprepared? Is a newborn babe, for all its

helplessness and immaturity, inspected and proclaimed unready? No! A babe is welcomed with joy and acceptance, as a blessing from the Lord, into the congregation of Israel. The Talmudic sage Simeon ben Gamliel said "When a prospective proselyte shows an interest in Judaism extend to that one a hand of welcome." I felt like I had received a slap in the face.

Anger can be a powerful incentive. I called up a number of my friends for consolation and encouragement, which was forthcoming, these friends knew me fairly well and were aware of my conviction and sincerity. With the kind words they offered and a little imagination, I resolved that if I could not go through the Religious Committee, I would go around them.

But let me return to the Committee for a moment, because two rather interesting happenings occurred which shed light on their decision. These happenings were not revealed to me until some months later and greatly assuaged my crushed feelings when I learned of them.

A year or so prior to my conversion a single woman had come to the Shul and in due course had been converted by the Rabbi. Immediately following this blessed event, she joined a group that went by the charming name of "Jews for Jesus". Well, with their knickers-in-a-knot over this travesty I was naturally suspect. The second occurrence took place minutes before my meeting with the Committee. The Rabbi requested a friend of mine to attend the meeting, as my advocate. When the Committee head spotted her and after he asked, "Why are you here?", sent her packing.

A few days later, when I had collected my wits and planned my course of action, I paid another visit to the Rabbi. I asked him to write me a letter of introduction and reference, which

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The Community Calendar

Whether you have a family Simcha coming soon, or another function planned well in advance — you may benefit from calling us and making sure your date is kept only for you.

*The Community Calendar is planned exactly for this purpose. Call us **before** finalizing your other bookings and make sure the date you want is available and no other family Simcha is already booked for the community.*

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The Community Calendar
Atlantic Jewish Council, Halifax (902) 422-7491

The Jewish Woman's Role

Ed. Note: This is a copy of a letter received in response to the rabbi's letter in January's (Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton) bulletin. Any further responses or a response to this letter will be printed with the writer's consent.

Rabbi Michael Wolff
Tiferes Israel Synagogue
Moncton, N.B.

January 1, 1990

Dear Michael:

I read with interest your letter to the congregation in the January bulletin on the role of women in Orthodox Judaism, and felt it cried out for a response from a female member of our congregation. As I did some research on the role of women in prayer last year for a talk before the Women's Study Group, I would like to discuss some of my thoughts on the topic with you. I realize that I am not learned in Judaism, and that a little learning (which is all I got from my research) is a dangerous thing. Still, I think it is about time I put my ideas down on paper, as your choice of the topic for a bulletin seemed to indicate that it was worth talking about.

Your argument is that Orthodox Judaism treats men and women as different, but equivalent, with distinct, but equally important, roles—the women's in creating "a Jewish spirit

in the home" and in determining who is a Jew, the man's in public prayer. I think this is a strained equivalence, forced onto the reality of modern life by apologists who perhaps are made uneasy by attacks from Orthodox, traditional feminists that come too close to the mark. In reality, traditional Judaism's attitude toward women, through historically often more sympathetic and just than that of the surrounding cultures, still held women in an inferior position: Orthodoxy continues to do so.

To state that the roles of men and women in Judaism are distinct but equal is to strain the facts. Public prayer in Judaism is clearly considered superior to private prayer (why else is synagogue attendance so crucial?); it is the only way Jews sense themselves as a community, a factor crucial to Jewish survival. To attempt to assign equal weight to the female's purely biological achievement in determining who is a Jew is pure sophistry; the only thing a woman has to do to contribute to matrilineal descent is to have a uterus. How can this compare in value with what is exacted from men by the mitzvot of thrice-daily prayer and minyan participation?

The other factor offered is weighing the woman's role with the man's in your letter was "providing a Jewish spirit in the home." This, of course, demands more than a biological

contribution from women, but in today's world domestic concerns are not restricted to the female. I offer my own home as an example. Andy and I have tried very hard to give our home a Jewish flavour, recognizing how important this is in creating a positive Jewish identity for our girls, especially in this region. But, as I am a working mother, and out of the house almost as much as Andy, the Jewish home—that is, food, holidays, Shabbat and education—has become a joint responsibility. Although I do most of the cooking, it's Andy that sets the Shabbat table; I simply get home from work too late on Friday to do that. So there's one traditional female role gone male. As for education, we both teach our girls brachas and read them books about the Jewish holidays. We both bless our girls on Shabbat, and we split the havdalah prayers fifty-fifty.

The modern Jewish home has changed in ways the rabbis couldn't have foreseen in their wildest imaginations when they formulated halakhah so long ago. But, if the home is no longer the woman's niche, where is she to turn for a role in Judaism if the synagogue denies her a place of any importance? Sitting in the back just doesn't fill the bill.

The Orthodox apologists—whose tone, by

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I would present to another Rabbi in another city where I planned to perform my conversion. A good friend in the community wrote a letter of reference for me, also. With these in hand, arrangements were made over the telephone, and an appointment set, for this auspicious occasion.

In due time and after a hectic journey and grand tour of the city, via public transit, I found myself comfortably ensconced before three very pleasant Rabbis. They were so nice I could barely believe my senses, after my grueling interview with the Committee at my Shul. Fortune smiled upon me, they asked me only questions that I knew the answers to. They must have been satisfied because before long I was being ceremoniously converted, in a lovely warm mikvah.

On my return home I experienced feelings of ambivalence. I felt satisfied and happy with this transformation but, I was reluctant to share my joy with a few certain people (especially the Religious Committee) as I did not have their blessings and they probably would not rejoice with me. When the Rabbi was informed he complimented me on my tenacity, which left me wondering if that was my only obvious redeeming quality.

From what I had observed of the royal treatment extended to prospective brides and grooms, it would have been considerably less

arduous to have converted for the purposes of marriage. I met a number of these people in my Torah and Hebrew classes and their rites-of-passage appeared smooth and gentle when I compare them to my own, although for them it was possibly just as daunting at times. It would be ideal if conversion was an experience of total warmth, acceptance and joy. The logistics of my conversion were tumultuous sometimes but none of my life's more meaningful experiences have been without turmoil and revelation.

When I began my life as a Jew I did not hesitate to share this information of my conversion with some of the people I met (minus the more gruesome details). I soon discovered (to my regret) that Gentiles, for the most part, thought I must be mad, Jews showed mixed reactions; surprise, the proverbial "cold shoulder" or snub, some showed understanding and acceptance. It has come to such a pass that I no longer convey this information to anyone, although the Rabbi is very fond of introducing me as his favourite convert, especially to prospective converts. Every once in a while I feel the urge to share my experiences, with the passage of time, the rough spots have softened and smoothed; the ambivalence is passed and I can quite cheerfully say Pooh! to those who cannot accept me, whatever their reasons. Maybe they will have to work out their own problems.

It would probably be beneficial if we could start a support group for converts as there are

definitely problems which are exclusive to this crowd, especially if one lacks the support of a betrothed one, or one's family is in the throes of adamant opposition.

Converts of conviction are a rare breed (I have met but four) those who come to the Torah through a conscious choice, often following years of fence sitting; one may know the Torah as truth but to fly in the face of overwhelming Christianity (for all its absurdities) is no easy decision to make.

Judaism has gained respectability in our times and the chances of persecution seem remote, but thus so did most Jews think in pre-Nazi Germany; yet within a decade the Jews of Germany descended from respectability to a position of despicement. Converts are well aware of this possibility because we have assumed this role willingly. Will we ever be tested in our faith? Who knows, if anti-Semitism will rear its ugly head again? If one studies history, it would seem inevitable.

Whatever the future holds I hope and pray to be worthy of my faith and to live by its precepts. And if in this life I have the privilege of shedding some light on living, surviving, decision making or whatever, and also some of the more obscure issues faced by converts, I will be satisfied that my time has been well spent.

Ed. Note: We respect the author's request not to be identified.

From the Moncton Pulpit . . .

by Rabbi Michael Wolff

During Chanukah I was approached by a minister to support his attempt to introduce the notion of Religious Moral Imperatives into the curriculum of Human Growth and Behaviour, which is taught to the seventh through ninth grades. He felt that the Secular Morality presently being taught of doing what "feels right" for oneself was dangerous. He argues that students should be made aware of the morality taught in religion and that an objective morale standard based on Divine Imperative should be learnt.

I decided not to support this minister because even though Judaism also believes that man follows an objective ethical standard by following Torah Law (which is a Divine Imperative), people choose subjectively how they wish to behave. The subjective choice is the choice of the individual. Each person chooses between "courses of action all of which are ambiguous," (Herberg, *Judaism and Modern Man*, Atheneum, New York 1980,

page 109). Judaism adheres to a Divine Code of Morality but each of us struggles to balance religious ideals with the reality of the situation.

A secular public school system, I believe, does not have the right to impose moral codes on its students beyond those given by secular society. It can only teach students how to choose courses of action. As Jewish parents, as part of the mitzvah of "You shall teach them to your children," (Deuteronomy, Ch. 6, 7), we have the obligation to teach our children what the Jewish standard of morality is for moral dilemmas as they arise. The choice of following the Jewish understanding of a Divine Imperative must always be an option in behavior. One can only choose this course of action if one is aware of it. Awareness comes through study and experiencing a Jewish way of life. This awareness is gained by one's home life and the synagogue.

Every individual ultimately will choose their own moral standard, usually based on an objective moral standard. Every Jew as a member of the Jewish people should be aware of the Halachic Standard of Judaism. This is the standard that determines one's Jewish



Rabbi Michael Wolff

identify. One has the right to question and to doubt because this is how one chooses what to do. The essence, however, of Torah Judaism is the belief (centered in faith), that a Divine Ethical system was given by G-d at Mount Sinai to the Jewish people. This central belief is the first of the 10 commandments and should not be denied.

Woman's continued from page 17

the way, is often very patronizing towards women—find all kinds of excuses for segregating women in the synagogue and denying them a role of leadership in prayer—that "man, weaker in moral strength than woman, might not remain totally pure and completely wrapped in elevated and elevating thoughts of Divine Communion, if some very charming woman were sitting next to him," (in Baruch Litvin, *The Sanctity of the Synagogue*, 3rd ed., p. 246), or that if women were not exempt, "the religiously observant woman would be forced to neglect the needs of her children"—arguments that secular feminists know only too well as excuses to deny them jobs in fields hitherto restricted to males. How easy to cover up a naked power grab with religion!

What these men refuse to recognize is that halakhah was determined by Jewish men, whose perspective was naturally male-oriented.

"Is it not cause for reflection that in a religion so sensitive, so complete, where there is a blessing for everything—for thunder and lightning, for travel, for eating, for elimination, for new fruits and new clothes—tradition has formulated not even a single blessing, much less a full-blown ritual, to mark what surely is a peak moment in a woman's life? Imagine what a religious celebration Judaism would have developed by now had it been the men who experienced the miracle of birth all these generations?" (*Women and Judaism: A View from Tradition*, Blu Greenberg, pp. 99-100).

Orthodoxy takes refuge in halakhah: since it exempts women from daily prayer and the minyan, this can't be changed. But halakhah has never been rigid, and, in fact, the rabbis are

not always consistent. For example, the tannaim said women were obligated in daily prayer, but exempt from the shema and tefillin; Maimonides equivocates; today, daily prayer for women is not expected. On saying the shema, the mishnah exempted women, the shulkhan arukh said women should be taught it, and today it is universally required of women by religious educators.

What is of great concern to me is the consequences of the minimal role assigned to women in our shul, since we cannot turn to a Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist alternative. Personally, I feel insulted. I am an educated woman who spends very little time in the kitchen, yet if my daughters are going to see me—their role model—active at Tiferes Israel, will it have to be setting up the kiddush table? I can teach them about Jewish history, I can teach them brachas, at home, but they'll never see me wearing a tallis or leading a prayer in the shul. The career of rabbi is open to all but Orthodox Jewish women today, but closed to my daughters because they'll see no

women active in prayer here as models, and will not be able to have proper bat mitzvahs.

The arguments of Orthodoxy strike me as forced and specious, yet, as long as Tiferes Israel adheres to them, women will be able to contribute little besides fundraising, interior decorating and cakes to our shul. Women who have skills to offer outside of these are clearly not needed. (I did, by the way, appreciate your idea of inviting us to do dvar torahs last year, and would be happy to do another this year.) As long as the role of women in synagogue prayer is secondary, there is a danger that our daughters will be alienated from Judaism.

I'm not writing in anger—only in frustration, mostly over the limitations I feel face Eleanore and Deborah during their formative years. So I hope this letter is taken in the spirit I intend it—one of opening discussion on an issue I think is important.

Sincerely,
Margie Gann
Sackville, N.B.

Giant Menorah Changes Halifax Skyline

by Franklyn Medjuck, Q.C.

Chanukah in Halifax this year had a very special treat enjoyed by a lot of people, more than expected.

Thanks to the ingenuity and generosity of Chabad-Lubovitch Youth Organization of Montreal and the good offices of the Atlantic Jewish Council, a 22' high aluminium Menorah (Chanukiah) was erected on the grounds of the Provincial Legislature. The Speaker of the Legislature, the Honourable Arthur Donahoe was most obliging and co-operative. In

the past he has allowed a more modest Menorah and this year his staff couldn't have been more helpful in providing electricity, cables, tools and advice.

Norman Ross arranged for a boom-truck to hoist the Menorah into place and later provided the same to dismantle it and transport the structure into storage. Thanks Norman and thanks also to Harvey David for a helpful

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Purim in Benghazi, North Africa

by Moshe Mosenson

Excerpts from the diary of a Palestinian Jew in the British Army, March 21, 1943.

In one of my letters I told you briefly that we had set up a Hebrew School in the city next to which we are stationed. Each one of the units offered a member as teacher. Four teachers organized the school. The children, bewildered, depressed and melancholy, were taken in hand by these boys and put into school after three years of absence from their studies . . .

And now, three weeks after the school was started, they arranged a Purim play and invited us, the soldiers, to attend. The play took place in the hall of a fascist bank, the very bank where long lines of beaten Jews were corralled

before they were taken to the concentration camps. The hall was packed full . . .

A boy of fourteen got up on the pleasantly decorated stage and said: "The children of the school at Benghazi will now present their Purim program to the Jewish soldiers. After three years away from their studies, the school was set up, and it is now three weeks since it was opened. Therefore our program is short and modest. But we want the soldiers to know that it is offered them in love and affection. This is a Purim gift from the Jewish youth of Benghazi to the Jewish soldiers." The curtain was raised. At that moment I thought that I was back at Naan, at a play given by our school and

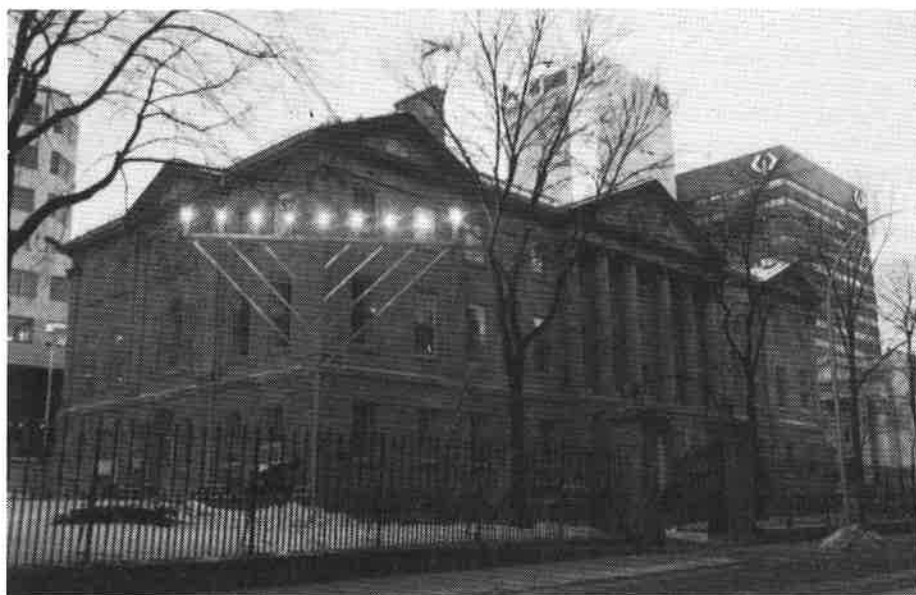
our kindergarten. We saw a scene that had been composed by one of our comrades, a teacher. Children are playing Purim games. Their mother comes in and sends them to sleep. The children lie down on mattresses and fall asleep. The light grows fainter and there is semi-darkness. In the distance you can see the hills of Galilee outlined on the horizon (the decoration was painted by one of our comrades). Behind the scenes a beautiful woman's voice is heard singing, "There are melodies in the mouth of a flute." While she is singing the children are sleeping. Palestinian children enter with palm leaves in their hands and bands

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hand in time of need. The Greek Electrician who volunteered his services in wiring the lights to a junction box had no idea we were celebrating our victory over the Hellenistic culture and Greek-Assyrian occupation by his ancestors.

Premier John Buchanan, through the good efforts of Gerry Mendleson, was on hand to throw the switch to turn on the lights. Mr. Donahoe, and Mayor Ron Wallace also participated in a brief opening ceremony arranged by AJC Executive Director Emmanuel Zabar. Members of the AJC Executive in attendance included Legal Counsel Victor Goldberg, Treasurer Alan Stern, Youth Chairman Frank Medjuck, Darrell Pink, Board Member at large Jon Goldberg and community member David Green. Rabbi Marvin Pritzker of the Beth Israel Synagogue also participated and explained the significance of the holiday and the menorah.



Dec. 21—Province of Nova Scotia Legislature Building—Chanukah Menorah fully lit. Photo by Calnen.



Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature, Halifax, shown l-r: Rabbi Mendy Zirkind, Jon Goldberg, David Green, Victor Goldberg, Darrel Pink, Rabbi Marvin Pritzker, Emmanuel Zabar, Rabbi Simcha Zirkind and Franklyn Medjuck.

Special guests from Montreal, who made it all possible, were Rabbi Simcha Zirkind and his son Rabbi Menachem Zirkind. They are frequent visitors to Atlantic Canada and have many friends in the area. They left directly for Ottawa for a similar ceremony at the House of Commons the next day. During Chanukah, they helped co-ordinate the worldwide broadcast by television satellite signal of the lighting of giant Menorahs in Washington, London, and Mos-cow, simultaneously.

On the third night, a community lighting took place with over 75 people, young and old, participating. The 3 lights were turned on by Mrs. Betty Arron, Ms. Lillian Mosher, and Mr. Morris Goldberg. Emmanuel Zabar lead the recitation of the blessings, the singing of Mo'atzur, and other festive melodies.

It was a bitter cold evening. Hot tea and

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Tu B'Shevat Observed By Planting Trees to Replace Victims of Arson

By David Landau, JIA

Tu B'Shevat in the shadow of the intifada is symbolized by hundreds of tiny saplings in black plastic bags nestled at the foot of towering, fire-charred Jerusalem pines—leafless victims of arson.

That was the sight that greeted President Chaim Herzog, who joined 750 Canadian visitors and 1000 Israeli schoolchildren this sunny February 11th, the traditional new year of trees, to plant replacements for those burned last year near Moshav Neveh Ilan, in the Jerusalem corridor.

All over Israel, about 200,000 children planted trees in Tu B'Shevat ceremonies organized by the Jewish National Fund. The Jerusalem hills were dotted with yellow JNF flags marking special planting sites.

Speaking at Neveh Ilan, Herzog called on world Jewry to contribute a "tree for a tree" for every one destroyed by arsonists.

The Canadian group, aptly called "Operation Roots," is the largest-ever Canadian contingent to visit Israel.

The "Tree for a Tree" project was conceived by Toronto's Adat Yisrael Congregation and quickly grew to include many congregations across Canada.

JNF World Chairman Moshe Rivlin told those attending the ceremony that he picked



Israeli schoolchildren planting saplings in the Jerusalem Forest on Tu B'Shevat. WZPS photo by Sammy Avnisan

the Neveh Ilan site for this year's central ceremony in response to the extensive fire damage in the area.

He made the decision only a day before the terrorist attack on a Tel Aviv-Jerusalem bus that left 14 dead on the slopes below the main highway just outside Neveh Ilan.

Rivlin recalled the more recent bus tragedy in Egypt and announced that these trees were being planted in memory of the nine Israelis killed there on February 4. He noted that the festivities marked 100 years since the first Tu B'Shevat tree-planting ceremony.

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across their foreheads bearing the names of the different settlements in Palestine. They stumble over the sleeping children and ask, "Who are they?" Then the biggest girl among them says, "Do you not recognize them, children? They are our brothers, the children of the Diaspora who have been persecuted by the enemy. We have been waiting for them impatiently, waiting for them to come to us so that together we may rebuild our ancient homeland." One of the children says bitterly, "In every generation there are Hamans who rise up to destroy us—why should we not take the children of the Galut (Diaspora) and bring them to Palestine so that they may live with us and be happy?" A second child, answers, "Patience, children, the gates to our country are closed and the keys are not in our hands, but we have sworn to ourselves that these children shall find a home among us, in their homeland, in the hills of Galilee and in the valleys of Jezreel. We shall not rest or sleep until the remnant of Israel

shall return to our motherland." Then the Palestinian children begin singing Anu Banu Arzah (we have come to the land to build and to be rebuilt there). Near me stood the father of one of the little girls who was acting; he was weeping quietly.

The play went on. Suddenly one little boy whispers, "Sh-sh, they're waking up. The children of the Galut are awakening." They rub their eyes and ask: "Where are the children from Palestine? Then the mother enters again and they tell her that children from Palestine have been visiting them. The mother is surprised and astonished, but they insist that it was so. One little girl says, "They sang us one of their songs and they swore an oath that they would bring us to Palestine quickly." Then the mother says, "All this was only a dream that you dreamed, children. A beautiful dream, a holy dream about Palestine. It is true that the children of Palestine are waiting for you, and you must learn Hebrew well and be good and strong and perhaps we will all celebrate next

year's holiday in Jerusalem." Then she asks, "What was the song, children, do you remember?" And the children burst into song, "We have come to the land to build and to be rebuilt there!"

Then the audience, with hundreds of Jewish soldiers among them, rose to their feet suddenly and sang with them, "We have come to the land to build and to be rebuilt there!" When the lights were lit in the hall many of us were ashamed to lift our heads because of the tears in our eyes . . .

The program continued. Soldiers and children took part in it alternately. Finally all the school children went up on the stage, stood opposite the soldiers and Hatikvah burst from their throats with fervor and enthusiasm. When have I ever sung it that way?

(From the Purim Anthology by Philip Goodman)

Massada Club News

By Bessie Rinzler, President, Halifax

Meetings of the Massada Club were held in the Youth Lounge of the Beth Israel Synagogue on December 10 and February 11, and at the Shaar Shalom on January 14, with 30, 26 and 18 members in attendance respectively.

At the December meeting, **Rabbi and Mrs. Marvin Pritzker** were the special guests. Rabbi Pritzker entertained us with a very pleasant video featuring **Mike Burstyn** in a Yiddish sing-along, "Lomir Alle Zingen".

This program was enjoyed by all and **Ella Morris** thanked the rabbi on behalf of us all. Refreshments were then served, which con-

sisted of potato pancakes with sour cream, cookies, tea and coffee.

The President welcomed the members to the January 14 meeting, and asked everyone to observe one minute of silence for **Mr. Sam Glube**, who passed away recently. Condolences were also offered to **Edith Schneiderman**, whose brother passed away. A speedy recovery was wished to all members who have recently been ill.

At the February meeting, the President welcomed three guests: **Cantor and Mrs. Yaakov Ben-Amou** and **Max Fishman**. The Ben-Amous delighted us with a presentation

of slides taken in Israel on Tu B'Shevat, with commentary on each scene. Cantor Ben-Amou gave a most interesting account of the history of his grandparents, who were born in Spain in the 1900's and moved to Morocco in 1936. Being a friend to the King, his grandfather was given a high position. He took advantage of his privileged position to pay for passports for Jews wishing to leave Morocco for Israel, until he was caught.

After the program, the business meeting was conducted and following that, refreshments were served.

ORT — Full Circle

By Barbara Alberstat, Halifax

In 1880 ORT's founders in St. Petersburg set out to help the impoverished Jewish population of the Russian Pale of Settlement to help themselves by working small holdings or carrying on skilled trades. They decided to call their new organization the "Organization for Vocational and Agricultural Skills (Work) Among the Jews in Russia."

When support groups were established in English-speaking countries in the century, they adapted and simplified the acronym and adopted the name the "Organization for Rehabilitation and Settlement", a descriptive close to their objectives at that time. Settlement later became "Training" thus reestablishing the acronym.

Today the organization is increasingly known simply as ORT, but its traditional belief that an individual's independence and dignity can be attained through the possession of vocational skills, and the altruistic values which have underlain ORT's work for more than a century, are as relevant today as they ever were.

Because our exceptional organization exists, 3 million students have been enabled to lead lives of productivity and dignity. ORT is an acknowledged global leader in technology today. ORT continues to expand in all parts of our network. The establishment has seen Spain and Hungary join the network. The establishment of a high technology resource centre at Wuhon is in negotiation with China. ORT's pioneering mother and child care programmes, initiated in Latin America, and strongly funded by the Canadian Government through CIDA, are being expanded into Peru, Uru-

guay, Argentina and into Zaire in Central Africa.

World ORT Union Director **Joseph Har-matz** recently completed a ten day visit to Russia, at the invitation of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Initial talks were held on reestablishing an ORT presence in Russia. The prospect of returning "to our Russian roots" is a very exciting one and we look forward to seeing ORT flourishing once again in the Soviet Union. It is a tribute to our international reputation to have been invited to set up a technological training facility in the USSR. ORT has indeed come full circle.

Update on the Local Scene

The Chanukah meeting was held at the home of **Sara Yablon**. All enjoyed the gift exchange and were entertained by **Fruma Glazman** on the piano and everyone joined in the singling of traditional Jewish songs.

Plans are well underway for the Mother's Day "Fruit n' Snack" baskets again this year. They will be delivered by our own ORT volunteers between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday,

May 13. This has proven to be a delightful gift for many "special women" on this "special day". We have been delivering to many of the Gentile population as well. Quantities are limited, so make your list and call **Mindy Jacobson**, our ready and always willing co-convenor,

at 423-2049 and she will begin taking orders as soon as you call.

Scholarship cards are being used for many occasions. The cards range in price from \$3 to "the sky's the limit". I will be glad to send one out for you. My number is 422-5526.

Sobey's and IGA cashier tapes are a tidy income for us, so please collect them and given them to Mindy.

The February meeting was held in the author's home with the viewing of the ORT film "Nothing but the Best". This was a dramatic and unusual colour documentary dealing with the origins of the Jewish community in Latin America and today's prestigious ORT network of vocational and technical education on that continent.

We wish **Frank Zebberman**, husband of the late **Ada Zebberman**, our founding Chapter's namesake, a speedy recovery and many more years of good health. Frank has recently been hospitalized in Vancouver. To all our members and friends of ORT, good health and a very Happy Passover.

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Miriam Lief Chapter of Emunah Women (Mizrachi)

By Rose Pritzker, President

At our last meeting, the old minute books of our chapter were handed over to Mrs. Sara Yablon. She will shortly give them to the Nova Scotia Archives for safekeeping. We also read some of the minutes from previous years.

Our Chapter will be celebrating the 40th anniversary in March. The original chapter was dated March 15, 1950. In that spirit, we are making plans for a Tea in June 1990 to pay tribute to the founding members of this organization.

Our thanks to all our supporting, canvassers and members who make our campaign and work successful.



Rose Pritzker giving the minute books to Sara Yablon



The members who attended the last meeting in the Beth Israel Youth Lounge

Fredericton Preschool Learns about Chanukah

In December, just prior to Chanukah, the boys and girls at Skyline Acres/Southwood Park Preschool learned about the Jewish festival of Chanukah. Jason Airst brought dreidels, stories and treats for his classmates. Carol Airst read the stories to the children and showed them how to spin the dreidels. Their teacher, Mrs. Lepage, taught them the Dreidel Song on her piano. It was an enjoyable and interesting lesson for all.

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cookies were provided by Bena Medjuck (and Bena poured).

It was really quite surprising to see so many people from all parts of the community arrive to be involved. A genuine good feeling of happiness was evident from all the smiling faces. Some arrived early, others came along from the shul minyon with Rabbi Pritzker, students brought other students, parents sat children on their shoulders, and cars lined the curb filled with people keeping warm until the ceremony started.

While the rest of the city celebrated Christmas Eve, it seemed very "healthy" that the Jewish community could stand against all the elements (weather and cultural) to celebrate Chanukah.

When the Menorah was taken down as promised, it was gratifying to get phone calls from people who missed seeing it there and wondered why it was taken down (thanks Gerry and Anna). After all the work involved by so many, I was glad to see that it was appreciated. Next year . . . latkes!!

Fredericton News

by Jennie Brown

May the year 1990 be a year of good health, happiness and peace in Israel.

Anniversary greetings to the following: Harry & Bessie Brown - 61 years; Ben & Faye Medjuck - 54 years; Harry & Edyth Levine - 46 years; Joe & Jennie Chippin - 41 years; Lou & Sue Levine - 41 years; Max & Mary Velensky - 40 years; Martin & Linda Payne - 32 years.

Mazel Tov and best wishes to Minnie Budovitch, Montreal, and former resident of the community, and to Sam Brown, who on January 1st celebrated their 90th birthdays. Mazel Tov to Lou & Sue Levine and Mr. & Mrs. Alan Brightman, Toronto, upon the birth of their granddaughter, Brittany Andrea. Proud parents are Jay & Bonnie Brightman, Toronto. Mazel Tov to Harry & Amelia Goldman, upon the engagement of their

granddaughter, Shaindel, daughter of Jeffrey & Ruth Goldman, Toronto, to Nissan, son of Shia & Leah Gluek, Toronto.

The community was saddened by the demise of Dora Chippin. Survived by daughter Betty Rosenzweig, three sons Joe, Harry and Bernard, twelve grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The demise of Shaindel Spiro occurred at the Pine Grove Nursing Home. Survived by sons Rabbi David Spiro and Morris Spiro, three grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. May the survivors be spared of further sorrow.

Reflections of eleven year old Ahuva Newman of her greatgrandmother, Shaindel Spiro. Ahuva is the daughter of Louis & Marilyn (Spiro) Newman of Montreal:

Fredericton continued on page 23

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Marcia Koven

We have just completed our most successful season to date. Although we are only a seasonal museum, we feel that having over 100 percent increase in visitors this year from last deserves a pat on the back.

We started our season on March 1, 1989 when our Museum assistant **Katherine Biggs** arrived to get out the newsletters, membership bills and generally being available for visitors who were bringing in artifacts that we could use in our displays for the season. Knowing that Atlantic Hadassah-Wizo was having a

conference on May 12th in the city, we worked like beavers getting our displays together, and with hard work and long hours we were ready for the first visitor when she/he came through the door. Also at the same time we were rushing our printers to have our two publications ("**Weaving the Past into the Present, A Glimpse into a 130 Year History of the Saint John Jewish Community, and From Our Grandmothers Kitchen, Old Family Recipes**") ready for our opening. Our season began on an up beat and continued as

such all summer. We extended our season until October 17th this year to accommodate a Study Tour from Maine Museums. It proved to be very successful and worthwhile staying open for this very interested and interesting group of 30 people from museums around the State and some from New Brunswick. It was very complimentary that our museum was included in their agenda, because all museums in New Brunswick were not included.

Although all of our displays were exceptional this year, two displays deserve special mention. **Herzl Kashetsky's** Religious and Secular Exhibition featuring "The Creation" drew rave reviews and we were proud to have had the opportunity to have him do this show just for our museum. We opened the showing with a Reception on June 17th and the display remained up until September 6th. Thank you, Herzl, from all of us who were fortunate to have had the opportunity to view your works. Also thanks to all of those people who purchased works and allowed us to retain them during the length of the showing.

Our other display that must be mentioned was the impressive Holocaust Display that came to us from the Jewish Student Network via the AJC office in Halifax. We specifically asked for this display during Saint John's Loyalist Days (a week long event) and it proved to be a good choice of time. We had open house in the Synagogue and showed the display in the vestry. The building was open Sunday to Friday from 1 pm to 4 pm. Over 1000 visitors came to see and to learn. We felt that it was something that had to be seen. People from all walks of life poured through the doors, singles, families, church groups, high school summer students and tourists. It wasn't a pleasant display, but it was certainly a learning experience for most people. Thanks to **Dr. Moe Polowin** for staffing the Synagogue during the week so that there was always someone on duty to answer questions and to give tours in the sanctuary for those who requested them.

Our other features this season consisted of viewing our classroom (which brought smiles to everyone's face), our chapel, our gift shop, our traditional Passover Seder Table (the most impressive table display in the Jewish Calendar year), our Mikvah, old family portraits, our Youth Groups (groups that we were so proud of and no longer exist in our community—Young Judaea, Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, YMHA, etc.) and our Synagogue and

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"A Person So Rare"

Dedicated to Big Little Bubby Spiro

Everything that went on inside her was
a treasure,
Her smartness one could not measure.
Like Apples of gold in settings of silver,
She sat there,
Sitting so quietly and perfectly,
A person like her is rare.
Not one person did she oversee,
In every person something good she
did see.
Like Apples of Gold in settings of
silver,
She sat there,
Sitting so quietly and perfectly,
A person like her is rare.
In darkness she saw the light,
In shortness she saw the height.
Like Apples of Gold in settings of
silver,
She sat there,
Sitting so quietly and perfectly,
A person like her is rare.
I want you to know I love you
A person like you is few.

Speedy recovery to **Sheila Chippin, Leona Brown, Miriam Cohen and Joe Tobin.**

An enjoyable Chanukah Party was held in the Sgoelai Israel Synagogue on December 24, with **Rabbi Moshe Shur** as the entertainer. He is known as "The Jewish Minstrel". Rabbi Shur, Director of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation at Queens College in New York, is

a singer of Hasidic and popular Hebrew, Yiddish and English music, as well as a composer of folk songs, and a teacher and lecturer on many aspects of Judaism. Following the entertainment, refreshments were served.

As in previous years, members of the community volunteered at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital on Christmas Day to allow the staff to spend the day with their families. Treats to the patients were provided by the Congregation of the Synagogue.

The following appeared in the YM-YWHA Newsletter, Montreal:

Lionel Goldman Installed as New YM-YWHA President.

Lionel Goldman was installed as President of the YM-YWHA at the Association's recent 79th Annual Meeting.

Goldman will serve as President of the 15,000 member organization for a two-year term. Outgoing President was **Edward Daniels**.

Goldman was Vice-President of the Y from 1983-87, and First Vice-President from 1987-89. Goldman, a Chartered Accountant, and a partner in the firm of Schlesinger, Newman, Goldman and Fruchter, sits on the Board of Directors, and is a member of the following committees: Audits, By-laws Revision, Fundraising for the Foundation of the YM-YWHA Finance, Metropolitan Jewish Programming and Viability.

Goldman, is a member of the JWB Board of Directors, and sits on several of its committees. JWB is the umbrella organization of North American YM-YWHA and Jewish Community Centres.

He is a resident of Cote St. Luc and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia and Quebec. He is married to **Annette**, daughter of the late **Myer & Evelyn Abraham** of Yarmouth, N.S., and has two sons. Lionel is the son of **Amelia & Harry Goldman** of Fredericton.

News from Saint John

by Teri Levine

On Sunday, December 17, 1989, the annual Shaarei Zedek Chanukah party was held in the vestry of the synagogue.

The Hebrew School mothers prepared potato latkes with their usual expertise and a light supper was served.

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation by the children of the Hebrew School.

Everyone stood for the singing of Hatikvah which was played on the violin by Rebecca Wolpin.

Each of the children had made a menorah out of clay and there was a mass candle lighting and everyone joined in for the singing of the blessings.

There was a short descriptive presentation about the meaning of Chanukah and each child took part. It was easy to tell whose child or grandchild was performing at any given time by the many stage whispers coming from the kvelling relatives.

Some of the older children performed an original song entitled "The Eight Nights of Chanukah". Those involved were Marni and Cory Goodman and Rebecca and Eli Wolpin. There was a Chanukah Rap written by Daniel Levine and performed by Daniel, Cory Goodman and David Cowcill, who played the drum.

Another group of kids including Gregory Davis, Lynn Bessoudo, Keri Calp, Lori Green and Tara Joyce gave us the low down on the meanings of the different letters on the sides of the dreidle.

Murray Goodman (a parent) read a new version of Clement Moore's poem called "Twas the Night Before Chanukah" to all those assembled and received a standing ovation for his effort. Teri Levine recited two original renditions entitled, "The Littlest Latke" and "The Dreidle".

There was a beautiful Kiddush Cup that was raffled off with the proceeds going to the

Sisterhood (winner—Susan Lubin). The winning number was drawn by Rose Freedman, who is the Honourary President of Sisterhood.

Lois Bessoudo, Youth Chairman, presented Sidi Schaffer, our Hebrew School Teacher, with a Chanukah present from all of her students.

This year's Chanukah party was a total success as evidenced by the fact that preparations were made for 80 people and 100 arrived at the door in spite of a winter storm earlier in

the day.

The committee of Hebrew School Mothers did a tremendous job and is to be commended for their effort.

The children who participated are the following: Lynn and Mark Bessoudo, Keri Calp, Yael and Reuven Cohen, David Cowcill, Anthony and Gregory Davis, Robyn Fallon, Mami and Cory Goodman, Lori Green, Tara Joyce, Daniel Levine, Eli and Rebecca Wolpin and Micah Levine.

Moncton Sisterhood

by Margie Attis, President

Our last Sisterhood meeting of the 80s was held at the Synagogue on December 12. Despite the bitter cold outside and cool breezes in the Social Hall, the Bring and Buy Auction raised \$300, great for the few that attended.

With new round tables and chairs being purchased for our community, the members agreed to order 50 new, 120", round, tablecloths and these should be delivered in late February.

Latkes, sandwiches, baklava were prepared for our Chanukah Party and Concert on December 25. Thanks to all who helped including Nancy, Dina, Rozzy, Sharon, Minnie and Sandy. I also want to thank some special people who baked for our New Year's Eve/Chanukah Party—Dorothy, Sarah, Marcia, Ruby and Minnie.

With the kitchen renovation only weeks away, we must remember that this will be a

costly undertaking and if Sisterhood can continue to contribute any funds, it will benefit all of us. I realize with most of our membership working at jobs and careers, that volunteer time is at a minimum. It seems that even arranging a good meeting time and place has become a challenge. Women that take the time from their families to come out to a meeting after working all day are truly appreciated. It would be great to return to the "social" aspect of our meetings instead of always fretting about raising money or who will prepare the refreshments for the next shul event. However, Sisterhood is not the only organization facing these problems of diminishing volunteer time. I guess each of us has to decide if our organization is valuable enough to hang on to; if we have to change our focus then we all should participate in these changes.

CJC Jewish Holy Day Booklet

The Jewish Holy Day booklet and Five-Year Calendar (1990-1994) have been reprinted and are ready for distribution.

Should you desire copies or receive requests for same, they are obtainable through Shellie Ettinger, Department of Small Communities, Canadian Jewish Congress, 1590 Avenue Dr. Penfield, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1C5.

Museum continued from page 23

Religious Room. Everyone who came to our museum was given a guided tour and this year we were fortunate to have had two student guides who were able to give tours in French . . . another added attraction.

At this time, I must make special mention of the two new tapestries that were added to the original six on display in the chapel. Although these tapestries are not the property of the museum, we make special mention of them when giving a tour of the chapel. Everyone who views these tapestries are told that they are made and donated by Mrs. Anne Levine, a lady in our community, and that she is in the process of finishing the last 4 to complete the series of 12. The admiration and the compliments are beyond description. To Ann, thank you, this is truly a gift of love.

Marven C. Block, Q.C.

Barrister, Solicitor & Notary

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Harvey Webber Honoured

Prominent Sydney resident **Harvey Webber** was honoured at an annual meeting in Montreal by Tel Aviv University Canadian Friends Organization with an appointment to the national board of directors.

Webber is best known as the fonder of Atlantic Canada Plus and is also a Nova Scotia president of the Council for Canadian Unity and a former member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce executive committee. He is president of Smart Shop Ltd., a business celebrating its 85th anniversary. Webber is also chairman of the General Mining Building, Seveer Realty and of Central Guaranty Trust advisory board.

On being elected to the board of the prestigious group, Webber said, "I am deeply touched by the honour given me by this appointment."



Harvey Webber

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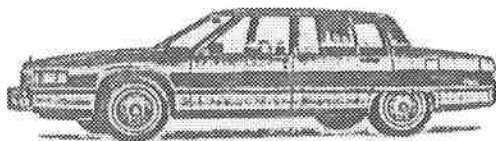
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The Shaar Shalom Congregation is pleased to announce that the winner of its early bird draw on February 14, was **Joel Rose** of Woodstock, N.B. Mr. Rose received a \$2,000 travel certificate from Canplan Travel Ltd. The Super Draw for the 1990 Fleetwood Cadillac (or \$40,000 cash) will be held on May 12, 1990.

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We invite all our friends in Atlantic Canada to participate in this draw. Price of ticket is \$100 and only 1250 tickets will be issued. For your tickets, please complete attached form and enclose with your cheque or money order.

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Appointment

Nova Scotia Premier, **Hon. John M. Buchanan, P.C., Q.C.**, has announced the appointment of **Gerry D. Mendleson**, as Secretary to the Cabinet (Executive Council) of Nova Scotia. Mr. Mendleson has been a public servant with the Provincial Government since 1975 and has served in several capacities with the Executive council during that time. Prior to this most recent appointment, he served as Director of Legislative Affairs in the Executive Council Office.

As part of his new duties as Secretary to the Executive council, Mr. Mendleson has been appointed to serve on the steering committee of the Maritime Council of Premiers and also to represent the Province of Nova Scotia on the coordinating committee for the annual conference of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

Mr. Mendleson has been active over the years in the Jewish Community in Nova Scotia. Currently he is President of the Halifax Citadel Lodge of B'nai Brith. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Jewish Council and presently acts as a representative for the Atlantic Provinces on the national committee for Soviet Jewry. For the past number of years, Mr. Mendleson has also served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Service of Canada (JIAS) and in addition is currently one of Nova Scotia's representatives of the executive committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Mendleson has also been a volunteer fundraiser for the Halifax unit of the Canadian Cancer Society by acting as the Provincial Government coordinator in the Annual Daffodil Sales Campaign—and has been the top fundraiser for



Gerry Mendleson

Appointment continued on page 27

Atlantic NAHON Update

By Joel Etienne

Regional NAHON Chairperson

Imas, Abas, and students, Hello, my name is Joel and I'm the new NAHON regional chairperson for the Atlantic Region. You ask what is NAHON? Very simple, NAHON is the North American High School Organization Network - Meaning that we are a youth group run by Jewish students for Jewish students. We do rallies, shabbotans, marches, conventions, for we believe that even if youth groups are there to be fun (and NAHON is loads of fun), as Jewish students we cannot ignore the threats that lie upon us and disregard them. NAHON has five different task forces. 1. **HOLOCAUST** - we lobby school boards to enter teaching programs on the Holocaust, we keep a wide open eye on the different hate mongers who try to twist history; 2. **OPPRESSED JEWRY** - we have Jewish contacts across the globe in areas where Jews are deprived of human rights, so that we may keep in touch with them, with their different problems, for example: Syrian Jewry, Soviet Jewry. After information is processed and confirmed, we act upon it. 3. **JEWISH IDENTITY** - Every Junior and High School student is already part of NAHON. We want to keep our pride and identity strong. 4. **ISRAEL** - Israel is our homeland. It is where our hearts and souls lie. We want to do everything to improve its situation, to benefit it and help it. 5. **HATE LITERATURE** - You all know what's going on with the Malcolm Ross affair. It is unthinkable to me that there is a new breed of Nazis going stronger today. We denounce that and we will take action!

Relax, I'm not going to bomb his home! But we shall still pressure the government and sensitize society to tell them that what hate literature writers do is wrong.

NAHON is for all of us. If you happen to disagree with parts of our constitution, we can change it. How? By taking action. I just came back from the National Convention where we just amended a new constitution and - by the way - NAHON is newly tri-lingual (English, French, and Hebrew). We had great speakers, great activities, and great fun. Except for one little problem: Where was Halifax? We had 4 delegates from Moncton, one from PEI and David from Halifax. Does that make sense? Halifax has the greatest number of Jewish high school students across Atlantic Canada. I am sure that you guys will be more active this year! Don't let Moncton show you up.

March 21 is National Day against Racism. We will have a rally in Moncton with the help from different high schools in the region and

multicultural associations. We also plan, HOPE, to be able to have a regional convention in the middle of spring. That way, all members will have a say in what our objectives for 90/91 will be. This year has to be the year when NAHON expands out from Moncton, Charlottetown, and Halifax to every region in Atlantic Canada with Jewish high school students. That means that if anybody

living in Fredericton, Saint John or Sydney wants to start a Chapter, give me a collect call at (506) 382-0462 in Moncton, or at the AJC office in Halifax. We'll be glad to help you start out.

I'd write a lot more, but, I guess I'm running out of space. So keep on having fun and make NAHON part of you!

NAHON Convention Review

By David Ross

Immediate Past President, Atlantic NAHON

As usual, the convention this year, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, was an astounding success and, like last year, I had an incredible weekend.

Thursday, February 8, at 5 p.m., three packed buses left Toronto for the Viscount Hotel in Niagara Falls. The 150 students on these buses were from all across Canada, the U.S. and a representative of the Jewish High School students in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Upon our arrival at 7:30 p.m., was registration and unpacking. At 8:30, the convention coordinator/National Policy Advisor began the convention with his opening remarks and an introduction to the first speaker, **Les Scheininger**, President of Canadian Jewish Congress. After that followed ice-breakers and a bit of free time to see the Falls.

Friday morning was mostly devoted to workshops dealing with such topics as Glasnost, the Middle East, and Canada-Israel relations. At 11 a.m., **Frank Bialystock**, chairman of the Holocaust Education Committee, spoke on the importance of the remembrance of the Holocaust, followed by program-planning workshops. The afternoon was

spent over regional meetings, constitutional preparations and an Israel update by **Manny Shlmoni**, representing the Canadian Friends for the Technion University. At 8:15 the keynote speech "Inside the Intifada" was delivered by **Simcha Jacobovich**, founder of Network Canada/filmmaker. Following another address from the Simon Weisenthal Centre, informal discussions were held and the evening was adjourned.

At 1:30 on Saturday afternoon, after services and lunch, another keynote speech, "Bigotry, Racism and Rock and Roll", was delivered by **Smodar Peretz**, the Weisenthal representative. The rest of the afternoon was spent in discussion workshops and informal discussions. After *Sudah Shlishit*, (third meal), *tfillah* and *Havdallah*, we held our constitution plenary, followed by elections and an organized walk to the Falls.

Sunday morning, after regional meetings, was the business plenum, followed by the closing remarks of the new national chairperson, **Pam Scheininger**. From there we boarded the buses and left from an exciting educational weekend.

Atlantic Network Update

By Amir Nevo



As many people may have already heard, the Homeward Bound trip to Israel in January was very successful. It was the largest group of university students ever to visit Israel from a single country. Certainly one highlight of the trip was a pro-Israel rally held outside the office of Prime Minister **Yitzhak Shamir**. Students gathered with signs and flags to show their support for the Israeli government.

Atlantic continued on page 27

PEI Multicultural Council

by Joseph Naylor

Barrie Carnat has agreed to act as our Community's representative on the Multicultural Council. Thanks to **Susanne Manovill** for previously acting as our representative.

The PEI Multicultural Council held a "Folkloric Celebration" on December 16, at the Sherwood Hall. This was a special evening featuring a social hour, performing groups and ethnic foods after the performances.

All members of our Community were invited. **Evie Carnat** and **Rebekah Sherman** gave a short presentation on Chanukah.

Appointment continued from page 25

this event for the past 5 years.

Mr. Mendleson graduated from Dal-housie University in 1974 with a Masters Degree in Public Administration and also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He is a native of Sydney, Nova Scotia and is married to the former **Sylvia Chelekower**. They have two children.

Atlantic continued from page 26

Currently under way is the planning of this Annual APJSF Shabbaton to be held in Halifax in late March or early April. As soon as final arrangements have been made as to an exact date, registration forms will be sent out. We are hoping to have a great Shabbaton the year and are looking forward to the participation of many students from across the region.

Another issue to be raised is the ongoing number of articles that are being written as "To the Editor" letters in the **Dalhousie Gazette**. Many students are somewhat confused and misinformed as to the facts of the current situation in Israel, and consequently take on anti-Israel beliefs. To remedy this problem, I recently wrote an article that will hopefully clear up the situation (Feb. 8 issue). Also, there is a possibility of bringing in a speaker to speak on campus about the Intifada issue. This should also help to remedy the problem.



Homeward Bound — Going to the Promised Land

By Abigail Offman, Halifax

As more snow falls in Halifax, Israel seems farther and farther away. I've been home now for less than three weeks, but it seems like I was in Israel eons ago. If someone had told me that I would be so affected by Israel, I wouldn't have believed them.

I was lucky enough to participate on a one week trip to Israel, very appropriately called Homeward Bound. It wasn't till I was on the plane to Israel that I found out that the trip was actually the annual Network conference. The organizers made sure we never had a free moment, the week was jammed full of events and speakers. Anyone who has been to Israel will tell you that one week is hardly worth the twelve hour plane ride. This is partly true - I found one week was hardly enough time to see Jerusalem, but if you get a chance to spend anytime in Israel, take it because it is worth it. The tour organizers told us that the one week was meant to be a tease so that we will return in the future to see more of Israel. In my mind they succeeded there.

This was my first trip to Israel and if you were on the bus from the airport to Tel Aviv that would have been quite apparent. I was glued to the window, I didn't want to miss anything; the cars, the palm trees, and of course any road sign that was in Hebrew. I didn't want to miss a single thing.

Of course, like every trip to Israel, we went

to an airforce base, Yad Vashem, Masada and the Old City. But I must admit it is hard to really 'see' Israel, get a feel for the cities and the people with such a large group. There were about 500 of us, all students from across Canada. We were the largest group of students from one single country to ever visit Israel. After a few days of group activities a couple of my friends and I set off to see Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on our own. Because of this we didn't attend some of the planned activities. When **Emmanuel Zabar** asked me to write an article on the tour I chuckled to myself because I hadn't participated in about half of the group activities.

I found Israel holds more than buildings and people, more than religious sites. To me it is a feeling. As a Canadian Jew from Halifax, I cannot express the joy of going to a country where you find to your pleasant surprise that you are a religious majority not a minority. I could walk down any street in Jerusalem and find more kepas than I had ever seen in my life. It is this feeling that gets inside your veins. Once you've been there you are hopeless to try to fight the magnetic pull to return to Israel; to return home.

Ed. Note: Homeward Bound was organized and subsidized by the United Israel Appeal of Canada.

Camp Kadimah

By Joel Jacobson, Halifax

The joyous faces and happy laughter of 200 youngsters as they alit from buses at Camp Kadimah was an indication that another six-week season of fun was about to begin. Barss Corner in Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia was about to be turned from a sleepy little community of a few farms into a rockin', jumpin', rarely quiet summer haven.

It was July 1989 and it would be like any other July of the previous 45 years. Jewish kids from all over the Maritime Provinces and in more recent years, from across Canada and the United States, would descend on the camp site, separated into two sides by crystal clean Lake William but joined physically by a bridge.

It is the emotional connection, though, that marks Camp Kadimah above most other camps on this continent. Kadimah opened in 1944 as a camp for Atlantic Canadian Jewish kids. It thrived for a couple of decades on the strength

of the Atlantic communities, the size of which remained constant until the 1960s.

Then, there was a hankering to leave the roots to find one's own way, to seek education and relationships in other parts of North America. And the Camp Kadimahites emigrated to Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere to attend universities, to meet the dream gal or guy and to establish new relationships in a new Jewish centre.

But this meant broader horizons for Camp Kadimah.

As Camp's illustrious Atlantic alumni spread through Canada, they also spread the word. As they developed families, more Camp Kadimah kids were born.

Today, Kadimah attracts more than half its attendance from outside Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and New-

Camp continued on page 28

Backgrounder on CJC Committees: JCRC

by Mike Cohen

National Director of Communications Canadian Jewish Congress



Since I began writing this column for *Shalom Magazine* I have tried to bring various issues of concern to Canadian Jewish Congress to the attention of constituents in the Atlantic Region. However, I thought it would be a good idea to take a few steps back and highlight some of the key departments and committees which reveal the broad spectrum of CJC activities.

In this issue, we will deal with the Joint Community Relations Committee (JCRC).

Canadian Jewish Congress is the national representative organization of the Jewish community of Canada, with offices across the country. Its National JCRC, under the chairmanship of **Joseph J. Wilder** of Winnipeg, attempts to ensure that Canada's Jewish com-

munity is secure and its status and rights are maintained and advanced. It strongly supports Canada's commitment to true multiculturalism and religious diversity.

The National JCRC office in Toronto, with National Director **Manuel Prutschi** and Associate National Director **Bernie Farber**, plays a key consultative and resource role to all Congress regions and exchanges information and ideas that will have an impact upon both the Jewish, and by extension, the Canadian mosaic. Its mandate can be broken down as follows: combatting and fighting anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination in all its forms; fostering positive inter-group relations between the Jewish community and other groups; advancing human rights; expressing concerns with Constitutional matters that might affect vulnerable minorities; monitoring the media and ensuring that there is an understanding by the media of the Jewish and minority communities' points of view; and undertaking positive relations with various institutions such as government, police and the educational sector as well as other ethnic groups.

As examples of its work CJC, through the JCRC, played a key role in the development of Canada's (anti-hate) laws which today stands as "a sense of protection" for all vulnerable minorities. Thus, JCRC has been integrally involved in all the cases involving the hate law provisions within the Criminal Code which includes **Malcolm Ross, Ernst Zundel, James**

Keegstra, John Ross Taylor and **Andrews and Smith**.

The JCRC assembled a top-rate committee of legal and academic experts who wrote a brief outlining CJC's concerns on the Meech Lake accord. It works with ministries of education, school boards and universities to provide Jewish information.

In the Atlantic Region, **Lee Cohen** of Halifax serves as the regional JCRC chairman and attends the national JCRC meetings held two to three times year.

* * *

CJC Notebook: **Sara Rosenfeld**, who served as National Director of Yiddish and Yiddish Culture at Canadian Jewish Congress for 19 years, has retired but will remain active on a consultative basis. . . **Joshua Rothblatt** has joined the CJC National Staff as senior program coordinator, based in Montreal. He was previously the National Executive Director of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University . . . CJC War Crimes Committee Chairman **Milton Harris** has commended the Canadian government for dealing with the issues of accused Nazi war criminals resident in Canada in forceful fashion . . . The National Law and Social Action Committee of CJC will hold a Conference on Jewish Disabled in Ottawa. It is tentatively scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 3 at the Minto Place Hotel. For complete details call the CJC Ottawa office at (613) 232-7306 and speak to **Eric Vernon** . . . The National Small Communities Committee will hold a National Symposium on Community Development June 1 to 3 in Ottawa.

Camp continued from page 27

foundland. There are scores of staff and campers attending from Ontario, Quebec, New England, New York, Philadelphia, as far south as Coral Springs, FL, and as far west as Los Angeles, CA.

Most of the "furriners" are sons and daughters of former Camp attendees. Many are friends of Kadimah alumni who want to see if everything said about Kadimah was true. . . and have been certainly convinced that is so. And they, too, have spread the word.

One former camper and counsellor from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, left the wilds of Cape Breton for Montreal to attend university and to make his way in the world. He is, and always will be, a Maritimer, but has been a school teacher in Montreal for the past 25 years.

And for the past nine years, **Sheldon Cohen** had also been the Director of Camp Kadimah, helping mold children in a Jewish background and helping them build the Atlan-

tic camaraderie that he has developed over the years.

He will always speak kindly of the Camp where he made his first non-Cape Breton Jewish friends.

As will many others.

"There is no other camp with the friendliness of Kadimah," said first timers from Toronto last summer. "I have made friends at Camp who will be close friends the rest of my life," said one Montreal teen in her second year at Kadimah in 1989.

The programs at most Jewish camps are similar. . . Hebrew song and dance, drama, cultural programs, arts and crafts, Kashruth. Kadimah offers a modern waterfront program including swimming, sailing, windsurfing and water skiing. It provides a traditional land sports program of softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, and track, making a summer at Kadimah a sport enthusiast's holiday.

Some camps surpass others in physical

presentation but the combination of modern dining facilities with rustic cabins in a lakeside setting so close to the Atlantic Ocean makes Kadimah something special.

As campers and staff departed Kadimah 1989, there were many tears, tears of sadness at leaving new-found friends, or leaving relationships that had become stronger after one more summer together.

And then there were the smiles that said, "We'll be back. We'll write and telephone all winter and then we'll be together again next summer for another great six weeks together."

Camp Kadimah has a certain quality that most camps can't duplicate. The "hamish" atmosphere at Kadimah, the caring for one another, the long-term relationships that have been and will continue to be established, make Kadimah a camp to which youngsters will flock year after year, knowing it will be better than the one before. And it usually is.

CZF Summer Teachers Institute Program

As in previous years, the Canadian Zionist Federation is pleased to facilitate the in-service training of educators during the summer in Israel.

The subsidized CZF Israel Summer Teachers Institute program includes respective seminars and enrichment courses relevant to Jewish studies and general studies teachers at all levels as well as to administrators.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Shugar, Canadian Zionist Federation, Bureau of Education and Culture, 5250 Decarie Blvd., Suite 550, Montreal, Quebec, H3X 2H9 or telephone (514) 486-9526, fax (514) 483-6392.

Czech Jewish Revival

The 1000 year old Czechoslovak Jewish community, now free from Communist control, is preparing to revitalize Jewish traditions and bring Hebrew language education, Jewish literature, holiday celebrations and community events, all previously suppressed or denied, to its 6000 registered members. With the help of the World Jewish Congress and the Joint Distribution Committee, the renaissance of a full Jewish life is anticipated.

As Freedom Comes to Eastern Europe, More 'Righteous Gentiles' Surface

by Cathrine Gerson, JTA

The surge for democratic reform in Eastern Europe has had an unexpected repercussion in Israel.

Applications for the award of certificates to "Righteous Gentiles" have soared by 45 percent this year, the Itim news agency reported on January 22. "Righteous Gentiles" are non-Jews who sheltered or otherwise helped Jews survive the Holocaust at great personal risk.

Since 1962, 8200 certificates have been awarded honouring Righteous Gentiles. Only about 40 went to recipients in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, until 1985, when the process of democratization began in Poland.

Poland, where the worst of the Holocaust occurred, came to account for 40 percent of the certificates.

According to Itim, 331 applications have been registered with the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial so far this year.

Justice Moshe Beisky of the High Court of Justice, who heads the Yad Vashem committee that grants the certificates, attributes the sudden in-

crease to the new openness in Eastern Europe.

Former East European Jews living in the West can now visit Eastern Europe to meet with the people who once saved their lives. And East Europeans are free to come to Israel to receive their certificates.



Yad Vashem's Garden of the Righteous commemorates Gentiles who helped save Jewish lives in Nazi Europe.

The Promise of New Life

Little more than a decade has passed since the first "test tube" baby was born as a result of in vitro fertilization. In that time, IVF has become so popular and successful that it is no longer greeted with public fanfare. Countless couples who otherwise might not have been able to raise a family have been enriched by this process in modern medicine.

Placing a high value on children and the family unit, it is not surprising that Israel has become a forerunner in IVF programs, achieving results equal to leading units throughout the world, according to Dr. Avi Kogosowski, head of the IVF unit at the Herzliya Medical Centre.

Israel was one of the first four countries to produce a live birth in an in vitro fertilization program, the others being England, the US and Austria.

Reproductive medicine in Israel has attracted a large amount of brain power. "Israel has a great challenge in its fertility units,"

notes one researcher. "While in other countries infertility might be sadly accepted, we believe that every couple should have the right to a child—and even more than one child. It is our responsibility to help the childless couple, to promote fertility; to help enhance all fertility treatments allowed by law and supported by medical research. This includes donor eggs."

Why travel to Herzliya when expertise admittedly exists in other countries today?

For one, the Israeli success rate is extremely high. In the US, the standards established for the registration of an IVF unit are 50 treatment cycles and four live births annually. Since its beginning in 1988, the HMC unit has accomplished 500 treatment cycles and 50 live births. An additional 50 women are currently pregnant. Among the success figures are a number of American women.

Cost is also an important factor. A treatment cycle in a recognized unit in the US costs between \$7000 to \$10,000. The charge at

HMC is \$2500. Even when one adds the price of air fares and hotel expenses, the cost of a treatment cycle remains significantly less than that in the US.

HMC enjoys recognition from visitors from abroad, who come for a variety of diagnostic and surgical procedures. Expert consultation and treatment are augmented by state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment, operating rooms, laboratories and special testing and evaluation clinics.

Herzliya Medical Centre is fully accredited by Blue Cross and Blue Shield, in addition to other major American and European health-insurance providers. It is proud to offer the best medical care available in Israel today, as well as contributing to the miracle of new life.

For further information on IVF and the Herzliya Medical Centre, phone (972 52) 528574 or 528554; Fax (972 52) 573330; Telex 361776 HMC IL, 7 Ramat Yam Road, 46 100 Herzliya-on-Sea, Israel.

There's Something Fishy about New Caviar Developed By Israel

By Catherine Gerson, JTA

From artificial caviar to self-destructing plastic bags, Israeli technology is forging ahead with new inventions.

There is indeed something fishy about the fake caviar developed at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. It contains fish and fish oil, but not fish eggs.

The ingredients include vegetable oils, combined with stabilizers and other substances not specified.

Yet the taste is nearly identical with the real gourmet delicacy, according to **Dr. Uri Kogan**, head of Technion's food engineering department.

The only real difference is the price. While the Russian import, made from eggs of the Caspian Sea sturgeon, retails at \$100 for 3.5 ounces, the Israeli facsimile will sell for about \$8.

The ersatz caviar, which took three years to develop, has received a kashrut certificate from Haifa's chief rabbi and a culinary certificate from **Kinsley Clark**, chef at the five-star Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa.

Hebrew Recognized as a Legal Language in Moldavia

For the first time in the history of the USSR, Hebrew has become recognized as a legal language. The parliament of the Soviet Republic of Moldavia, in a recently passed law which includes Hebrew in the school program, has given official recognition to Hebrew and Yiddish.

Canadian Jewish News

The United Israel Appeal (UIA) has arranged for its supporters to get the Canadian Jewish News delivered to their homes.

Contributors of \$54. and up (triple "chai") will be receiving the newspaper sometime after Pesach.

This is another way for the UIA to thank you for supporting Israel.

Aliyah Swells Demand For . . . Mohalim!!!

by Hugh Orgel, JTA

The influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union has unexpectedly exacerbated a long-standing problem: the shortage of mohalim in Israel licensed to circumcize older children, teenagers and adult men.

According to **Rabbi Yosef Weisberg**, national supervisor of circumcisions, there are only a half-dozen such mohalim in the entire country. They find it hard to keep pace with the scores and sometimes hundreds of uncircumcized males arriving each day.

Israeli law requires that the circumcision of boys 1 to 12 years old be done at a hospital under a general anaesthetic. Teenagers and adults are given a local anaesthetic.

Patients who normally spend a night in the hospital are now sent home the same day because of the increased demand.

Few ritual circumcisions are performed in the Soviet Union, where the operation is frowned upon by the authorities. The handful of mohalim employed there by religious families get little experience and lack equipment.

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Grant in Engineering

Naomi Frankenburg, National President of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO recently announced the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO Grant in Engineering to the Ecole Polytechnique at the Universite de Montreal.

The grant is for the current academic year (1989-1990) and is in memory of the 18 young women students who died so senselessly and tragically on December 6, 1989.

This award will benefit a fourth year woman student demonstrating scholastic excellence within one of the following fields: mining, geology, metallurgy, or electrical, civil, mechani-

cal, physical, industrial or chemical engineering. The student is being chosen by the Committee of Scholarship at the Ecole Polytechnique.

Mrs. Frankenburg commented that Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, being a women's organization, is proud of the great strides being made by women in fields formerly regarded as primarily a male domain. The grant is being made in honour of the talent and success demonstrated by the murdered women, she said, and to encourage others to follow their example.

The University of Montreal Massacre

**By Tory Thorkelson
Charlottetown
December 10, 1989**

"I cry for fourteen women
Whose lives went up in flames,
I cry for fourteen people
Slain
— though I remember not their names,
Fourteen women,
Yes it's true,
But they could easily have been
Me or you."

Historical Society Seeking Descendants of 1882 Pioneers

The Jewish Historical Society of Winnipeg is seeking descendants of families who were part of the early parties who came to Manitoba during the 19th century.

A plaque honouring the beginning of Jewish settlement in this province is being prepared by the historical society to be placed in two locations - one at the YMHA Jewish Community Centre and the other to be designated by the government.

Please send your information, including names and addresses, to the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada Inc., 404-365 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2K3, or call (204) 942-4822.

Bronfman Receives Honourary Doctorate

Canadian businessman and community leader **Charles Bronfman** will receive an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at its convocation ceremonies next June.

Bronfman, co-chairman of The Seagram Company Ltd. and chairman of its executive committee, is being honoured by the Hebrew University for his lifelong multifaceted contribution to Canada and to world Jewry. His work as chairman of the eCRB Foundation has espe-

cially shown his commitment to the development of understanding between Canadians and Israelis.

Bronfman has long been associated with the Hebrew University. Among other things, he established the Seagram Centre for Soil and Water Sciences, which carries out research in irrigation and fertilization that is benefitting arid countries around the world. He also served as the Canadian Chairman of the Hebrew University's Golda Meir Fellowship Campaign.

Bronfman is a director of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and of the Power Corporation of Canada. He is honorary chairman of Canada-Israel Securities Limited, a director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and a governor on the corporate council of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum and Gardens.



Charles Bronfman

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(902) 429-7667

Please note

*Deadlines for submissions to the
June issue of **Shalom Magazine** is
May 11, 1990*

Poetic Justice!

The **Atlantic Haggadah** project has just "mushroomed" a new exciting idea! A **POETRY COMPETITION!**

If you happen to be one of those gifted people who can smartly put thoughts in poetic words — send us your poem (only one), titled "My Atlantic Canada".

Open to everyone 18 years and over! Your poem must be sent in an envelope identified as "**Haggadah Poetry Competition**", and it must reach the Atlantic Jewish Council office no later than Sunday, April 15, 1990.

A panel of distinguished scholars will judge the poems and choose the best three.

Prizes:	First	—	\$100.00
	Second	—	\$ 75.00
	Third	—	\$ 50.00

All participants will receive a certificate indicating their participation in the competition. So, get your pens ready and start writing!!!

Sculpture by Ethiopian Artist is this Year's UIA Award

A small sculpture specially created by the Ethiopian artist **Molo Gette**, who now lives in Jerusalem, has been selected as this year's Campaign Award of the United Israel Appeal of Canada. The award is made available by the UIA to Campaigns across Canada in both Federated and Non-Federated communities. The sculpture is mounted on a specially produced olive wood stand, and is protected by a plexy glass case. It will be presented to outgoing Campaign Chairmen and other key leaders in recognition of their efforts on behalf of Israel and the community.

The fact that the award was produced by an Ethiopian Oleh to Israel (immigrant) is particularly meaningful in the context of UIA's work.

Molo Gette's specialty is to turn a piece of clay into fine art. His statues and figures reflect the Ethiopian way of life and their delicate features appear almost human, if not alive.

Born in Gondor, Ethiopia, in 1949, Molo was among the thousands who came to Israel on "Operation Moses" in 1984, accompanied by his wife and his then eight-month old baby daughter. Unfortunately, his two and a half years old son did not live to see the Promised

Land. He died during the 10 day-long arduous walk to the Sudan, through the Ethiopian desert.

Following an initial adjustment period in

absorption centres in Arad and in Yerucham, the Gettes now live in the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo. Unable to support his family entirely by his own artistic talents, Molo has taken up employment in one of Jerusalem's Ceramic Studios. Following a long and tiring day at work, Molo returns home to create his "very own" art.



Molo Gette

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*If you happen to know of another Jewish person, or a family, who are living in Atlantic Canada and are not receiving the **Shalom** magazine — please ask their permission to pass us their names and full addresses so we will be able to share with them our **Shalom**.*

*Remember, you do not have to be affiliated with a synagogue in order to join the **Shalom** family!*

Thank you

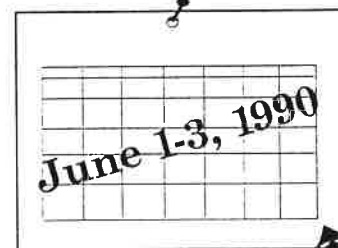


Canadian Jewish Congress
National Small Communities Committee

National Symposium on Community Development



Ottawa Jewish Community Centre
151 Chapel Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Y2



Open to anyone living in a small Jewish community.
Your participation is encouraged!

For further information, please contact Shellie Ettinger, National Director, National Small Communities Committee, 1590 Docteur Penfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1C5 (514) 931-7531

PICTURE YOUR TEENAGER IN ISRAEL THIS SUMMER!

AN INVITATION TO THE YOUTH OF THE ONTARIO AND ATLANTIC COMMUNITIES FROM THE YOUTH OF OR-YEHUDA ISRAEL

The United Israel Appeal of Canada is now accepting a limited number of candidates for its annual Youth to Youth Exchange Program between Canada and Israel. It will run for 3 weeks, **August 8 - August 30th, 1990**, and is open to all teenagers between 15 & 18 years of age residing in Canadian communities twinned with the Project Renewal community of **Or-Yehuda**.*

The program's unique features will enable participants to:

- Live with an **Or-Yehuda** family and learn first hand about the Israeli way of life.
- Gain friendships with Israeli youths of the same age, who will work and travel with the group throughout its stay in Israel.
- Travel off-the-beaten path, with an itinerary specifically designed to encompass experiences not available to standard tourist groups.
- Share in the rewards of participating in worthwhile work projects in the Project Renewal community of **Or-Yehuda**.

For more information, contact

Eli Rubenstein
United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.
4600 Bathurst St. # 315
Willowdale, Ontario M2R 3V3

OR

Emmanuel Zabar
Atlantic Jewish Council
1515 South Park St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L2

Telephone: (416) 636-7655

Telephone (902) 422-7491

The Youth to Youth Exchange Program to **Or-Yehuda** is subsidized, in part, by the United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc.

* Including Hamilton, London, Windsor, Halifax, and the smaller communities of Ontario and Atlantic Regions.



The Atlantic Jewish Council



*cordially invites you to
the first Gala Reception and Show
of the*

Atlantic Haggadah



*at the
Hilton Hotel – Halifax, Nova Scotia
on Sunday, May 27, 1990*

Black Tie (Optional)

\$30.00 for adults

\$10.00 for youths (13-18)

R.S.V.P. April 13, 1990

6:00 p.m. Reception & Hot Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 p.m. Show

Cut along dotted line

I/We will attend _____

Unable to attend _____

Number of People _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Guest/Spouse Name: _____

I enclose my cheque payable to the **Atlantic Jewish Council**
(Please use the prepaid self-addressed envelope enclosed)

DATE: _____

(signature)

* Acceptances will be dealt with by the "first come, first served" rule.