

# SHALOM שלום

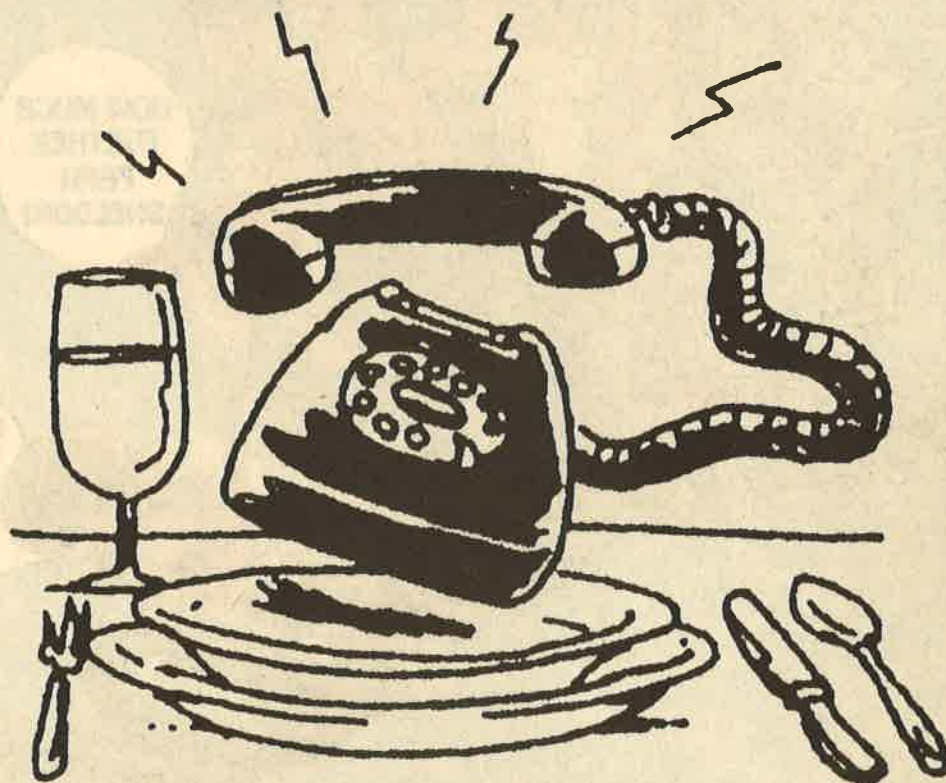
SUMMER - 1992 - KAYITZ 5752

VOLUME 17, NO. 4





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# SHALOM שלום

The Atlantic Jewish  
Council Quarterly

SUMMER 1992  
VOL. 17, NO. 4

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Cover illustration by Ahron Shevo, an Israeli artist currently at Camp Kadimah as Arts & Crafts Director.

The Shalom Magazine is the official publication of the Atlantic Jewish Council. Its purpose is to communicate to the Jewish population of Atlantic Canada, to instill pride in their achievements, to exchange and discuss ideas and information about all areas of Jewish interests. The opinions expressed in the Shalom Magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily of the Atlantic Jewish Council or its editorial board.

## Upcoming Events - Halifax

September, 1992 - Jewish Students' Network - AJC/APJSF, Atlantic Region Shabbaton.

September 13 - Grand Opening, Atlantic Young Judaea, for youths 7-12 years old in Halifax, N.S.

September 16 - Hadassah Grand Opening

September 17 - Club Massada Opening Luncheon

September 20 - UIA Children's March

November 1 - Atlantic Young Judaea for all N.B. and P.E.I. youths, ages 7-12 (Shabbaton format)

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# Message from the President

by M. Lee Cohen

The Atlantic Jewish Council has undertaken a number of administrative changes in the past six months. The first and most significant change in our office is with respect to our Executive Director. For the past three years, our community has benefitted substantially from the diligent and creative efforts of our Executive Director **Emmanuel Zabar**. Emmanuel came to us from his previous posting in Manchester, England, and has contributed substantially to the cultural life of our community. Emmanuel's term as Executive Director will expire on the 31st of July, 1992, but we will continue to enjoy his comradeship and benefit from his dedication for the next six months, as he will assume the new responsibility of directing the United Israel Campaign throughout the four Atlantic Provinces.

Most of the members of our community will know that the Atlantic Jewish Council held an extremely successful Retreat in early spring. A full weekend was set aside by the Council Executive during which members of the Executive and members from the many Jewish communities throughout the region assembled to consider new directions for our future. Discussion during the two-day event was candid and forthright. The successful weekend closed with a meeting between the Executive and United Israel Appeal, where the long-standing and successful friendship between our two organizations was reaffirmed.

The detailed debate that predominated the weekend Retreat resulted in the creation of a number of task forces responsible to examine and report on a wide range of AJC activities, including our constitution, fund-raising, programming, media and public relations. These task forces will have their reports ready for distribution and discussion at the Atlantic Jewish Council biannual meeting scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 24, 1992, in Moncton, New Brunswick. I urge you to mark your calendars accordingly and to make early arrangements to be with us in Moncton to participate in the revitalized process for governing our community.

A second, and extremely significant, result of our weekend Retreat was a commitment from United Israel Appeal to assist the Atlantic Jewish Council to obtain two professional staff for our office. We have always had one Executive Director. The Atlantic Jewish Council will hire not only an Executive Director, but we have created a new position as an Assistant Executive Director. These positions will require both candidates to have substantial expertise in programming and fundraising. We are extremely excited by this new opportunity, and have already commenced our search. It is anticipated that the Executive Director's position will be filled by the early fall. The Assistant Executive Director's position will commence in January, 1993, and it is our further expectation that this position will be filled before Chanukah.

I am pleased to inform our community of other office changes that have taken place in recent weeks, all of which have substantially enhanced productivity and direction in our office. **Jon Goldberg** has been working with the Atlantic Jewish Council on a full-time basis over the past number of months to revitalize local and regional programming. Jon has been working diligently with the members of the local Jewish communities, in addition to members of national organizations, to enhance programming in our region. Jon's work was integral to the success of

our recent Retreat, and his present work will be the catalyst for our anticipated success at the biannual conference in Moncton.

**Christina MacNeil** continues to be our stalwart administrator, and a valued senior employee of the Atlantic Jewish Council. **Rachel Barzilai** has been a dedicated worker in our community, primarily on behalf of United Israel Appeal. The newest addition to our office staff is **Uri Carnat**, who joined the Atlantic Jewish Council staff as a jack-of-many-trades to assist us in various respects, including office reception, typing, programming, Camp Kadimah, and UIA. Uri is a third year student at McGill University, and was anxious to work with the Atlantic Jewish Council during the summer. We are very pleased to have him on board.

As the summer months march on and Camp Kadimah enters the second half of its season, the Atlantic Jewish Council Executive and office staff work aggressively in preparation for the coming year. The names mentioned in this report make our work possible, and for this our community is extremely grateful.

I am anxious to receive your early registration to the Atlantic Jewish Council biannual conference in Moncton, New Brunswick, on the October 24th weekend. Information and details will be forthcoming, and I will look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in Moncton.

## AJC holds retreat in Halifax, May 1-3, '92

Approximately forty people from across Atlantic Canada attended a "retreat" weekend this past May to assess in detail the AJC under the theme: *"Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going"*.

**Ben Prossin**, now of Toronto, who was past President of the AJC and active for many years in Atlantic Jewish Affairs acted as facilitator and the sessions were co-chaired by **Dr. Jim Spatz** and **Larry Freeman**.

Seven sessions were held within a 36 hour period. Such topics as:

1. What do we really want from the AJC? Do we want it at all?
2. Obligations and responsibilities of the Atlantic communities, to each other and to Kol Yisrael;
3. Who is going to do the work - structures and staffing;
4. How we will pay for what we want;
5. Drawing conclusions - upwards and onwards.

One of the major conclusions the forty attendees reached was to establish four task forces who will meet and report to the AJC biannual convention to be held in Halifax Oct. 23-25, 1992. The four task forces are: 1. Constitution and By-Laws; 2. Programming; 3. P.R. - communications and publications; 4. Fundraising. Following the retreat, the UIA of Canada leadership met with the AJC executive to discuss future campaigns.



# 23rd CJC Plenary in Toronto, May 20-24

by Larry Riteman, Halifax

**T**wenty delegates from the Atlantic Region attended the CJC Plenary in Toronto this past May. Moncton's own David Attis was acclaimed as Associate Chairman of National Executive.

Arthur Saffron of Springhill took on the position of Regional Fundraising Chairman and should be commended for his excellent efforts.

Larry Riteman of Halifax was one of those delegates and here is a frank and informative view of the Plenary:

I had the pleasure to represent Atlantic Canada at the recent Plenary of Canadian Jewish Congress held in Toronto this past May 20th through 24th, 1992. This assembly was convened at the Regal Constellation Hotel during the sunny, clear and crisp days of late spring in Ontario. The organizers of this meet were in a quandry because there was no vibrant give and take of an active democratic selection with articulated positions to be hammered out. It must be clearly understood that this writer does not decry the lack of elections in this particular case because the officers appointed by acclamation were certainly worthy and any staged election would have been a charade. However, the effect towards our gathering was a lack of engagement to our fashioned themes, making one and all spectators to our participatory spectacle. After the speeches and sessions one felt quite absorbed, yet there was no sense of mission imparted by our encounter.

The subjects prevailing at our gathering were: Jewish life in Canada; Israel in the post-Soviet age; National unity; the new Anti-Semitism; and Sepharad 92, the contributions of Sephardim. The speakers worthy of mention: **The Honorable Yitzhak Navon**, an erudite speaker with a refined degree of poetic license in his conjured imagery. **Avraham Burg**, M.K. gave a razzle, dazzle emotional



*At the 23rd National Plenary Assembly of Canadian Jewish Congress, CJC Past President Sol Kanee (left) presents the Saul Hayes Human Rights Award to Rev. James Leland of New Brunswick in recognition of his distinguished service to the cause of human rights*

speech, shocking for its polarizing inferences (a disappointment personally, a rough day, maybe, for this usually lucid intellectual).

The only real disaster among the speakers had to be Israel Singer of the World Jewish Congress. Reb Singer flew into a shrieking tirade about another Jewish community to an inappropriate audience. The contents of his speech were shrill yet obtuse, while missing the reality of their conditions. His only achievement in Toronto was to embarrass his audience, without enunciating any remedy to his perceived problem. It is regrettable to lay

this account before you but I will close with some optimism.

Seldom will we give credit to talent that appears homegrown. Perhaps the people we grow up with do not have the benefit of exotic origins and their familiarity produces condescension. But seeing our Atlantic Canadian representatives in action; be it in the back room amending procedures, through the intricacies of sessions to those who as speakers led sessions, I was delighted and honoured to be considered as one of this breed. They performed with outstanding poise and clarity of purpose to the acknowledgement of all others.

## Torah needed

**O**ttawa Reconstructionist Havurah seeks Sefer Torah. Would appreciate mitzvah of donation of Torah, or scroll needing some repair if usable. Contact Dr. Walter Hendelman, (613)-235-9414.



# Help us find missing Kadimah alumni!

Aaron, Marc  
 Abrams, Roslyn  
 Altman, Eric  
 Astroff, Eve Gail  
 Attis, Marsha  
 Averbach, Ditzza  
 Axler, Max  
 Baig, Lee  
 Baig, Stephen  
 Barsky, Milt  
 Benstock, Leah  
 Bently, Alberta  
 Berall, Leslie  
 Berall, Murray  
 Berall, Marni  
 Berk, Carolee -  
 (Nee Berk)  
 Bernick, Harriette  
 Bernick, Inez  
 Bernick, Maureen  
 Bessner, Mark  
 Biderman, Steve  
 Blau, Debbie  
 Bloom, Bryna -  
 (Nee Bloom)  
 Blumenthal, Gerry  
 Blumenthal, Stuart  
 Bodaroff, Carole  
 Bogante, Laurie  
 Boniuk, Milton  
 Boyaner, Shirley -  
 (Nee Boyaner)  
 Brank, Peter  
 Brinker, Diane  
 Brook, Marvin  
 Brown, Pam  
 Brown, Victoria  
 Brumer, Andrea -  
 (Nee Besnos)  
 Caplan, Judy  
 Carlin, Myrna  
 Chernin, Daniel  
 Chernin, Lewis  
 Chippen, Natalie  
 Chippen, Gordon  
 Chippen, Perry  
 Chitter, Geoff  
 Clark, David  
 Clark, Ron  
 Cleiman, Bill & Family  
 Cleiman, Rochelle  
 Cohen, David  
 Cohen, Debra  
 Cohen, Elaine  
 Cohen, Larry  
 Cohen, Lynn

Curlylock, Hank  
 David, Carol  
 Davidson, Alan  
 Davidson, Howie  
 Davis, Phillip  
 Deutch, Eva  
 Doctors, Sarita  
 Dubinsky, Arlene  
 Dubinsky, Gerry  
 Dubinsky, Phil  
 Ein, Robert  
 Elberg, Gloria -  
 (Nee Stipleman)  
 Epstein, Jane  
 Epstein, Lynn  
 Feder, Ann  
 Feder, Corrine  
 Feder, Shira  
 Feinstein, Dave  
 Feldberg, Suzanne  
 Ferman, Leah  
 Figler, Bernard  
 Fine, Marsha  
 Fine, Murray  
 Flam, Stephen  
 Fogiel, Baby  
 Fox, Honey  
 Fox, Judy (Nee Freirich)  
 Fransblow, Irving  
 Freeman, Bobby  
 Freeman, Cathy  
 Freeman, Joel  
 Froman, Daniel  
 Froman, Ruth  
 Gaffen, Linda  
 Gaum, Brian  
 Gaum, Sharon  
 Gaum, Winston  
 Geller, Miriam  
 Glickman, Ernie  
 Glube, Harriette  
 Glube, Ilana  
 Gluss, Howie  
 Gold, Roz  
 Goldberg, Carole  
 Goldberg, Heather -  
 (Nee Simon)  
 Goldberg, Marci  
 Goldman, Leslie  
 Goldman, Malcolm  
 Goldman, Shanna  
 Goldman, Shari  
 Goldner, Louis  
 Goldsmith, Mark  
 Goldsmith, Shirley -  
 (Nee Lebberman)

Goldstein, Susan  
 Goodman, Marla  
 Gordon, Betty  
 Gordon, Dorothy  
 Gordon, Ida -  
 (Nee Gordon)  
 Gordon, Irwin  
 Gordon, Rhona  
 Gordon, Sheri  
 Gould, Cindy  
 Green, Carolyn  
 Green, Howard  
 Green, Raymond  
 Greenberg, Elaine  
 Greenberg, Alan  
 Grinberg, Dodie -  
 (Nee Goodman)  
 Grogono, Matthew  
 Harrison, Cindy -  
 (Nee Cohen)  
 Harrison, Debra  
 Helfman, Jerrold  
 Heller, Steve  
 Herschman, Howard  
 Hirsch, Gordon  
 Hoffman, Bernice  
 Hoffman, Hans  
 Hoffman, Randy  
 Holtzman, Jeff  
 Horwath, Adena  
 Hyman, Aviva  
 Isaacs, Paul  
 Jacobs, Naomi  
 Jacobs, Susane  
 Jacobson, Barry  
 Jacobson, Danny (Piggy)  
 Jacobson, David  
 Jacobson, Iris  
 Jacobson, Lynne  
 Jacobson, Rose  
 Jacobson, Ryan  
 Jacobson, Wendy -  
 (Nee Jacobson)  
 Johnsonm, Alf  
 Kale, David  
 Karrel, Abe  
 Karrel, Clifford  
 Karrel, Marvin  
 Kastell, Daphne  
 Kay, Jeff  
 Kenter, Rob  
 Kerbel, Gayle  
 Klasa, Mark  
 Klasa, Sandy  
 Kline, Ealline  
 Kohn, Rosi

Kokrnhauser, Danny  
 Kotler, Daniella  
 Koven, Diane  
 Koven, Michelle  
 Koven, Sharon  
 Kuipers, Julia  
 Kunitzky, Jerry  
 Kussner, Mindy  
 Lang, Joseph  
 Lang, Rhoda  
 Langley, Diane  
 Lederer, Susie  
 Leebosh, Debbie  
 Leibovitch, Ellen  
 Levine, Brinah  
 Levine, Esther  
 Levine, Jeff  
 Levine, Laurence  
 Levine, Lisa Belle  
 Levine, Lisa Sharon  
 Levine, Martin  
 Levine, Richard  
 Levine, Rochelle  
 Levine, Stephen  
 Levison, Diane  
 Levy, Allan  
 Lichenstein, Barb  
 Lichenstein, Ruth  
 Lichman, Sharla  
 Liebman, Marc  
 Lipkus, Carole  
 Lipkus, Sidney  
 Litchman, Howard  
 Lubin, Jeff  
 Malkin, Ann  
 Mallman, Lori  
 Marcus, Kenneth  
 Mark, Helen -  
 (Nee Benjamin)  
 Marshall, Cheryl  
 Marshall, Susan  
 Marx, Bonnie  
 Meltzer, Stephen  
 Mendleson, Glenna  
 Meyer, Bernie  
 Milo, Golda  
 Milrod, Linda  
 Morns, Rhona  
 Moyal, Matthew  
 Nathanson, Ian  
 Nathanson, Sheldon  
 Newman, Brenda  
 Newman, Danny  
 Newman, David

*Continued on page 7*

# Visitors to Halifax

**C**onsul General of Israel to Eastern Canada **Mr. Itzhak Levanon** visited Halifax on an official visit June 16-18, 1992.

A busy schedule of meetings with Provincial and Municipal officials and Clerical Leaders was interrupted for a short visit to the ZIM Hong Kong, an Israeli Container ship docked in Halifax Harbour.

ZIM Lines, one of the Port of Halifax's largest clients is a most important commercial link between Israel and Canada.

The ZIM Hong Kong was on its maiden trip to Halifax and Mr. Levanon was warmly received by the Israeli officers and crewmen.



*Shown from left to right enjoying lunch on board ship are Mr. Itzhak Levanon, Captain Zilberman, Chief Engineer Yosef Grindler and Morris Goldberg, ZIM Goodwill Ambassador for Halifax.*

Mr. Levanon was joined by his charming wife to help open the "Coat of Many Colours" exhibit at the Nova

Scotia Museum on June 18, 1992 along with Premier Don Cameron and guest dignitaries.

## Missing alumni

*Continued from page 6*

Novick, Alyssa  
Offman, Stephen  
Oler, Leslie  
Oulton, Lynn  
Payne, Barbara  
Payne, Robin  
Perlin, Phyllis  
Polar, Dorothy  
Pressman, Rosalind  
Prince, Edward  
Prince, Etta  
Prossin, Allan  
Prossin, Albie & Family  
Prossin, Andre & Family  
Prossin, Andrew  
Prossin, Aviva  
Prossin, Lisa  
Rajf, Dan  
Rauch, Danny  
Reznik, Allie  
Reznik, Gary  
Rinzler, Joel  
Rinzler, Peggy  
Rivlon, Lily  
Rose, Stephen  
Rose, Wendy  
Rosen, Alisa  
Rosenberg, Fred  
Rosenberg, Greta

Rosenblum, Simon  
Rosenzweig, Simone  
Ross, Alan  
Ross, Stephen  
Rothchild, Sandra  
Rothman, Suzanne  
Roytenberg, Judi  
Rubin, Bari  
Rubin, Mark  
Rubin, Marsha  
Rubin, Roz  
Rutman, Donnamae  
Rutman, Peter  
Saltzberg, Brad  
Schachter, Sandra  
Schelew, Bernie  
Scher, Tracy  
Schneiderman, Nancy  
Schwartz, Alan  
Schwartz, Beth Lynn  
Schwartz, Heidi  
Schwartz, Joey  
Schwartz, Lynn  
Schwartz, Pearl  
Selby, Ann  
Sharpe, Naomi  
Sheffman, Randy  
Sheffman, Robyn  
Shlitzgaz, Rebecca

Shore, Brian  
Shore, Marilyn  
Shore, Norman  
Shulman, David  
Shulman, Deborah  
Shuster, Nathan  
Silver, Jerry  
Silver, Thelma  
Silverberg, Daniel  
Silverman, Lori  
Simon, Jack  
Simon, Keith  
Skolnik, Aviva  
Slansky, Paul  
Slansky, Susan  
Sloan, Joel  
Smiley, Barbara  
Smiley, Glenda  
Smith, Amy  
Smith, Cary  
Smith, Isabell (Peggy)  
Smith, Mark  
Smith, Ros  
Solomon, Hart  
Soroka, Frank  
Stafford, Jill  
Star, David  
Star, Rona  
Stein, Raymond  
Steinman, Ned  
Stiassny, Ginny  
Stiassny, Vivian  
Stipleman, Nancy  
Swirsky, David

Swirsky, Martin  
Takiff, Beverley  
Valet, Debra  
Velensky, Diana  
Wagner, Harold  
Waisglass, Joe  
Webber, Allan  
Webber, Charles  
Webber, Edward  
Webber, Marlen  
Webber, Samuel  
Webber, Shelley  
Weiser, Jean -  
(Nee Epstein)  
Whitzman, Marcia  
Wienstein, Robert  
Wilansky, Debbie  
Wilansky, Neil  
Willansky, Sydney  
Winston, David  
Winston, Stephen  
Wiser, Jeannie -  
(Nee Epstein)  
Wolman, Jeff  
Yaron, Iris  
Yazer, Michael  
Zamonsky, Gil  
Zelikovitz, Rita Mae  
Zelikowsky, Sara  
Zifkin, Howard  
Zwerling, Stephen

Please send any information you have to: Camp Kadimah Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 3203, Halifax, N.S. B3J 3H5



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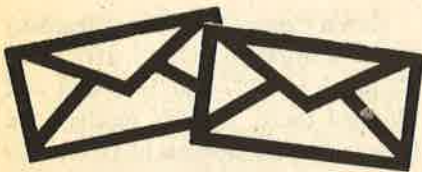
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*Prices include air fare Montreal-Tel Aviv-Montreal*

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# Letters...we get letters...lots and lots of letters



by Joel Jacobson

Since the announcement of the Camp Kadimah 50th anniversary reunion was made a few months ago, letters have been pouring into the reunion mailbox. Here is a sampling of comments from Kadimah alumni who, a year in advance, can't wait to see their old, and not so old, camp mates.

"Sounds super and shall look forward to the reunion! Shall try to get together some old snapshots which might be of interest! Anticipating update of plans." - Gitta (Arron) Kastner, Miami Beach, Florida.

"At this point, I'm DEFINITELY planning to be there - sounds like a great time - how great to see everyone and be at camp again. Will do my best to scrounge up some pictures, think of anecdotes etc. and will be in touch." - Peter Levitz, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Peter Levitz told me that there will be a Kadimah reunion next year. Count me in! Please send me all the info. - this is exciting." - Shelley Levitz, Toronto, Ont.

"Hi from Ottawa. Laurie and I hope to be there for the big reunion. We'll look for photos etc." - Carol (Dubinsky) Pascoe, Nepean, Ont.

"What a wonderful idea. Good luck, Gloria and Steven." - Michelle (Green) Eichenberg, Montreal, Que.

"I plan to attend." - Carol (Bond) Stillman, Oakland, Calif.

"How wonderful! I wouldn't miss it." - Ann Ruth (Cohen) Sher, Reston, Va.

"I'll be home (in Fredericton) in July and will go through the family albums at that time and send some pictures I think might be interesting." - Marilyn (Midge) Medjuck, Oakville, Ont.

"It sounds like fun and as of now I plan to attend. I still have my photo album, circa 1944, from the summer I was at camp." - Lita (Diamond) Gunn, Aurora, Colorado.

"Please include me in you mailings. I would love to go." - Alayne (Leith) Tresch, Natick, Mass.

"I wish you the utmost success in your project and sincerely wish that it

were somehow possible for me to attend." - Danny (Chubby) Jacobson, Buff Point, New South Wales, Australia. He included two pages of recollections in his letter.

"A good chance to expand my photography files and see what time has done to that old gang of mine." - Michael Goldstein, Scarborough, Ont.

## Kadimah reunion '93

by Joel Jacobson

It's hard to believe but in only one year, Camp Kadimah will be 50 years old.

Most of those who attended as campers and staff certainly don't feel 50 or even look it, but the years have flown by and the milestone has arrived.

Plans are well underway for the 50th anniversary reunion, to be held in Halifax and at Camp.

The Pinks, Gloria (nee Jacobson) and Steven, have assembled a very active committee which is striving to put together a weekend to remember - July 30 to August 1, 1993.

A tentative schedule has been drawn.

A Shabbat dinner will be held at the Halifax Hilton (nee Nova Scotian Hotel) followed by an Oneg Shabbat which will include a sing song and a verbal walk through the years by many of our alumni.

Saturday evening, the Canadian National train station next to the Hilton will be the site of a barbecue and social with music from the 50s and 60s.

Sunday is Visiting Day at Camp and tentative schedule calls for bus trips to Kadimah via the scenic route through Chester and Mahone Bay, and a final banquet where skits by our alumni will be performed and memorabilia on display all weekend, souvenirs will be available for purchase.

The approximate registration fee will be \$195 per person which includes Friday and Saturday evenings, Sunday bus trip to camp and the banquet.

Meet your Reunion committee:

### Chairpeople

Gloria (Jacobson) Pink - Kadimah 1953-1961 and Steven Pink - 1959-61.

### Memorabilia

Karen (Abramsky) Conter - 1977-78 and Howard Conter 1968-78

### Historian

Doreen (Nathanson) Gordon 1945-49

### Publicity

Joel Jacobson 1946-48, 1952-60 and Wendy (Pink) Ludman 1966-70, 1973

### Iton

Frank Medjuck 1952-65

### Camp Committee representatives

Mark Rosen 1964-70, 73-75, 1981 and Andrew Wolfson 1952, 1955-56, 1960-66

### Song Book

Barbara (Newman) Yablon

### Visiting Day '92

Marsha Yampolsky 1974-80 and Matthew Burnstein 1968-80

### Catering

Louise (Arron) Wolfson 1960, 1963-68 and Myrna (Jacobson) Yazer 1954-64, 1968

### Registration

Leon Zelikovitz 1949-59 and Zelda (Borshy) Zelikovitz 1950-59



# Camp Kadimah memorabilia

by Joel Jacobson

**K**aren and Howard Conter have their hands full - full of mementos and memorabilia and stuff and things that, when displayed at Camp Kadimah's 50th Reunion in 1993, are sure to generate laughter and create a few tears.

"We already have pictures, banners, even an old flag that is so fragile we're afraid to unravel it," said Karen, as she anticipated receiving hundreds of gems from former campers and staff.

"We're looking for photo albums, individual pictures, Maccabia banners, Camp t-shirts from different years - anything people want to give us for display. We will obviously take good care of all the artifacts and return everything to those who want them back," she said.

At the end of the reunion, the organizing committee hopes to place its remaining artifacts in a museum setting.

The reunion, scheduled July 30 to August 1, 1993 in Halifax and at Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, is expected to attract more than 500 former campers and staff, some from the early years of camp in the 1940s, and many from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Visitors to the Camp site will observe many changes but memories will be brought back when they see many of the same cabins they inhabited and recognize the markings they left on cabin walls.

While the Teapot no longer stands, and the old dining hall is now the Peter Stone Building where many activities take place, older alumni will be excited to see a new dining hall, several new cabins, a water-ski and sailing program and a softball field with grass in the outfield rather than dirt. Some things remain the same. A quick cold water wash in the morning, the same shallow end at the waterfront, and a public address sys-

tem guiding campers and staff from activity to activity.

"We hope to reconstruct a cabin in Halifax (several functions will take place at the Halifax Hilton, formerly the Nova Scotian Hotel) where camp alumni can re-live their camp experiences," said Karen.

The Conters said visiting day 1992 will be a kickoff to the reunion year for many alumni who will be visiting their own children at Kadimah.

"We will have a video camera set up where spouses who met at camp can tell their story. Then we'll process the video into a presentation for next summer," they said.

Karen Conter, formerly Abramsky from Kingston, Ont., attended Kadimah in 1977 and 1978 and met Howard there. Karen's mother, the former Shirley Borden of Glace Bay attended Kadimah in 1945 and 1946. The Conter's eldest, son Adam, will be at camp for the first time this summer.

He is the second known third generation Kadimah attended. Shirley (Newman) Burnstein attended Kadimah in the 1940s, followed by son Marc in the 1960s and 1970s. Jessica, daughter of Marc and Ruth (Epstein) has been at camp for three summers.



Jacalyn Rosenblatt

## Notice

Jacalyn Rosenblatt, daughter of Linda and David Rosenblatt of Montreal, has been accepted into the 5 year medical program at McGill University. Jacalyn is the granddaughter of Harold and the late Sylvia Chernin of Sydney, and Ann and the late Jack Rosenblatt of Montreal.



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# Galilee's Atlantic Canada Forest launched

The Atlantic Jewish Community takes much pride in announcing the launching of the Atlantic Canada Forest. In commenting on this project, **Neil Franklin**, Chairman, Jewish National Fund Halifax, stated that Jewish National Fund was "ahead of its time by creating an environmentally sound country through forestation. With over 200 million trees in Israel", he said, "the focus of attention on forestation will hopefully solve Israel's greatest problem - a lack of water".

**Morris Zilka**, Executive Vice-President of Jewish National Fund of Canada, stated that we must remember that before 1948, a grove of trees in Israel was considered a forest.

Israel and Lebanon were "well treed" before the armies of Rome, Greece, and the Ottoman Empire destroyed everything. Most of the trees today exist as a result of Jewish National Fund efforts.

Forests are sited according to environmental and population needs to conserve the soil, provide "green lungs" in arid zones, produce shade, prevent the unchecked development of urban "concrete jungles" and to meet tourism and recreation requirements.

The Atlantic Canada Forest is situated in the Galilee, part of the



**Avner Ilnai (right) presents Neil Franklin with the Atlantic Canada Forest Certificate during his recent visit to Halifax.**

master Galil-Canada Project. Adjoining the forest are groves donated by the following congregations: Congregation Sons of Israel - Glace Bay; Congregation Tiferes Israel - Moncton; Congregation Sharrei Zedek - Saint

John; Congregation Beth Israel - St John's.

To participate in this project people may contact the Jewish National Fund at 1515 South Park Street, Suite 304, Halifax, or simply call **Rachel Barzilai** at 902-422-7491, fax # 902-425-3722.

## Labour wins in Israeli elections

After spending the last 15 years in opposition, or in uncomfortable national unity coalitions with Likud, the Labour Party, now under the leadership of former Prime Minister and Defence Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**, was returned to power with a convincing showing in Israel's election.

The surprise associated with the election's results was caused less by the fact of a Labour victory -- for most pre-election polls showed Rabin and Labour well ahead of Likud -- but rather the overwhelming size of the victory. Literally within minutes of the close of the voting booths, exit polls commissioned by Israel Television predicted that Labour would take 47

Knesset seats, that the left-wing joint Meretz list -- Labour's natural partner in a narrow coalition -- would win 13 seats, thereby placing Rabin well within reach of a majority in the Knesset. In contrast to Israel's numerous public opinion surveys, many of which are commissioned by the parties themselves and tend to reflect that party's interests, the Israel TV exit polls have a reputation for being remarkably accurate.

With 100% of the civilian vote counted, the following is the unofficial breakdown of the party configuration in the 13th Knesset (previous number of Knesset seats in brackets.):

**Labour - 44 (38); Likud - 32 (38); Meretz - 12 (10); Shas - 6 (5); Tzomet - 8 (2); NRP - 6 (5); Torah Judaism - 4 (7); Democratic Front - 3 (3); Moledet - 3 (2); Arab Democratic - 2 (1); New Liberal Party - 0 (3); Tehiya - 0 (3); Geulat Israel - 0 (1); Tikva - 0 (1); Progressive List 0 (1)**

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Further information forthcoming



# Irving Abella speech to Halifax Jewish community

by Joel Jacobson

**T**he first lot of land granted in Halifax in 1749 was to John Franks, a Jew.

The first Jewish religious services in Canada were held in Halifax.

The first Jewish burial ground in Canada was in Halifax, although, because of quick emigration, it was never used.

To Canadian Jews, Halifax and Nova Scotia are symbolically important as each have a unique place in history but York University history professor and Canadian Jewish Congress president **Irving Abella**, thinks too few people know.

Speaking in Halifax as 'A Coat of Many Colors' began a summer-long run at the Nova Scotia Museum June 18, Dr. Abella said Canadian Jewish history is largely untold because Canadian scholars have not been interested.

"It's not a conspiracy of silence or a conspiracy of apathy, It's just that they don't care about ANY ethnic group," he said to an audience of 150.

"It's important to tell people there has been a Jewish presence in Canada almost since the time of European settlement."

In a wide-ranging talk, Dr. Abella cautioned that anti-Semitism, cyclical through the 1800s and early 1900s, hit a peak in the 1930s and 1940s in Canada and is re-appearing as the 20th century draws to a close.

"One hundred fifty years ago, there were no obstacles or restrictions. The Joseph family in Montreal produced bank owners, railway builders, a gas company president

"The founding members of the Bank of Montreal were Jewish but it took another 150 years (until the 1960s) for there to be another Jewish bank board member."

He said there was a Jewish dean of medicine in 1830 but not another one for 130 years.

Changes were seen with fair employment and housing laws being established after World War II.

"Yet today, we are still being questioned," he said.

"People deny our future by questioning Israel and Zionism. And they query our past by denying the holocaust."

He said anti-Semitism and racism has always been a part of the mainstream in Canada, "a country of immigrants who oppose immigration."

While Canadian Jewry may appear to be on the upswing with more Jews than ever before, more Jews in high positions, a growing number of synagogues and day schools and

greater fund raising than ever before, "we worry if it will last," he said.

"The major problem for Jews today is the rate of assimilation. We're growing in total but we make a smaller percent of the population than ever before. The birth rate is lower and we fear for the future."

Dr. Abella said the future lies with the youth. Renewing confidence among young Jews that Judaism will flourish is a formidable task.

"We have the talent and the clout to meet anti-Semitism head-on. We're not the cowering, inarticulate, community we were many years ago. We have the power to educate our young and to meet the complacency."

## The Ada Zebberman chapter of Halifax Women's ORT

By Barbara Alberstat

**T**he closing meeting was a very nice gathering at the home of **Harriette Laing** on May 27, 1992. Reports were read from the different committees and **Mindy Jacobson**, outgoing President, gave the Closing Report of her 3 year term in office.

**Barbara Alberstat** thanked the outgoing executive for a job well done and installed the incoming executive. 2nd Vice President - **Vicki Lipkus**; 1st Vice President - **Carol Green**. The following are to remain for one more year in their present positions: **Ella Morris** - Treasurer; **Edith Schneiderman** - Financial Secretary; **Rose Pritzker** - Recording Secretary; **Barbara Alberstat** - Corresponding Secretary. **Helen Israel** was installed as President. **Edith Schneiderman** presented **Helen** with the Life Membership pin as a surprise gift from **Terry Israel** and children. We wish all the executive and board good health, strength, and con-

tinuing support to our ORT schools around the world.

**Helen Israel** attended the Board meeting of Canadian Women's ORT in Montreal and reported on it at the closing meeting. She found it stimulating and knowledgeable, bringing back with her many new ideas and friends.

**Mindy Jacobson** was presented with a plaque honoring and thanking her for her many long years of service and devotion to Halifax Women's ORT.

May was recognized as ORT month with a lovely dedication ceremony at City Hall with **Mindy Jacobson** and **Helen Israel** receiving the declaration.

It has been a very successful year, financially and socially. The new president and executive will be meeting during the summer to discuss the annual fund raising projects and the possibility of newer ones.

We wish you all good health and sunshine during the summer months. Have a good rest and see your enthusiastic faces at the opening meeting in the fall.



## Kadimah '92



Kochot Boys Cabin photo



Kochot Girls cabin photo



Goshrim Girls cabin photo



Head staff 1992



Giborim Section 1992



Machar Section 1992



# Halifax student a star basketball player

by Joel Jacobson

**J**ennifer Offman's genes are showing. Her father, Mark, was an outstanding football quarterback for Queen Elizabeth High School in Halifax and for Dalhousie University Tigers in the 1960's. He also played basketball, baseball, and participated in track and field at high levels. Jennifer, 17, recently graduated from Queen Elizabeth High and will enter Dalhousie in the fall after being heavily recruited by basketball coaches at several Atlantic Canada universities.

Jennifer was recently named outstanding female athlete at QEH after a three-year career that saw her play volleyball and basketball and run a little track.

The list of honors the 5'10" athlete has accumulated in her three high school years includes outstanding grade 10 female athlete, academic/athletic rookie of the year in grade 10, volleyball and basketball league all-star and an all-star and most valuable player of several tournaments in both sports. "She's a hard worker, committed, and a pleasure to coach," said QEH basketball coach Mike Tanner. "She's worked hard to improve herself."

He said her basketball strength is her versatility. "She can play outside and isn't afraid to shoot the ball from 15 feet but she was also one of the best post (inside) players in the province last year."

Jen led the 1991-92 QEH club in scoring with a 17 point per game average and in rebounding.

Gail Rice, coach of arch-rival St. Patrick's High in Halifax, called Jen a "great player. We were never able to contain her. But more importantly, while she played hard, and we played hard against her, she still exhibited the qualities of good sportsmanship and fair play."

Offman started her sport participation in grade school, "mostly in track and field because there weren't team sports until I got to junior high," she said. "I played volleyball in grade seven but couldn't play basketball, too, because Hebrew school conflicted."

In grade eight, she was named MVP in both sports and ran track and was awarded female athlete of the year in grade nine. But she loved basketball over all other sports. In grade 11, she qualified for the provincial junior and juvenile basketball teams, a summer program that marked the end of a five year career at Camp Kadimah.

"It was then that I decided to concentrate on basketball (even though she played volleyball, and was QEH MVP in grade 12)," she said.

Last summer, every weekend was spent training with the provincial teams and playing in competitions. She was in Winnipeg for the junior nationals, one of only five juvenile age players chosen to play on the Nova Scotia junior team. Later in the summer, she was a starter on the gold medal-

winning Nova Scotia (juvenile) women's basketball team in the Atlantic Coast Games.

Despite being recruited by the Nova Scotia Canada Games volleyball team which starts its pre-Games (for 1993) training program this summer, she has again chosen basketball. She realizes her game needs work as she readies for university.

"I need to work on my ball handling and shooting," she said, "and want to add range to my shot."

Jennifer, named to the provincial team in late June, will go to the Junior nationals in Kamloops, B.C. this summer.

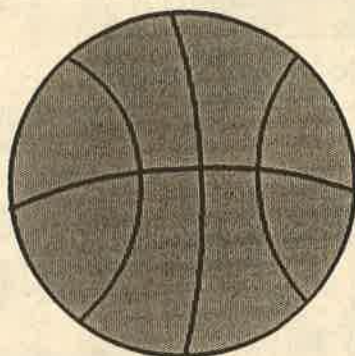
Dalhousie coach Carolyn Savoy said recently, "I have taught and coached university students for 20 years and find Jennifer to have the qualities of my most successful students."

Offman's schoolwork hasn't suffered. QEH teacher Margaret Langley said her Mid-term marks in February, at the height of basketball season, were all A's, showing "she is exceptionally conscientious and makes optimum use of class time."

To prove academics and athletics can be combined, Jennifer, with an 85 per cent average in grade 12, won two scholarships at her recent high school graduation, including one presented by the Dalhousie University Alumni Association.

She doesn't know whether there is a national team position for her in the future, but admits "it will take a lot of hard work to be a national player."

Her supporters wouldn't be surprised if she achieved that. Mike MacKay, provincial Canada Games coach, is impressed with her leadership, dedication, and confidence. "A lot of the success of her high school team could be attributed to her leadership and confidence. The others were raised to another level of play."



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# Yom Ha Shoah commemorated across the region

by **Larry A. Riteman**,  
**Regional Chairman**  
**Holocaust Education Committee**

**S**pecial ceremonies were held in Moncton, Fredericton, St John's and Halifax to commemorate Holocaust day.

This past April 30th a Yom Ha Shoah evening was held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

Yom Ha Shoah is the day that Israel has chosen to remember the Holocaust. The decision to choose this day to commemorate an evil epoch of 2,365 days was a combination of prior practice and dedication to rejuvenation. The original practice of choosing the latter part of April was to commemorate the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of Pesach, 1943. The commemorations were usually organized by survivors and partisans who were witness to those times, in the im-

mediate week following the Pesach season of each year. In 1989, the Israeli Knesset passed legislation to effectively tie Yom Ha Shoah to Yom Ha'atzmut. It was felt that on the day before Israel's birthday according to our ancient calendar, a day to remember all our fallen heroes and martyrs was appropriate.

This new practice is an application of wisdom because it allows for those that grieve a sense that their loss is not in vain; and for those that celebrate the birthday of the following day, a sense that their present well-being was paid in full by others. Thus, there is a tie that binds these two diverse aspects personalized by different members of the same community, and none are excluded while all are elevated by hope. "Am Yisroel Chai."

In the light of this theme, we, **Jon Goldberg**, AJC Program Coordinator, and I, tried to devise an evening that

would evoke the bittersweet meaning of Yom Ha Shoah for the catharsis of all who participated. That mild, clear Thursday evening brought together about 200 participants, several dozen of whom were friends of the Jewish community. Also to be noted were a few who took the time from their official schedules to participate with us.

Our program was designed to be a mix of solemn commemoration and relevant entertainment. The guest speaker, **Mrs. Gerda Friedberg**, gave a unique perspective, and the reading of names gave a meaning to our loss. After our prayers and reflections, the group assembled at the Oxford Theatre where we saw the harrowing yet hopeful film "Europa Europa". Perhaps next year we will get a better attendance to remember those lost and celebrate the survival of Kal Yisroel.

## Josh Beutel cartoon and painting exhibit

by **Joel Jacobson**

**M**arcia Koven is an innovator. Eight years ago, she decided her hometown of Saint John, New Brunswick, slowly losing its Jewish population, needed more Jewish identity.

Voila! The start of the Saint John Jewish Historical Society and Museum.

The museum, led by volunteer curator Koven, has been the focal point for Jewish displays in the city of 80,000 people, offering shows of local Jewish artists such as **Herzl Kashetsky** and **Sidi Schaeffer** of Saint John and **Toby Graser** of Fredericton.

School groups have toured the museum gaining a better understanding of the Jewish people of New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada. Government grants have enabled Koven to hire students for summer-time positions.

The museum has added much to Saint John.

And today, through Labor Day, another great Saint John artist, this one with more widespread fame, is exhibiting his work.

**Josh Beutel**, editorial cartoonist of the Saint John (N.B) Telegraph-Journal, whose work has appeared in newspapers across Canada, has 10 cartoons and five paintings gracing the walls of the museum, in a show he calls, "Sacred and Profane."

Beutel, a Montreal native who has been with the Saint John newspaper for 14 years, said the cartoons on display are of relevance to Jewish issues, dealing primarily with anti-Semitism and the Malcolm Ross situation in New Brunswick.

"Others deal with the ministerial reaction to pornography, racism, and sexism, with religion and law in our society and with free expression, from Plato to Keegstra," he said. "Cartoons

are strong and single-minded. Paintings are more vague," said Beutel.

His paintings, acrylic on board, are "spiritual abstracts, not illustrations of biblical themes but on knowing the unknowable."

He said he was intrigued by the Kaballah and "explored some of its dimensions, looking for things beyond the surface of reality in vague terms rather than literalness."

Several months ago, museum curator Marcia Koven asked Beutel to exhibit in the summer program.

"I took a few days to decide and was given the latitude to add some paintings to my cartoon work," he said.

The museum will also open a research and reading library this summer with more than 1,000 volumes in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and "a smattering of other languages."

"We found them in the back rooms of the synagogue, in garbage bags, on

*Continued on page 16*



Continued from page 15

desks, chairs, in corners. It's taken us two years to clean the books and get them ready for use," said Ms. Koven.

"There will also be a special section on the Holocaust donated by a Saint John woman whose husband was a child of the Holocaust. When he died, she wanted us to have his collection of books."

This year, the museum will also display Turkish artifacts, loaned by a Saint John Turkish family, and commemorating the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from Spain.

"We will also have **Threads of Generations**, a collection of women's handwork done by former Jewish residents of the Saint John community," said Ms. Koven.

The museum started with two paid employees under Ms. Koven's volunteer leadership in 1985. Today the museum has eight employees, and operates through government grants plus membership sales and donations.



Josh Beutel and Ita Freedman at the opening of the Exhibit.

It is open to walk-in traffic from June through September and handles school and other group bookings in the other months. School groups begin their tour with a 30-minute video, Ms. Koven said. Half the video depicts Jewish holidays and other shows the

Jewish way of life.

"I found the video at the London Jewish Museum," she said.

"It makes the children more familiar with Judaism and with the artifacts they will see in the museum."

## Kadimah '92

**Ed. Note: The following are impressions and thoughts from attendees at Kadimah '92:**

\*\*\*

It is our first year at camp. It is very fun. We like it because you learn how to boat and sing and dance. We get to sleep on a bunk bed. Sometimes it gets cold at night but our counsellors put extra blankets on us. We love our counsellors. We are always busy. We get to do a lot of fun things that we don't do in the city. - Sarah Zatzman and Ava Tsinman, of Halifax, Age 8, Giborim.

\*\*\*

Hi. My name is Mindy Lampert and I have been at Camp Kadimah for 5 years. I love camp. We do swimming, we play sports and do arts and crafts and we go boating, eat and also make new friends. I am going to keep on coming back to camp until I am very old. There are 3 Goshrim cabins each are full of kids. Every Friday night we have a Shabbat dinner and sing and dance. Saturday nights we have a

dance. The food is mostly good. I have really nice counsellors. That is what I have to say about Goshrim in Camp Kadimah of 1992! - Mindy Lampert, of Moncton

\*\*\*

Well, what can I say? I've been coming to this camp for eight summers straight. That's got to tell you something. Camp Kadimah is a place for you to be yourself and not worry about what people think of you because you know they will always be there to talk, laugh, cry, sing, and yell with you, but mostly be your friend. Presently I'm a second year Macharnik of 14 years of age. This summer is different for me, because my emotions change so quickly. One minute I'm ecstatic about being here, while in the next moment I'm sad because this is my last summer here as a camper. This amazes me because I remember my first summer here in 1985. I was six-and-a-half years old and terrified. My mom and dad were waiting at the bus with me saying good-bye. When the

bus pulled out, I started to cry, actually I cried for most of the way to camp. But as soon as I got off the bus, I knew this was going to be a great summer. I felt like I was at home. (Only there wasn't a TV and the people in my cabin were not my family, who, in the years to come, became just as close to me as my family).

As the summers flew by, I became closer to camp. I learned how to swim here, boat, canoe, play basketball, baseball, and many other sports. I learned how to be proud of myself and who I will become.

One of the major things I thank Camp Kadimah for is teaching me about my Jewish heritage and introducing me to kids from all over the world.

Thanks Camp Kadimah, I love you!  
- Heidi Lipkus, of Halifax

\*\*\*

Well here I am at Camp Machar. It's really a strange feeling like I'm somewhere where I know people and camp traditions, but also I'm



meeting people all over again and learning what happens in our section. Machar is different than the other three sections. It's a place where growing up is done and learning about not only other people, but yourself as well. Machar is a way to find yourself, to realize who you are. Machar brings people together, and makes you feel special and important. Machar gives you strength and hope for the future. This is the place to be! - Jennifer Aileen Fox, of Thornhill, Ont.

\*\*\*

#### Confessions of a confused counsellor

**I**n December I went crazy because I got a contract to a camp I barely knew about in Nova Scotia.

From January to May, I spoke to a zillion different campers and staff trying to figure out what I had gotten myself into.

In June I was terrified. This is the confession of a first-year-at-Kadimah staff member. The story is true, but the names have been changed to protect the truly bizarre.

Before I came to camp, I did kinda know people but only by name and sorta by phone. Kinda and sorta aren't the most reassuring words.

I was told (repeatedly) that the Kadimah "family" is very "close knit", "warm", and "friendly". I've never believed in cliches. That was until I was greeted at the airport by a warm and friendly bunch, who literally ran over to me and started introducing themselves. Since I now believe in cliches, I can say that I really felt like I belonged.

That was belonged, not understood. I've been to a Jewish overnight camp before, but every camp has their own rituals. I finally learned the words to the song that leads into the motzi, and figured out how buggy duty works. I can't figure out why I wake up to the likes of ABBA or what WOW stands for. And why do most of head staff dress alike and are named Mike? (I know that rhymes). Is that a prerequisite?

I'm still trying to learn the camp song and how to stand at mifkad, but I

have figured out quite a bit. Like the fact that the guys are slightly chauvinistic and need us women to show them how to really play baseball, and if you want a good shower, you wake up at the crack of dawn.

So far I've been to camp for a week and I'm having an incredible time. I'm the proud counsellor of seven Giborim girls and my two co-staff and I have become close friends and confidantes.

I have more people to say "hi" to every day, and I bet that I know as much gossip as the Kadimah veterans.

So I'm all set. Sometimes I still feel "new", but that just makes waking up every morning all the more exciting, wondering what new mystery I'll come across. Even if I do wake up to music that was out decades ago.

P.S. I had better take this opportunity to publicly thank Sobes for making all this possible - not that he needs his ego inflated anymore (it will burst), but I owe him a lot. -

Sarah Shimkofsky, of Toronto, Ont.

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# A mile in an Israeli Soldier's Shoes

by Denise Nevo  
Halifax, July, 1992

*"Whosoever survives a test, whatever it may be, must tell the story, that is his duty." - Elie Wiesel*

When something happens in Israel, we all watch the news anxiously from the comfort of our North-American homes. All of us have seen Israeli soldiers running in the streets of Jerusalem, patrolling the roads in the territories, being stoned in Gaza, or arresting Arab suspects. Years ago, when I looked at these soldiers on my television screen, I saw men. I always felt for them, but what I saw then were military men doing their military job. I was the young mother of two young children, living comfortably in Canada. Then my children grew up, and little by little these men on my TV screen looked younger and younger, until they were no longer men in my eyes, they were my children's age, they were nothing but children themselves.... Children with a loaded gun, running to defend our country, Israel. What did I really know about them?

"You don't know a person until you have walked at least a mile in his shoes", says the proverb. This past May, I had the extraordinary opportunity of walking countless miles in an Israeli soldier's shoes. Now, I understand a little better this "rite of passage" experienced by every 18-year-old Israeli boy and girl: Tzahal (*Tzava Hagana Leisrael*) the Israeli Defense Forces. For three years (two for the girls), all Israeli youths put their lives on hold to serve their country. In turn, I decided to put my own life on hold for three weeks, to share their experience: I joined Sar-El, the National Project for Volunteers for Israel

Sar-El is a voluntary, non-political organization which provides the Diaspora Jew with an opportunity to participate directly in helping Israel. It was begun in 1982, in response to a need to alleviate the manpower shortage arising from the Lebanese



Denise Nevo (centre) at Tze'elim, with two of her roommates, Esther, (left) and Celia, (right) May 1992.

war. That year, an initial group of 650 American volunteers responded to the call to come to work in the fields of the Golan Heights, and later suggested that this program be permanently established. Its objectives are to enable Israeli reservists to remain with their jobs and families, and to build lasting relationships between Israeli and Diaspora Jews.

For personal reasons, I decided not to travel with the group from Toronto, which I only joined at Ben Gurion Airport upon their arrival in Israel on May 12. Twenty-two men and women, ranging in age from 19 to 75. For many, it was their first time as volunteers, but a few were "repeaters", including Percy, a 73-year-old man who was coming for the sixth time! We were greeted by our *madrih'a*, a 21-year-old Israeli named Tseela, and we were immediately informed of our destination: Tze'elim, a maintenance base located about one hour's drive southwest of Be'er Sheva, in the heart of the Negev. At first, I was a little disappointed to be sent South, but

after a few days, this location proved to be much better than I could have imagined. In fact, it was ideal for me, far away from civilian life, from the world of restaurants, theatres and beaches, from the hordes of tourists. Somehow the vast, empty, barren spaces of the Negev reminded me of the pioneering mystique of the early days of the modern State of Israel.

A chartered bus drove us from the airport to the base. I had not been in Israel for fifteen years, and I could not keep my eyes off the magnificent scenery unfolding in front of us. After about two hours, we reached the desert, passed a few Bedouin villages, and then there was Tze'elim, nestled in the desert dust and sand. We drove through the main gate of the base which was to be my home for the next three weeks. A short while later, when we were assigned our rooms, I met my roommates: Celia (70 years old), Esther (67) and Bess (65). As I looked around the spartanly furnished room (four bunk beds, four small metal

*Continued on page 19*



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cabinets, blankets and sleeping bags) and the open shower room at the end of the hall, I was reminded of my student residence at Middlebury College, during my university years. But I immediately dismissed this thought: I wasn't here to study and get a degree. This was a totally different experience. I was here to work alongside Israeli soldiers, I was in the Israeli Army. I was not the only one reflecting on the situation. Esther, who had slumped onto her bed, exhausted from the long trip, the heat, the jet lag, said: "Oh dear! I hope G-d will give me the strength to do what I came here to do!"

After lunch, we received our uniforms. The younger generation in our group felt it was the most exciting part of the program! For the older ones, it proved to be more complicated than we expected, as some of us had problems finding the right size. We each received two shirts, two pairs of pants, a pair of socks, a hat, a belt, a canteen, and a pair of army boots. We took all of this to our rooms, we tried everything on, we attempted to see ourselves in full length in our small hand mirrors, and we sighed. This afternoon, we could rest. Tomorrow morning, work would start.

The next day, after breakfast, which was served between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m., we gathered in the main square and received our assignments. All the *mefakdim* (commanders) who wanted some help came to claim us: some needed two or three strong men for heavy work, while others had lighter jobs to be completed. All needed able and willing bodies, and the 22 of us were ready.

Tze'elim is a basic *tah'zuka* (maintenance base) where tanks, canons, military vehicles and supplies of all kinds are kept in continuously perfect working order, ready to go and to be used, at any time, within minutes.

Some of us worked at the same location during the entire three weeks, others got various assignments: in the bunkers, sorting ammunition boxes and chemical gas masks, replacing stretcher handle covers, painting tent poles for field hospitals, sorting uniforms, cleaning warehouses, or even preparing lunch (cutting up into tiny pieces 40 pounds of onions, cucumbers and tomatoes for an Israeli salad to feed an army of 400!). We

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## Israel was waking up for another day. Would it be a peaceful one?

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worked 5 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a lunch break between 12:00 and 1:30 p.m. It was hot (temperatures reached 40°C), and we worked hard, but nobody complained. We were sent to our places of work in groups of two or three volunteers, and always worked along with Israeli soldiers. We also talked a lot with them, at least I did, since I speak Hebrew. These talks proved to be the most valuable, the most moving part of the program, for us as well as for them. In fact, we were repeatedly told that if the physical work we were doing was important, the most meaningful aspect of the program was the *kesher*, the link we were establishing between Israel and the Diaspora, the interest and care we showed toward Israel by coming to work in the army, the stories we would bring home.

Every morning before work, I took long walks by myself in the desert. The air was still crisp from the night as the sun slowly appeared. I looked at the dry land surrounding me, searching for traces of animal and plant life. But what I mostly saw were the cannons, neatly parked, standing on guard under their sand-colored covers, ready to go at the first sign of an alarm.

Soldiers in the *migdal shmira* (watch tower) would wave at me, stiff and tired from their night duty. Israel was waking up for another day. Would it be a peaceful one?

I worked mainly with Lee, a 60-year-old from Toronto. When we worked on the stretchers, whose rubber handles have to be recovered every two years to prevent cracking, the two of us wondered, after replacing them on the storage shelves, if they would

still be there two years from now, when the covers would normally have to be replaced once again. We hoped that nobody would have to touch them until then. We hoped they would never see the light of day. Lee and I often tried to decipher the Hebrew inscriptions on boxes in the

warehouses where we worked: *soldier's kit for chemical war, protective mask for chemical war, medical supplies for chemical war*. This base surely was ready for the worst. Every base in Israel is ready. In October 1973, the Egyptian and Syrian armies attacked Israel simultaneously on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, catching the Israelis entirely off guard. Since then, every military base is ready, every soldier is ready, every reservist is ready, the entire country is ready. While at Tze'elim, each and every minute of our daily work, we were reminded of that fact.

After dinner, we usually had either a meeting with the commander or a lecture (on the IDF, on the ME16 and the Galil, on Operation Solomon, etc.). One evening, we had entertainment from the *La'akat Harabanut Hatzva'it*, a military group composed of 5 singers and 3 musicians. As soon as the group started singing, all the soldiers went wild. For me, sitting among 250 young Israeli soldiers singing Israeli songs at the top of their lungs, in the middle of the Negev, the evening was magical. It was the same

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for Esther, who said to me at the end of the performance: "For a few minutes, I felt 20 years old again."

After the evening lectures, we often went for walks around the base, in groups of three or four. By then, night had fallen and the air was cool. It was during one of these walks that Percy explained to me: "Our generation is so privileged. After 2,000 years of exile, we have seen the birth of *Medinat Israel* (the State of Israel), we finally have a country, an army to defend us. As Canadian volunteers, we have the extraordinary privilege to see it with our own eyes, hands-on, to be a full part of it for three weeks. How fortunate we are!" Percy was born in Poland. As a child, he had been oppressed and persecuted because he was a Jew; later, he experienced rejection by many countries, he saw the Jews turned down by the entire world in World War II. "Today, this can no longer happen, because of Israel. We are free to be Jewish, anywhere, thanks to Israel, and for this reason we must do our utmost to help Israel. Because of circumstances, some of us do not live in Israel. Most of us give money regularly. It is easy to sign a cheque. It is less easy to come here and work in the army...." Then Percy looked at the beautiful sky, the stars, the full moon. He thought about his wife, back in Toronto: "She can see the same moon, she is at the same distance from it as we are ourselves, and yet we are so far away from Canada...." Indeed we were, and not only in geographical distance!

I also met a lot of older men on the base: the reservists. Until they reach the age of 50, Israeli men report for *miluim* (reserve duty) for a period of 3 to 5 weeks per year. They have to leave behind their wives, their young children, their jobs. It puts a terrible strain on their lives. The work I did

this summer will help one of them stay home with his family a little longer this year.

The program included two organized tours. For the first one, we went to Masada, the Dead Sea and Ein Gedi. After passing through Arad, we saw magnificent desert landscapes and wandering nomads with their camels. We reached the top of the Masada fortress on foot, through the Roman attack ramp (on all my previous visits,

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**...indeed, I had walked a mile, and much more, in an Israeli soldier's shoes, and I was beginning to understand Israeli life.**

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I had always gone up the easy way, with the cable car). After touring the impressive structures of Herod's sumptuous desert palace and the ruins, less impressive but more moving, of the Jewish fighters, we walked down the snake path and drove to the Dead Sea (400 meters below sea level, the lowest point on earth) and the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, where some of us took a well-deserved refreshing dip in the desert stream gushing down the mountainside.

For the second tour, we had the utmost privilege of going to Jerusalem on *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day). This year was a very special one for Israel's capital: on the 28th day of Iyar 5752 (May 31, 1992), 1,922 years after the destruction of the Second Temple, 44 years since the founding of the State of Israel, the City of David celebrated the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, the world's richest city historically and spiritually. Holy to one-third of the world's population, its name means City of Peace. Yet its history has been written in blood. The focal point of our visit was of course the Old City, which we

entered through the Dung Gate. Together with thousands of Israeli soldiers and school children, we were among the 250,000 visitors who made their way to the Western Wall. It was spellbinding to be part of such a celebration! Many of us could not help think of the danger this mass of people represented. But security was tight, and fortunately only one incident was reported: a 17-year-old boy was stabbed by an Arab; luckily, his wound was not serious. Our group also visited Yad Vashem, the everlasting memorial to the six million Jews massacred by the Nazis in World War II. Since my last visit, the Children's Memorial had been added: a darkened room, five candles, and over 150 mirrors producing an infinity of living flames to recall the 1 1/2 million Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust. A very moving visit.

We were free every week-end. On Friday mornings, a chartered bus drove us to either Be'er-Sheva, Tel Aviv, or Jerusalem. From there, everyone made his/her own plans. I visited my relatives and friends, I went folk dancing with my cousin Yosef, I visited several museums in Tel Aviv with my friend Sonia, I had dinner in Old Jaffa with my friends Ruti and Gabi, I watched the evening news on television with my cousins Benyamin and Yehudit, and I attended a performance of "Prince Igor" by the Kirov Opera of the Maryinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg, in the Roman Theatre in Caesarea, a truly unique experience. And every Sunday morning, I joined the thousands of young soldiers in uniform at the Tel Aviv *Tah'ana merkazit* (Central Bus Station) to catch the early bus to Be'er Sheva. What an extraordinary feeling it is to be sitting in a bus where 95 percent of the passengers are 18 to 20-year-old men and women in uniform, carrying a gun! On

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my first Sunday morning returning to the base, I experienced what most Israelis go through day in and day out: the bus station was temporarily evacuated because an unidentified parcel had been spotted. The police arrived with a robot, the parcel was destroyed, and within fifteen minutes, life was back to normal. Nobody seemed to worry, except me. On Israeli buses, the radio is always on, and every hour on the hour, there is a news broadcast. The driver turns up the volume, conversations die out and everybody listens. On my second Sunday morning going back to the base, the news was dreadful: a 15-year-old schoolgirl had been stabbed outside her home in Bat Yam (a Tel Aviv suburb) on her way to school, by a 19-year-old Palestinian from Gaza. During the entire trip to Be'er Sheva, we heard the development of that terrible news. A soldier travelling on a passing bus shot at the attacker, a car driver stopped and did the same, and the assailant was finally seized by passersby. The young girl did not survive her wounds.

On our last day, we only worked half a day. The afternoon was reserved for a photo session (we were not allowed to take any pictures on the base during our stay, for security reasons). We had worked very hard for three weeks, and by then we were very tired. That morning, Esther told me she was happy it was over, but she also felt a little sad. So did I. It was like spending the last day with family members before a long separation. That last morning, I worked with Mordi, who wanted us to fold huge nets that are used to cover military vehicles in the desert. Mordi knew it was our last day, and he felt more like talking than working. So we talked. He told me about his experience in the army, about his months of duty at the

Lebanese border and about Gaza where he patrolled the streets for weeks. He told me about the young Palestinian who threw stones at him, seriously wounding him in the leg, and how he fired a rubber bullet at his assailant. Mordi has already seen and done so much, and yet he is only 20 years old!

We had a special farewell lunch with Meir, the commander in charge of our group, and many of the other

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**My emotion was intense as I shared these few moments with some of the people who had been part of the miracle rescue, the historic lifesaving mission!**

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commanders we had worked with. We were each given a certificate and a pin, and we were profusely thanked for all our help. In the afternoon, we returned our uniforms. Before handing them over, I looked at the boots I had used during the past three weeks: indeed, I had walked a mile, and much more, in an Israeli soldier's shoes, and I was beginning to understand Israeli life.

In the morning, just before we left the base for the last time, many soldiers came to say goodbye. From the bus taking us to Tel Aviv, we took one last look at the base: the tanks and the ambulances, ubiquitous, were still standing on guard. "Now that we got to know some of them personally, it will be so much harder if we hear that something happened", said Esther. Yes, Ofer, Gabi, Haim, Sharona, Ido, Berie, Yitzhak, Dov and all the others, we shall often think of you, and I dearly hope that you will all stay well.

Some of us returned home after the last day of the program while others stayed on for a few more days. I toured the country for twelve days, visiting

friends and relatives in Ashkelon, Tel Aviv, Hertzlia, Ra'anana, and Haifa. In Kibbutz Megiddo, I spent a few days with my friend Sonia. I also visited my friends Veeda and Dave and their son Liron in their Kfar Kish moshav, near Mount Tabor, and they took me for a memorable visit to a caravan park in Kfar Tabor, where several hundred of the 14,160 immigrants who had arrived from Ethiopia on Operation Solomon exactly one year earlier (May, 1991)

were living. We were greeted by a crowd of beautiful black children, who had gathered around our car like flies on a sugar cube. I met the family Veeda and Dave have "adopted". The oldest daughter, Terengo (in her twenties), and her own little girl, six-year-old Zahava, who spoke in very hesitant Hebrew, invited us into their caravan. My emotion was in-

tense as I shared these few moments with some of the people who had been part of the miracle rescue, the historic lifesaving mission! As Terengo and I hugged and said goodbye, I realized that this meeting was the perfect conclusion of a trip that had meant so much to me, that had brought me closer than ever to Israel and its people. At that moment, I knew that I would be back next year, that I would work again for three weeks on an army base, and that I would pay a call on Terengo and Zahava.

*Denise Nevo was born in Paris, France, in 1943. She came to Halifax in 1965, where she lives with her husband and two sons. She is an Assistant Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University.*

**For more information on SarEEL, call or write the Canadian Volunteers for Israel office: 788 Marlee Ave., Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario M6B 3K1, Telephone (416) 781-6089, Fax (416) 785-7687**



# March OF THE LIVING

by Matthew Cohen, Halifax

On April 27, 1992, over 350 Canadian Jewish youth embarked upon a journey of enormous educational and emotional value. This experience is known as the March of the Living, and it embraced more than 5000 Jewish youth from five continents.

The Maritime Provinces sent a contingent of 15 participants and 3 chaperones. Participants from Nova Scotia were Heather Astroff, Byron Gaum, Rachel Barak, Daniel Freeman, Jacob Medjuck, Jason Lipkus, Louis Wolfson, Jody Sadofsky, Stuart Ages, Timna Gorber, Steven Indig and Matthew Cohen, from P.E.I. Toby Carnat and Rebekah Sherman and from New Brunswick Marcie Cohen. The chaperones were Michael Soberman, a law student from Toronto, Rabbi Oren Ismailoff of the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax and Mrs. Barbara Gaum, of Halifax.

The first component of the trip was an emotional tour through the Poland which was destroyed during World War II. Participants witnessed cultural centres such as Warsaw, Cracow and

## March of the Living 1992

Lublin. All that is left now is remains, as the largest signs of Jewish life in Poland today is among symbols of death such as numerous cemeteries and memorials. Also in Poland, we witnessed the horrors of Nazi Death Camps by visiting and touring Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, and Majdanek. One of the most significant aspects of the trip was the March between Auschwitz and Birkenau, during which thousands of Jewish youth retraced the steps of the unfortunate victims of the Holocaust. To actually walk on the ground of the death camps as well as through the Warsaw Ghetto, the Cracow Ghetto and historical sites illustrating the rich Jewish life in Poland before the war was a riveting experience for all.

After the week of horror in Poland, the participants experienced a sharp contrast as we arrived in Israel. In the span of one day we went from the grounds of death and destruction to the grounds of pride and protection.

In Israel we went to the Western Wall which was emotionally uplifting, as well as to the Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial), three kibbutzim, Masada and the Dead Sea.

While in Israel, we mourned for lost soldiers on Yom Hazikoron (Memorial Day) and celebrated the

creation and existence of the State of Israel of Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day). These two holidays occur on consecutive days which helps to emphasize the sadness of one and the happiness of the other.

While the entire program lasted only two weeks, the March of the Living is an experience I think about everyday, and will last in my memory for the rest of my life.

### A Coat of Many Colours - a resounding success

After a successful run in Saint John, N.B. thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Jacqueline Meltzer and her committee, the Nova Scotia Museum with the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Canadian Friends of Beth Hatefuthsoth, held an invitation only opening to the exhibition in Halifax on June 18, 1992.

The local Halifax Chair, Mrs. Shirlee Medjuck, and a committee of Museum staff, AJC staff and volunteers, arranged a preview lecture by Dr. Irving Abella, the night before the opening for the entire community, along with a special Sunday afternoon program led by Rabbis M. Pritzker and J. Chinitz.

At the Gala Opening were Premier Don Cameron, numerous provincial and local politicians, clergy and judges, along with members of the AJC Executive, AJC Board and Jewish leaders from throughout Nova Scotia. Speaking to the 200 invitees were Dr. Abella, Mrs. Andrea Bronfman and Mrs. Candace Stevenson, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Museum Complex.

The Exhibit will be in Halifax until September 9, and to date attendance has been excellent.



UIA Lion of Judah

Mrs. Etta Chernin of Sydney, N.S. pictured here with her son Martin, has been recently awarded the prestigious UIA Lion of Judah pin, in recognition of her generosity to Israel. Etta is the second Maritime lady to be given this honour, joining Mrs. Rachel Rafuse of Halifax, who received the golden pin last Fall.



# Gorbachev plants tree in the JNF's Peace Forest

**M**r. Alan I. Posluns, National President, expressed his delight when he received news from Moshe Rivlin, JNF World Chairman, concerning Gorbachev's recent visit to Israel and the importance He placed on the planting of trees.

"Planting a tree is too serious a matter to be disturbed by posing," responded Mikhail Gorbachev to the many photographers who asked him to raise his head from his work and pose for a picture in the JNF's Peace Forest in Jerusalem. The former leader of the Soviet Union gave his full attention to the task of expertly setting a sapling into the Jerusalem soil during his recent visit to Israel.

Also participating in the tree planting ceremony were mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, and Jewish National Fund World Chairman, Moshe Rivlin.

Gorbachev would not settle for a symbolic gesture, but got down to the real job at hand and planted his tree "like a real farmer", according to Rivlin. Gorbachev was not done until he had watered the sapling and then went to help Raisa, his wife, complete the planting of hers.

Teddy Kollek explained to the guests that for each child born in Jerusalem, a tree is planted in the JNF's Jerusalem Forest by the municipality and the certificate is sent to the family.

Mr. Rivlin presented tree planting certificates to the Gorbachevs who were visibly moved. This makes them a part of the long list of illustrious guests who have planted trees in JNF forests, including kings and queens, prime ministers and government representatives, scientists, musicians, sportsmen and more.

On their travels throughout the country, the Gorbachevs had many opportunities to see JNF work: in desert afforestation work throughout the negev, in land reclamation such as at Kibbutz Ein Gedi along the Dead Sea and in the preparation of land for immigrant housing in towns all over the country.



**Mikhail Gorbachev plants a tree in the Jewish National Fund's Peace Forest flanked by JNF World Chairman, Moshe Rivlin and Mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek.**

## 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

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 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Years at Kadimah (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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