

SHALOM שלום

SPRING 1994

Volume 19, No. 3

NISAN 5754



HAPPY PESACH

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The Atlantic Jewish
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COVER:
"Model Seder"
at Beth Israel Synagogue,
Halifax
(J. Bayers Photo)

President's Message

by Larry Freeman

I have had the opportunity, over the past year, to be part of the deliberations of our major national Jewish organizations and have taken part in the discussion which seems to be of central concern and that is the issue of continuity. I have written about this in other messages; however, it seems to be an issue we have to keep talking about and discussing more and more.



provide programming and support to all of our communities, but, alas, too many choose not to participate. The next time you receive one of our announcements of an activity, exercise that democratic right and become part of that activity and together we can be a vibrant region.

activity and together we can be a vibrant region.

For those of you who have been fortunate to view Steven Spielberg's movie, *Schindler's List*, you cannot help but come away with the thought that we owe a duty to those six million who were not afforded the opportunity to perpetuate their Jewish lives. As we approach Yom Hashoah, I want to take a moment and examine your commitment to being Jewish. We live in a democratic country where we are afforded the opportunity to be active in Jewish community affairs and events; however, so many use that freedom not to be part of community activities. The Atlantic Jewish Council continues to

On March 17th, 1994 the official celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Canadian Jewish Congress was launched in Montreal. This promises to be a year filled with memories of the dedicated volunteers who, during the past seventy-five years, made many sacrifices to assure the success of this organization. Congress has been the voice of Canadian Jewry in both domestic and international affairs. We, in Atlantic Canada, salute Congress and look forward to celebrating during our biannual meeting in the fall of 1994.

On behalf of the Executive of the Atlantic Jewish Council, I wish you and your family a happy Pesach.

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.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

Today is the third day of Pesach. I trust everyone had a happy and informative Seder this year and I also wish that spring would hurry up and come to Atlantic Canada.

If there ever was a *Winter of Our Discontent* maybe this was the year. Cold, snow, freezing rain seemed to be the norm this winter and I sort of wish that Passover, the festival of Freedom, will free us all of the winter of 1993-94 sooner than later.

Since November I've been involved with the arrangement, selection and orientation of eighteen Atlantic Canadian teenagers who will participate in March of the Living '94. As most of you may know this is a U.I.A. program which sends 400 Canadians to join with 3500 other Jewish teenagers in a two-week experience which includes four days in Poland and ten days in Israel.

Barbara Gaum of Halifax is our regional chairperson and Victor Goldberg and Jim Spatz serve on our committee. Together we interviewed applicants in November and December, met parents and by January '94 we had selected a record number eighteen High School students to represent our region. Four from Moncton, NB, one from P.E.I., one from Kentville, NS and twelve from Halifax. They, together with three chaperones, Judge I. Lampert, Moncton, Mrs. E. Luner and Rabbi Pamela Hoffman of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax will leave April 4 from Mirabel on a chartered 747. They will spend Yom Hashoah at Auschwitz and Yom Hatzmout in Israel. Together they will experience the tragedy and triumph of the Jewish people.

Because of the intense pace of the trip we were required to prepare a number of orientation programs for our group. I met with the Halifax group in January to talk about the creation of the State of Israel. We all came together in Halifax for a group session in March. We held sessions on the Holocaust and also on Israel. Halifax had another meeting in April, as did Moncton with the capable assistance of Rabbi David Ellis.

Using survivors and A.V. material we began to teach these teens about the destruction of the European community and the creation of modern Israel.

I guess going over and over that sad chapter of our people has left me somewhat saddened and melancholic as I prepare this article. So many dead, for what? Human life so cheap! We

talk about 6 million and most of us here in Canada know only a few who died or survived.

Yet every one was a precious soul and we can never get blasé about the number. I was very fortunate to have been born a third generation Canadian and yet I feel the loss too, as should the world.

Death is inevitable. In fact, the closer one gets to fifty the more one is concerned with one's own mortality.

This past winter our Atlantic Jewish Community lost two women who we could ill afford to lose. **Mrs. Ruthe David** of Halifax, a wonderful wife and mother, also a leader in Shaar Shalom Congregation, giving women a leading role in the service. All who knew her will miss her very much. Just a few weeks ago while in Toronto, I visited with **Dr. Phil and Ruth Simon**, formerly of Glace Bay. They had just buried

their 38 year old son **Allan**, father of five children. A week later, **Steve Zatzman** and his three children buried their beloved wife and mother **Arlene** who passed away at 38 years of age. Our region and community cannot afford these losses. Three struck down by various forms of cancer.

You might wonder why I mention these tragic occurrences but since Holocaust Day is fast approaching and I've been so involved with the March of the Living, I can't help but feel that all of us in the last 50 years are victims of the Holocaust, I know in my heart that somewhere, someway, one or more of our people who were killed would have been able to either find a cure or perfect better treatment for cancer. We suffer and the world has suffered.

So my friends in the year of Schindler's List and March of the Living '94, at the season of Passover, The festival of Freedom, I wish you all freedom from sickness and ill health and to Israel, freedom from threats both internal and external.

Below is a listing of the names of all who are participating in the March of the Living '94. My congratulations to their parents and grandparents for providing the means and encouragement for these teenagers to experience a once in a life time opportunity: Jonathan Honey, of Kentville, NS, Naomi Ginsberg, Morris Glazman, Michelle Hiltz, Shawn Keyes, Marcy Laing, Heidi Lipkus, Lisa Mendleson, Barak Queija, Ann Raskin, Cami Rubin, Craig Silverman, all of Halifax, NS, Riva Barak, Steviacke, NS, Leigh Lampert, Yona and Samara Attis of Moncton, NB., Lauren Lavigne of PEI.



Jon Goldberg

AJC officially opens new office

by Barbara Paton

The Atlantic Jewish Council office has moved into its new home. The occasion was marked with a reception Saturday night February 19th. The event took place during a regional meeting weekend. All constituent organizations were represented.



Rabbi Pamela Hoffman placing Mezzuzot on new entrance.

Mezzuzot were hung by Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein of the Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax and Rabbi Pamela Hoffman of Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Halifax.

The assembled guests including the staff, members of council, friends of Atlantic Jewish Council, and United Israel Appeal were treated to Janet Casey's special sandwiches and a commemorative cake acknowledging this special event.

The Council can now boast of a new well lit board room, a library, a well stocked publication area, and ample office space. Plants were sent by Halifax

Hadassah-WIZO, Camp Kadimah, and United Israel Appeal.

The Atlantic Jewish Council invites everyone to drop in, meet the staff and visit the new premises.



AJC Executive member Barbara Paton

Gali's window

The temperatures are rising, the wind is calming, the sun is peeking from behind the clouds. Yes, I guess the spring is coming, after all. We have gone through three months of tough winter but still had many programs going on. Along with the new year, we had a new start as well. The Young Judea programs in Halifax attracted more and more kids, the high school students were of great help and we covered some important issues. The Hebrew Class that started in January is going well. The weekly meeting every Tuesday night is fun to all those attending it. It is interesting to work with such a mixed group of students and adults, advanced and beginners, serious and casual. Visits to other communities in the last months gave me an opportunity to see more of the Atlantic region and to meet more people from different places.

My two visits to the Annapolis Valley have been very enjoyable. With great help from Naomi Honey of Kentville, we had a very successful Hanukkah party and a joyful Purim party. With the help of Rabbi David Ellis of Moncton my two visits there were successful and beneficial. I am expecting more visits to other communities in the region during the next few months, especially with better weather and more sunny days. An interesting aspect of my work is visits to non-Jewish schools in the area. This is a great chance for me to present Israel and the Jewish community in the right perspective. In most cases the children in these schools don't know anything about Israel or about Judaism, so I see that it as an important part of my job. Some unusual questions



Hannukkah Party in Kentville

that I was asked were: "Do you guys have french fries in Israel?" and "What does a Rabbi look like?" As Pesach is approaching, I would like to wish you a Happy and Kosher Pesach and a lovely spring. I would also like to thank all of you who are making my stay here as pleasurable and easy as possible.



Hannukkah Play in Moncton Hebrew School, December 1993

Shalom from Jerusalem

I am writing to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Pesach. The time of year that is coming upon us has the greatest significance for us in Israel and for Jewish people the world over. Within a span of only three weeks, we will observe Pesach, Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance day for the fallen Israeli soldiers) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence day). Together, they represent the essence of what our work for the United Israel Appeal is all about.

5,000 Haggadot and 1,000 Seder plates have been shipped to the former Soviet Union (FSU) for use in public Seders to be held in ulpans and community centres. At the Jewish Agency department dealing with the FSU (next to our own UIA office in Jerusalem), the amount of activity is incredible--packages are being sent to more than a dozen Jewish Agency offices for Independence Day. They contain everything from flags, to 1,000 banners, to 5,000 plastic hammers which have become a tradition with the youngsters -- as anyone who visited Israel during Independence Day celebrations is unlikely to forget.

It goes to show how widespread Israeli activities in the FSU have become. Take, for example, the "Aliyah 16" project which brought to Israel 1,000 teen-agers without their parents in 1993. They were taken by the Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah institutions, where they receive a high-school education and go through a special integration program. For 1994, the target number for "Aliyah 16" was doubled - to 2,000.

A heart-warming success in the FSU are the Jewish Agency summer camps. Who would have thought, a couple of years ago, that thousands of Jewish kids would attend Jewish summer camps with strong Israeli content, spread all over that enormous country? Demand is such that the number will increase to 20,000 as compared to 10,000 last summer. It's an educational revolution. The



Jewish Agency has increased the budget for it.

And the Russian Jews keep coming! From January 1 and as of this writing, 10,048 have arrived on Aliyah... and it's bound to continue at this pace. We got a first-hand sense about it recently, when two of the participants in a UIA mission to Israel, **Harvey Levenson** and **Dale Boidman** of Montreal, shared their unique experiences during a visit to the far-away Moslem Republics of the FSU.

Showing slides of the destitute conditions in these areas, they nonetheless pointed to the vibrant life of Jewish communities and stressed the extraordinary dedication of Jewish Agency emissaries. Their message: there is still a "window" for the next couple of years--to get the Jews out. If we wait, the situation could change irreversibly.

What happens once they get to Israel? Pesach is the time of miracles, and at the risk of sounding corny, I may describe it as a miracle that half a million were absorbed in our small country without a crisis. By and large, they are on their way to becoming Israelis. A popular Israeli paper recently carried a report stating: "Russian Aliyah is no longer so miserable. Most Olim work and have acquired apartments and cars. The banks are happy to issue them credit cards, because their paying standards are higher than Israelis. The Aliyah is being absorbed."

So there you have it. The article is loaded with statistics to make the points. It does not mean that all is perfect and that Russians don't face many difficulties. It does mean that what was

hardly imaginable on Pesach five years ago is reality today.

Against this background I want to refer to the recent tumult, so to speak, around the remarks of an Israeli official, **Yossi Beilin**, downplaying the role the financial assistance provided by the Israel - Diaspora partnership. Said Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**: "We want this partnership, which has created so many great things for the Jewish people and for Israel, to continue... We consider the Jewish Agency (funded by UIA) as the organ through which this cooperation is implemented. We feel we have the moral and practical right to turn to you, the Jewish communities all over the world, to assist us in the major task absorbing the waves to immigration."

An article in the *Jerusalem Post* added: "Underlying the partnership is a precept that has become an article of faith, shared by most Jews the world over, whether or not they call themselves Zionists: the centrality of Israel. Fashioning our fund raising around this precept, we have been asking our constituents to follow a basic Zionist dictum:

to build the land of Israel and be built by it.

A final note: I will be visiting the Atlantic Region from April 25 to May 13, to plan for this year's campaign in the fall, to meet and brief our volunteers and contributors, and especially to enlist participation in the UIA ATLANTIC REGION LEADERSHIP MISSION TO ISRAEL this fall, combining what will surely become an unforgettable and unique experience in Prague and in Israel - and upbuilding the Jewish community of the Jewish community of the Atlantic and its identification with Israel.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, and wishing you a very happy Pesach.

Sincerely,

Reuven Rosenfelder
UIA Israeli Emissary,
Atlantic Region

CJC marks its 75th anniversary

By Mike Cohen CJC National Director and Israel Affairs

Canadian Jewish Congress is known at home and abroad as the national representative organization of Canadian Jewry. It was as a result of the great emergency of World War I (1914-1918) that Congress was founded. During this period of time, various conferences and meetings were set up culminating with the first National Plenary Assembly at the Monument National Theatre in Montreal March 16 to 19, 1919.

On March 16, 1994 CJC officially kicked off 75th anniversary celebrations with a gala reception at the beautifully refurbished Monument National on "the Main," Montreal's St. Laurent Boulevard. A Montreal landmark in many ways, the location has witnessed major events in Quebec political, social and economic history. The Societe Saint Jean Baptiste inaugurated the Monument National on June 25, 1893 and the building quickly became host to a variety of public activities in the city. For almost half a century it was the most important centre for Yiddish theater outside of New York City.

CJC President **Irving Abella** addressed the gathering of some 300 members of community leadership. The event was chaired by Montreal's **Goldie Hershon**, immediate past chair of the CJC Quebec Region. She is a co-chair of the CJC 75th anniversary committee, along with **Carol Kassel** of Toronto and **Alti Rodal** of Ottawa. Laurentian Bank of Canada is the official sponsor for CJC 75th anniversary celebrations. As the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, it supported the original CJC event.

CJC has and will be marking its 75th anniversary throughout the year. Some of the programs include:

On March 19 and 20, the CJC Ontario Region held its Plenary in Toronto and recognized the 75th anniversary;

On April 17 in Winnipeg a special 75th anniversary program will take place at the National Education Conference at the Westin Hotel;

On April 24 the CJC Quebec Region Plenary will take the theme CJC Quebec Region at 75: A New Agenda for a New Era;

On Sunday May 29 in Ottawa CJC will hold a Conference entitled NGOs in Canada: Partnerships in Human Rights, Justice Minister **Allan Rock** will be the keynote speaker. Interacting and working with NGOs has been a fundamental plank on the CJC agenda since its inception in 1919;

On Monday May 30 in Ottawa CJC, in commemoration of its 75th anniversary, will acknowledge and pay tribute to the role of Canadian Veterans on the eve of the 50th anniversary of D-Day in which many Jewish soldiers participated and died. A ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at the War Memorial. Prime Minister **Jean Chretien**, Defence Minister **David Collette** and Secretary of State for Veteran's Affairs **Lawrence McCauley** are among those to be invited to attend. Rabbi **Reuven Bulka** will preside over a short service;

Next fall the Pacific Region plans to hold a Western Conference in Vancouver, with a 75th anniversary theme. During the same time period, the Atlantic Jewish Council will hold its bi-ennial general meeting in Halifax and recognize the anniversary;

Canada Post Corporation has agreed to produce a commemorative postal cover to mark the occasion, possibly by May 30.

CONGRESS NOTES:

The recent CJC National Executive meetings in Israel consisted of a delegation of close to 50 people. The City of Moncton was certainly represented by the family of CJC National Executive Associate Chair **David Attis**. He and wife **Margaret** were joined by their four daughters **Yona, Samara, Leyla, Aviva**. Also representing the AJC was **Arthur Saffron** from Springhill, Nova Scotia. A national CJC delegation met March 17 with Reform party leader **Preston Manning** in Ottawa... CJC was disappointed to learn that convicted Nazi collaborator **Jacob Luitjens** will have his life sentence commuted. CJC will do whatever it can to make sure he does not return to Canada... The recent campaign of faxes and letters to Foreign Minister **Andre Ouellet**, coordinated by the CJC National Task Force for Syrian Jews, was very successful. The AJC, led by President **Larry Freeman**, Executive Director **Jon Goldberg** and Student Leader **Josh Ross** were quick off the mark. The threatened pogrom against Syrian Jews was taken seriously and justifiably.



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The Ada Zebberman chapter of Halifax Women's ORT

by Barb Alberstat

It was with very deep sadness to hear that **Frank Zebberman** had passed away in Vancouver. His late wife, **Ada** had been the inspiration for our Halifax chapter to be renamed to honour her enthusiasm, loyalty and patronage. If there is a woman behind every great man, then I'm sure Ada was a strong influence in the life of her husband, her children, and grandchildren. Frank will be remembered in our Halifax community as a compassionate father, a good friend to all, a helping hand to many in his immediate family. May he rest in peace after a long and productive life.

It is also sad to note that one of our 25 - year members **Tena Goldfarb** has passed away. Tena was a Life Member of Halifax Women's ORT. Tena had lived most of her life in Halifax, and the community knew of her loyalty and hard work to charities and many organizations.

ORT has been active again this year since September with plans for the future and fundraising ideas. We had another successful Flowers for the High Holidays project. This has been a yearly fundraiser, and the community looks forward to the flowers and centerpieces to grace their home and table for the holidays. Thanks goes to **Carol Green** and **Helen Israel** for their work on this annual project.

We have brainstormed many ideas on fundraising. One of the ones that we are going ahead with is a one-day raffle to be held at a local flea market which attracts hundreds of people. The first

Draw - a - Day was a beautifully decorated cake of Big Bird which was made and donated by Carol Green. **Edith Schneiderman** and **Barb Alberstat** looked after the first Draw - A - Day. The next decorated cake was the theme for Valentine's Day. **Betty Levick** has been generous in her donation and making of this cake. The raffle tickets are sold and drawn for the same day, thence the name of the draw. We feel this Draw - A - Day will entice people to buy tickets on the spot. We hope to continue this fundraiser during the year, with other decorated cakes and with stuffed animals as well.

Plans are underway for Mother's Day Brunch once again. This has been a proven fundraiser, and we hope to continue this annual event.

Helen Israel, President and Carol Green, First vice-president attended Women's Canadian ORT's 21 National Biennial Convention and came back glowing with new thoughts on membership, fund raising, ORT education and especially delightful was the award that Helen received on behalf on all Halifax ORT members, the Special Achievement Award. We were thrilled to receive a second award from Women's Canadian ORT for achieving the highest funds raised in small cities. Thanks goes to all the members who so actively participated in the fundraising projects over the past two years.

Halifax Women's ORT members wish to congratulate **Edie Glazer** as the new National president of Canadian Women's ORT. Good luck in your new position, and we all



(L-R) Carol Green and Helen Israel shown here with Dr. Michael Shane, receiving two awards at the ORT Convention.

look forward to greater communication and greater growth in membership and fund raising. With your dedication and that of the new Board, I'm sure we will have a successful term.

We wish bon voyage and good health to **Bessie Goldfarb** who is moving from Halifax to Toronto to be closer to the rest of her family, after the death of her husband, **Sam**. We wish her well.

We are pleased to report that **Maisie Block** and **Ella Morris** are on the "Road to Recovery" after their recent illnesses. We wish continued good health to them and to all our members.

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Norman Newman remembered

(Excerpts of an eulogy delivered by Richard B. Goldbloom OC, MD, FRCPC)

Norman Newman did not achieve the biblical promise of three score and ten years, but he proved, as few others have, that the quality of life can triumph over its mere duration. In an era when most people in western society are seeking greater rewards for less and less work, Norman was a stellar exception. Long after he could have settled into a life of relative comfort and enjoyment, he remained to the very end an indefatigable worker. He rose early and went to bed late. Whether the task at hand was his own business or one of his innumerable non-profit efforts on behalf of the community he served so well, the amount of energy he expended was equally prodigious.

I knew Norman best as a personal friend and in his many roles as a community volunteer - as President of Symphony Nova Scotia, President of Shaar Shalom synagogue, board member at Dalhousie University, fundraiser for United Israel Appeal, member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Arts and unique benefactor of the Art Gallery of Nova

Scotia, where he and his wife, Barbara established a marvelous, innovative program to encourage the children of this province to participate in the visual arts. He was also the principal instigator of a uniquely successful gala concert weekend one year ago that established a permanent endowment to enable Symphony Nova Scotia to bring outstanding soloists to Halifax every year for our enjoyment.

For a man who left so little to chance, Norman was almost paradoxically attracted to adventure. He crossed the Atlantic twice under sail. As always, he prepared meticulously. He studied celestial navigation and every conceivable aspect of seamanship. I doubt that anyone was ever better prepared for such an experience. When it came to his own yacht "L'Chayim" ("To Life"), he was exquisitely attentive to detail in preparing the vessel for Nova Scotia's relatively short sailing season. We used to tease him that by the time he was totally satisfied that "L'Chayim" was ready for launching, it was time to haul the boat out for the winter. When he wasn't sailing he was running or skiing. His attention to keeping himself in excellent physical condition was as meticulous as everything else he did.

When others jumped to conclusions, Norman analyzed patiently. Where others merely offered advice, Norman worked. He did nothing for the sake of public recognition. His greatest thrill in life was the successful completion of his many projects.

When he "retired" from his principal business and sold Capitol Stores, instead of shedding obligations he took on a host of new ones almost all in some form of service to the rest of us in the larger community. He worked only for the best of

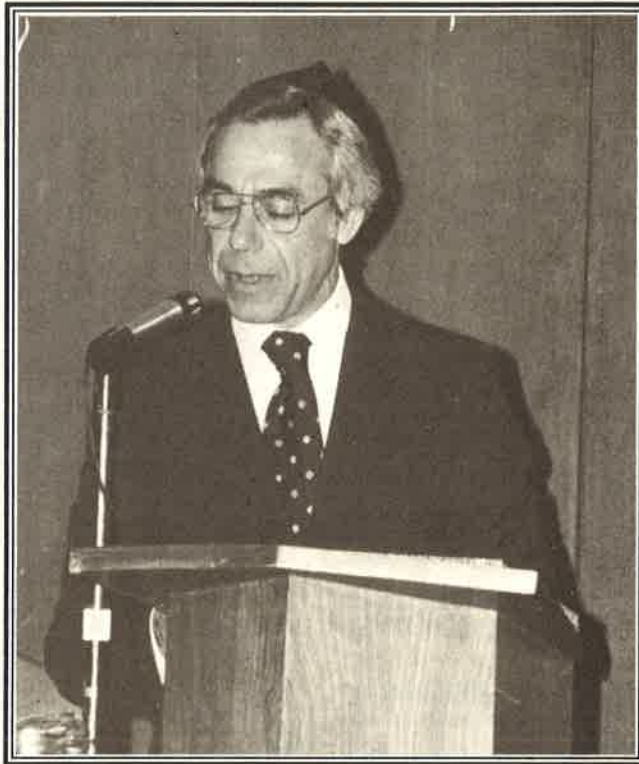
causes - for children, for good music, for the visual arts and for those less fortunate.

The discovery that he was incurably ill came soon after completing his last transatlantic sailing voyage. Predictably, he dealt with his illness and the knowledge that he would not survive it with the same thoughtful analysis and logic he applied to everything else in life. Almost to his last days he worked to the very limits of his failing physical capacity, setting his house in order, planning for those that were to follow - his family, his business colleagues and his friends. Like the other tasks in his life, he took on the business of dying in methodical, step-by-step way. And as each element of his plan was set in order, he seemed to experience feel-

ings that were almost euphoric, knowing the job was done and done right.

Norman knew and accepted the fact that all of us enter and leave this life at times and in ways that are never of our own choosing. He knew that it was not [for him], or for any of us to complete our life's work - that we must do the best we can and finally leave the rest to others. And when everything that could be done had been done to the satisfaction of his high standards, he developed an enviable degree of acceptance of his destiny. This was not mere resignation to the inevitable, but an achievement of the equanimity that comes with the knowledge of having done one's best.

At the end of our lives we take nothing with us. The most valuable legacies we leave our family and friends include warm memories and examples set for others who follow. Norman left us with the best of memories and the finest possible example of a life well lived. Who could ask for more?





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Camp Kadimah update

By Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director

Plans are underway for another exciting summer at Camp Kadimah. As we begin our 51st summer, many changes are in store to make this a memorable experience. **Michael Soberman** will be returning as C.I.T. Advisor/Assistant Camp Director. **Jon Ross** will be Waterfront Director and **Jennifer Pink** will be his assistant. **Wendy Hyman** will be returning as Program Director while **Jamie Cohen** will act as Sports Director. **Robin Cohen, Brian Indig, and Penny Dankner** will be returning as Section Heads.

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In December we held a very successful rally in Toronto. Over one hundred attended a fun-filled afternoon. Many new prospective campers were in attendance. We are anticipating a very large camp this year.

In February, we had a very successful rally shabbaton with several macharniks from out of town. The highlight of the weekend was a sleepover at the Shul and an early morning bus ride to Camp. Many kids skated on Lake William and had a blast. There was a sleigh ride, group discussions and plenty of food. The younger kids were entertained by a juggler and all enjoyed a Camp video, containing bits and pieces of the '93 summer.

A special note of thanks to **Jon Goldberg** our Executive Director for organizing the Weekend. Also thanks to **Gali Salamon**, our A.J.C. programmer and **Michael Soberman** for their assistance. As well thank you to the Board of Directors and personnel of the Beth Israel synagogue for their hospitality.

As we begin the countdown, the summer of '94 is only four months away. It will be amazing! Make sure you'll be there to share in the fun. See you soon.

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Peace stressed in the latest pilgrimage to Israel

by Mark Rickard

Ask **Art Saffron** where home is, and his gaze looks far beyond his birthplace of Springhill.

Saffron's home is thousands of miles away, a desert like nation surrounded by hostile countries and besieged by ideological enemies around the globe. Israel is that homeland, and the Springhill businessman recently completed his third visit to the Jewish nation, as part of the Canadian Jewish Congress tour.

The latest expedition was a fact finding tour as part of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Saffron spent a week in his homeland gathering information on Israel and showing support for the Jewish nation.

"I feel it (Israel) is a homeland just like Canada is. The ties are very strong," Saffron commented.

Tour participants from across Canada toured two universities, Bar-Ilan and Haifa, two study groups that have a lot to do with the present peace activities in Israel. The group then visited two communities in Samaria, more commonly known as the West Bank. Ramala, largely an Arab and Palestinian community and the other Battal, is largely a Canadian community.

"We met with the Prime Minister, the foreign minister and the mayor of Jerusalem to discuss the latest concerns and developments."

The Congress representatives talked to military commanders and visited a tank base as part of the mission. Congress members also held a session with Canadian journalists reported on Israel and the Middle East.

"One of those reporters and us got into a hot and heavy argument," Saffron commented. "It is an ongoing battle the way Israel is represented in newspapers in Canada and especially in television. At these sessions we try to tell them what they are doing wrong and urge them to correct it. It's our job to ensure Israel gets a fair shake."

Once home, Congress trip members also "spread the gospel" about Israel to anyone who will listen. The Atlantic



Visiting UJA Project in Israel during the December 1993 CJC National Executive meeting, (L-R) Robert Engel, Toronto; Art Saffron, Springhill; David Attis, Moncton.

Jewish Council will receive reports on the trip.

Despite the current peace initiatives between Israel and Palestine, Saffron reported that anger and tension are still high amongst Israelis and Palestinians.

"The divergence of views in Israel is increasing, within both the Jewish population and the Palestinians. Certainly public opinion polls show that divergence."

Saffron said although his personal view might differ from the government's position, he does respect Israel's parliamentary decisions.

Saffron also took the opportunity to visit some of his relatives, including a cousin that raises poultry and bees in a farming community.

Back in his own community of Springhill, Saffron pauses to reflect when questioned about why all of this is so important to him.

"It has to do with my upbringing, the closeness of family. I guess it's the closeness I feel Jews everywhere, especially since the Holocaust, which to most Springhillers is just history," Saffron commented.

Although Saffron had always supported Israel, the Gulf War spurred his desire to visit the homeland.

"I was afraid there might not be an Israel to visit. Anything could happen with a nut like **Saddam Hussein**. He had biological weapons, for all anybody knew he had atomic weapons, too. So I thought I had better go while there was an Israel to visit."

With the threat of obliteration at least temporarily subsided, Saffron continues to support his homeland. Like every Jewish patriot, he wants peace, but questions the price.

"You can't argue against peace, but at what price? Israel is so small. It's half the size of Nova Scotia with four times as many people... Israel is giving up everything. The other side is giving up nothing."

Saffron feels Israel stands to lose a great deal of valuable land under the proposal, but proponents argue that the country stands much to gain in commerce and trade along with peace.

"Right now it's still just pie in the sky... But whatever the Israeli government support their decision."

Reprinted from the Springhill Record, February 2, 1994

Jewish men's club of Halifax

by David Brock

Successful kickoff of the new Jewish Men's Club of Halifax was held on January 30. This first event was, of course, the 1994 Superbowl Party. We had a turn out of twenty, and a good time was had by all. The first prize winner was **Bob Wolman** and the second was JMCOH's chairman **Leo Weniger**. Both returned their winnings to the benefit of the club.

A second event, held on March 6 was Nevada/Deli Night. As expected, since good news travels fast, there was an even larger turnout of over thirty at this event. There were many winners, but a few walked away lighter than when they came. Thanks to all those who donated their spare change to the bar's Blackjack table (proceeds went to JMCOH).

Other current acting directors of the club are: **David Brock** (Treasurer), **Sam Fried**, **Terry Israel**, **Bill Mosher**, **Al Silver**, and **Bob Wolman** (Advertising/Publishing).

The JMCOH club sponsors Jewish Social Events, programmed once every four to eight weeks. Newcomers and those from out of town are always welcome, don't be shy. All food served at the events are strictly kosher. Stay tuned for upcoming events being planned - a Bowling Night, and a bagel and lox brunch with a guest speaker. Any members of the community who are receiving JMCOH's newsletters and



(L-R) Standing: David Brock, Leo Weniger, Al Silver. Sitting: Bill Mosher, Bob Wolman

would like to, contact **Leo Weniger** at 425-3392 (leave a message).

Special thanks are in order to **Neil Franklin**, who generously provided the location for the last two events at the Lord Nelson Hotel, **Jack Yablon** for the automated telephone notification service, **Sol Viner** for the use of equipment, **Nathan Fishman** for creating the mailing list, and to **Jon Goldberg** and the AJC office.

Clara Dankner honoured at special Kiddush

by Joel Jacobson

Clara Dankner is a Sisterhood veteran of Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax, someone who is dependable, responsible and dedicated.

And the woman who has seen a couple of years more than 80 continues to give her all for the organization and the people who are her extended family.

In late October, she was honoured at a Beth Israel Sisterhood Shabbat Kiddush for her untiring efforts. Untypical of the day, however, was that Clara did not organize the Kiddush. Clara Dankner is always the one who sets up the Kiddush, making sure there is enough herring, crackers, cookies, squares and other refreshments to satisfy the hungry shul-goers. But on this day, she was the guest, was catered to and was thanked by her fellow congregants.

"Most often what Clara Dankner has done for the congregation has been taken for granted," said **Evette Bowman**, who was Sisterhood president 29 years ago and convinced Clara to join the organization. "She is not one to seek the limelight, preferring to serve the congregation's needs in her typical low-profile manner."

Mrs. Bowman called Clara "exceptional, gentle, unassuming, modest and generous."

Ms. Dankner joined the Sisterhood executive as financial secretary and has taken additional duties. For each congregational shabbat kiddush and shalos seudos, she has ensured refreshments were ready and waiting. She has been part of the faithful Sisterhood team serving at each Sunday breakfast meeting and has been in charge of table-setting for all Sisterhood functions. Whenever she has been needed in the kitchen, she has been there.

When she is thanked for her assistance and for a job well done, she always says, "My pleasure"

"Well today, Clara, it is our pleasure - the congregation's and Sisterhood's - to express our admiration and gratitude for all you have done for us," said Mrs. Bowman at the October 23 ceremony.

Current sisterhood president, **Marilyn Gergley** presented Clara with a pin to commemorate her day. She also gave a Kiddush wine goblet to the congregation in Ms. Dankner's name for use on Shabbat.

Shaar Shalom reaches 40 year milestone

by Joel Jacobson

Time flies when you're having fun.

And, despite the usual problems though which a shul goes, the congregants of Shaar Shalom must have been having fun for the past four decades because they celebrated the 40th anniversary of Halifax's conservative synagogue in November.

It certainly doesn't seem like 40 years ago that 33 families from the Baron De Hirsch Synagogue broke away from the traditional, orthodox shul on Robie Street to form the new congregation.

Yet it has been 40 years.

"There was a strong feeling among some young Turks that the religion of their forefathers needed some opening, a little fresh air," said **Lloyd Newman**, president of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax. "The Robie Street (Baron de Hirsch) Shul seemed dominated by a clique that allowed no change or modernization."

Charter member **Sophie Stern** said. "We wanted something more modern in our service."

And **Stanley Kessler**, a conservative rabbi at the orthodox Baron De Hirsch, hired to bring a dynamism to the traditional congregation, showed 33 families a different style of Judaism. His enthusiasm convinced them there was a new, more modern way to practice their religion and people rallied around him.

"Most of the desire to move away from orthodox hinged on seating," said **Earle Bowman**, a long time member of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation. "The group that wanted to move wanted mixed seating."

And thus was born a conservative congregation that saw its membership grow to 100 families within a very few years. Today, it stands at more than 200 families with more than 80 children attending an afternoon Hebrew School.

With her late husband **Louis**, Mrs Stern opened her home to the first Shaar Shalom Hebrew School and the first gift shop. "For three months, we held classes in our basement for 40 kids each week. We held some services at Dalhousie University, the Jewish hostel and even at a hotel downtown." **Noah Heinisch** (the first president), **Nathan Green** and **Robert Kanigsberg** were the driving forces behind the development of Shaar Shalom. Against strong opposition from Halifax City Council, the negotiated land for a building.

Alan Stern, a past president of Shaar Shalom, but a young teen in 1953, remembers his parents talking of the negotiations with city aldermen. "One alderman objected to the use of the Quinpool Road School grounds (the school had been closed) for our shul. And he tried to sway his peers. But a strong lobby convinced the other aldermen the site would be suitable. That one alderman was henceforth regarded as an enemy by many of our congregants. We felt it was pure anti-Semitism."

Two years after the split from the Baron De Hirsch, on October 31, 1955, Shaar Shalom opened the doors to a modern building at the corner of Oxford and Pepperell Streets in midtown Halifax, only a few blocks from where the Baron De Hirsch would complete a new building two years later, to be called the Beth Israel Synagogue of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation.

The Baron de Hirsch Synagogue on Robie Street was an old structure that its leaders knew needed replacement. "I had seen drawings dealing with improvements to the old buildings several years before," said Bowman. "We knew we needed better facilities and we talked about it. But when the Shaar planned its building, we felt we needed to build in order to survive, to hold as many members as we could."

There is still a chill in the air when some members of each shul are in the same room. Alan Stern said the coolness is more in personal relationships than in ideology.

"Many family members have not spoken to each other in 40 years since the split," he said.

"There was a strong feeling among some young Turks that the religion of their forefathers needed some opening, a little fresh air..."

Lloyd Newman

Stern recalled playing basketball for a Jewish community team prior to the split. When the team was scheduled to practice at the Beth Israel gymnasium (the Shaar Shalom did not have a recreational facility), he was told he could play there only if his father re-joined the congregation. He did not play. Yet, the Shaar

Shalom's 40th anniversary celebration was attended by an excellent representation of Beth Israel Synagogue members. Community activities receive excellent support from both shuls. There has been talk of combining the two Hebrew Schools.

The first rabbi at Shaar Shalom was **David Jacobs**. His wife, **Zipporah**, taught Hebrew School at the Stern's. "I taught her to bake," laughs Mrs. Stern.

Through the years, Shaar Shalom has survived changes in rabbis and spirited discussions about observance of customs and interpretation of law. Today, the synagogue has a part-time woman rabbi, the first female rabbi in Atlantic Canada.

It also has a heritage of the original 33 member families, many of whom are still members today. The **Irving Perlins**, **James Hammerlings**, **Peter Herschorns**, **Scotty Newmans**, and **Julius Silvermans** are but a few of those who showed the courage to stand for their belief in change and break away from the traditional to the modern.

"We are grateful to have so many of (the original members) with us today, alive and determined to see Shaar Shalom prosper," said Newman in an address to the congregation at the 40th anniversary celebrations.

"We owe it to them to make sure this building, with its ideas and developed practices, has the will and the spirit and wherewithall to thrive and to continue to survive and prosper."

Vigils for Agunot held in seven Canadian cities

By Janice Arnold

Sombre vigils were held on the evening of March 2 in seven cities across Canada to show solidarity with and draw attention to the plight of agunot - women whose husbands refuse to give them a Jewish divorce (get)

The Vigil for Agunot was organized by the Montreal-based Canadian Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get, which comprises B'nai Brith Women, Emunah-Women of Canada, Hadassah-WIZO, Na'amat Canada, Women's Canadian ORT and the Montreal and Toronto Jewish Women's Federation.

"The only way to know of this abuse of women is to expose it," said **Sheva Medjuck** in Halifax. Medjuck, a vice-president of Atlantic Jewish Council and a sociology professor at Mount St. Vincent University, organized the Halifax vigil which took place at Beth Israel Synagogue.

Medjuck was pleased with the turnout of 35 women and five men, representing a broad spectrum of the Jewish community. "Even though we are a small community, we want to help bring freedom to agunot," she said.

Devorah Grafstein, wife of Rabbi **Shlomo Grafstein** of Beth Israel, an Orthodox synagogue, presented ICAR's prayer for agunot, which was read across the country. Rabbi



Sheva Medjuck addressing Halifax Vigil on the plight of Agunot

Pamela Hoffman of Shaar Shalom Congregation (Conservative) closed the vigil with a reading.

Murray Schwartz, former co-chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress Small Communities Committee, said he attended to express support against this injustice to human rights.

Helen Israel, president of Halifax Women's ORT, said many attending were not aware of the possibility of Jewish women with civil divorces being stranded in their Jewish marriages. "I am shocked by what I heard," she said.

Files from Joel Jacobson in Halifax

Newfie news

by **Claire Frankel-Salama**,
AJC Newfoundland Representative

Dear everyone on the mainland and PEI

The Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland has undergone several changes. The **Stemmers** moved to London, Ontario, the **Hageges** went back to Paris, and the **Minsters** are now in Ottawa. However, we have been pleased to welcome **Moshe Tachan**, our new and enthusiastic teacher from Israel, and to welcome back the **Wolinetz** from their sabbatical year in Milan.

We would also like to congratulate **Ernie and Ida Mauskopf** on their son's graduation from Concordia University. **Randy** now has a B.F.A. and an M.B.A. to his credit.

The entire community was saddened by the untimely death of **Neil Tock**, son of **Doris** and the late **Aaron Tock**. We offer our condolences to his family. We are, however, happy to relate that both **Paula Toytman** and her father **Bill**, have recovered from their respective illnesses.

The cold winter months have been warmed by many events, including the visits of **Gali Salamon** and **Jon Goldberg** in November in conjunction with our U.I.A. campaign.

In December, we held a Chanukah party and dinner for about 60 people. Both latkes and other "traditional" foods such as vegetarian chile were served.

This year the weather behaved for Purim so that we were able to have the Megillah reading and reception. The following Sunday, we held our annual Purim carnival. Seventeen children played games, had kosher hot dogs, and received Purim matanot.

As in the larger Jewish communities, we are gearing up for Pesach. Again we will be distributing Passover baskets to our new members from the former U.S.S.R., courtesy of J.I.A.S. (the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society) and the AJC. **Naomi Skoll** has resumed her series of school visits to teach about the Holocaust. We are also busy planning for visit of **Larry Freeman**, president of AJC, the Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut programmes, and for the triple Bat Mitzvahs of **Miriam Noel**, **Sylvia Gross** and **Arielle Salama**. As you can see, we are keeping our teacher very busy, and we thank him for his efforts.

Finally, to all the readers of *Shalom*, our best wishes for a Kosher and happy Pesach, from your brothers and sisters on the ROCK.

Fredericton Jewish National Fund welcomes new emissary

by Warren Cohen, Fredericton J.N.F. Chairman

On the coldest day in January, as each day has been, Yehuda Vinitsky made his debut in Fredericton as the new Shaliach for the Atlantic area representing J.N.F.

Mr. Vinitsky was met by Fredericton's J.N.F. Chairman Warren Cohen and his wife, Miriam on Sunday evening, January 22, 1994. On Monday, in the midst of one of our famous or infamous snow storms, a luncheon was held in his honour where we had an excellent turnout of about sixteen people.

Mr. Vinitsky was born in Jerusalem and graduated from the Hebrew University Law School, and continued his studies at the University of Missouri, concentrating in taxation and receiving his degree in Certified Financial Planning. After representing foreign investors in Israel, Yehuda served as Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel's attorney for financial projects and bequests. He now represents J.N.F. for Montreal and the Atlantic area taking over from Col. Avner Ilai.

Mr. Vinitsky spoke to the luncheon gathering on the three main topics - the ongoing peace talks, land redemption, and most importantly, the severe need for water in Israel, which is of vital importance to the state of Israel and its continuing existence for the ongoing influx of Olim. It is J.N.F.'s job to raise funds to build reservoirs that will contain this much needed water. Mr. Vinitsky spoke with sincerity and urgency on this matter and had some very good responses to his mission.



(L-R) Rhona Levine Ruben; Warren Cohen, Fredericton J.N.F. Chairman; Miriam Cohen; Yehuda Vinitsky, Emissary for J.N.F. and Sydel Grobe.

All those present at the luncheon were most receptive to his plea and Warren Cohen thanked him for his informative talk as well as thanking all those present for coming out on such a miserable day. We are certain Mr. Vinitsky will return to our area in the spring or summer to meet with the "snow-birds" when they return from Florida. The Jewish National Fund is responsible for all and everything relating to the land in Israel and Mr. Vinitsky could not emphasize enough that this land is just as much ours as it is to each Israeli.

APJSF update

by Joanna Mirsky and Joshua Ross, Co-presidents

It's been a crazy few months on campus, with a little bit of Judaism for everyone. As the school year draws to a close, we've tried to include aspects of contemporary Judaism that would interest all of our student population.

As a response to an anti-Zionist group on campus a lunch meeting was organized to explore whether or not anti-Zionism was another form of anti-Semitism. Frank Medjuck spoke to a group of interested students and adults on this issue, and discussion was started as to the roots of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Although it is difficult and close to home topic to address, the resulting dialogue was a great release of many concerns. We are also pleased to say that no other anti-Zionist remarks has been reported on campus.

At a bagel brunch held, Pesach Woliki was invited down to speak on the roles of "Freedom, sex, the soul, and Judaism."

The discussion that came forth from that centered around the more philosophical and religious aspects of Judaism. We're glad to say that the topics for discussion were as well received as the food!

In February, a conference on Young Women and Judaism was held here in Halifax that explored many issues facing young Jewish women today. Although the conference did not get the attendance we had hoped for, those who came showed real interest in the topics and ideas were thrown around for the possibility of other events like it. The favourite activity of the weekend conference was the Rosh Chodesh service, a step back into the olden traditions with women celebrating the first Adar.

All in all, the past few months have been not only a lot of fun, but very informative for those who attended all of our functions. We hope to see everyone out for the last functions of the year, and wish you all luck on exams!!

From around the Region



(L-R) Christina MacNeil, Marie Herschorn, Angela Geoffrey, AJC staff at the AJC Office Grand Re-opening



"The Boys" at the AJC Grand Opening: (L-R) Dr. Irwin Mendleson, Andrew Wolfson and Ivan Levine.



Deal "Shpeiling Courtin" at the Jewish Men's Club Smoker, Halifax, March 1994.



"Les Girls", shown at the AJC Grand Re-opening: (L-R) Louise Wolfson, Janet Holtzman and Myra Freeman.



Newly appointed Rabbi of Halifax's Beth Israel Congregation Shlomo Grafstein conducting a Hebrew study class.



Eric Goldberg and Joshua Spatz (foreground), Areva Gali Salamon, Rabbi Pamela Hoffman of the Shaar Shalom Congregation shown here with ASN producer, after appearing on ASN's Hannukkah Special



Mr. Eli Rubenstein, National Co-ordinator UIA March of the Living, presenting Mrs. Barbara Gaum, March's Atlantic Regional Chairperson 1994, with a commemorative book.



Part of the March of the Living delegation in a preparatory session held in Halifax in February, 1994



Matza - Young People's Model Seder, Halifax, March 1994. (J. Bayers Photo)



Shown here in Israel, presenting a Torah donated from the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax on behalf of the Yarmouth Shul during the Hadassah WIZO 25th Anniversary Tour: (L-R) Miriam Goldberg, Rabbi from Synagogue who accepted Torah, Sheila and Paul Zive and the grand daughter of the founder of the Yarmouth Synagogue.



Model Seder held in Prince Edward Island, March 1994.



Clive Pickles, president of PEI Jewish Community leads a naming ceremony for the Zelman family. March 1994.

Commemorating 75 years of Canadian Hadassah WIZO

by Leona Freeman,
Council President, Halifax Hadassah - WIZO

It was a privilege to have been a participant in our 34th national convention held in Israel November 21st - December 1st 1993.

We had delegates from across the country. Many came with their husbands, who were most impressed with how smoothly the convention ran and how organized it was from beginning to end.

We traveled in twelve buses with twelve wonderful tour guides and twelve very special bus mothers under the direction of National Vice-president **Carole Polyer**. Our bus mother was **Myrna Yazer** who was always smiling and had something to eat for us in every pocket.

Our bus traveling companions were from Kingston, Sudbury, Moncton, Saint John, Fredercton, and Sydney, and all our Halifax delegation.

The convention had many hi-lites and I know our Maritime centres have had reports from their delegates.

The convention gave us an opportunity to see our projects and feel a deep sense of satisfaction for our part in their being.

Hats off to **Ilse Sectner** and **Myrtle Coopersmith** convention chairpersons for doing such an outstanding job!

What a way to celebrate 75 years of Canadian Hadassah - WIZO! It was an unforgettable experience and one to treasure always.

As we turn back on the next 75 years may our commitment be constant and may peace come to the land of Israel and all the people therein.

Our local Halifax convention delegates and spouses were: **Paul & Sheila Zive, Leona Freeman, Miriam Goldberg, Myrna Yazer, Shirley Medjuck, Kathy & Arthur Zilbert, Betty Astroff, Lil Aronson, Shoshana Katz, and Etta Lipkus.**



(L-R) Shirley Medjuck, Fannie Rosenbloom, Kaye Levine, Leona Freeman, Arthur Zilbert and Kathy Zilbert.



Reverend and Mrs. Leland at hofim with our Ethiopian students

Celebration of communal bat mitzvah

When **Moses** came down from Mount Sinai he gave the Torah to all the Jewish souls -adult, child, male and female. "Women everywhere have begun to take claim to this gift. One manifestation has been the proliferation of adult bat mitzvahs."

As the Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada celebrates its 75th Anniversary in Israel this year, 45 members of the Organization, ranging in age from 30 to 75, and with varying levels of ability, will participate in a communal bat mitzvah."

Gathering at Mount Scopus on Monday, 15 Kislev, 5754, at 8:30 am, together they will conduct Shacharit services in Hebrew and English, lead the congregation in prayer and song, and do it all with knowledge and understanding. Participants will read from the Torah which Yarmouth and Halifax Jewish communities have brought to Israel from Canada.

Participation as a "Bat Mitzvah" was offered to those women who completed a subscribed course of study to generally become knowledgeable with the order of the Torah service; songs and melodies; the weekly portion, *Parshat Vayeshev* in the book of Genesis; and the role of Jerusalem in prayer and history.

It has been said that there is a virtual explosion of women's learning in both the modern and ultra - orthodox communities alike, and we, of Canadian Hadassah - WIZO, are a part of the explosion. The beautiful sight and sound of women, who came from Newfoundland to British Columbia, to pray together on a bright Jerusalem morning, should be quite uplifting!

Hopefully we shall all return home renewed by this shared experience, and our very special time in Israel.

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According to **Abe Engel**, Executive Director for Ottawa and the Atlantic Region, all 4% Saving Bonds are eligible for advance reinvestment and any Bonds purchased prior to 1979 are eligible for either reinvestment or redemption.

Israel Bonds, which were recently deemed eligible for Self-Directed RRSPs, had a record year in Canada with 1993 sales exceeding \$100 Million U.S. One hundred percent of Bond proceeds go directly towards financing training and employment creation programs aimed primarily at Israel's half million new immigrants.

Further information on advance reinvestment or any other Bonds related matter can be obtained from Israel Bonds at (613) 789 - 7139.

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Schindler's story and the duty to know it

by Joel Jacobson

At 8:15 LAST THURSDAY evening, I was filled with anxiety as I stood in line waiting to see the Atlantic Canada advance screening of *Schindler's List*.

I had read reams about it, I knew it was more than three hours long, knew it was photographed in black and white, knew Steven Spielberg's motive for making the film was to ensure the memory of six million Jews, killed in the Holocaust, would not be forgotten.

I knew there would be graphic scenes of Jewish people being taken from their homes in Poland, where the story of Oskar Schindler and his willingness to risk his fortune and his life to save 1,000 Jews took place.

I knew that the Nazis responsible for the Holocaust would strip the Jews of their belongings, their dignity and, in six million cases throughout Europe, their lives.

I was sure I would be in knots as the movie threaded its way through the gruesome events of World War II

I was wrong.

It was a motion picture that was altogether captivating, powerful, passionate, frightening, and even uplifting because of the wonderful action of Schindler, a Roman Catholic, a capitalist, an opportunist who eventually made such sacrifices to save from annihilation many people he hardly knew.

More than 400 people attended the preview showing mostly from Halifax's Jewish community.

Many had relatives who died in the Holocaust and they would feel the impact of this picture more strongly than anyone else.

Others realized what had happened in the Soviet Union since World War II when pogroms in Jewish communities were the norm and praying and studying in the Jewish religion were forbidden.

Still more knew what is happening today as Neo-Nazis fostered racism once again in Germany. And yet more know of the Malcom Rosses and Ernst Zundels and James Keegstras who preach Holocaust denial.

It was with all these thoughts that I sat in the darkened theater watching the images flicker on the screen.

I shuddered as I saw what happened to my forefathers. I screamed inside as I saw German bullets rip the breath from helpless people.

Yet I continued to watch, knowing that I had to learn more to tell the story of the Holocaust, again and again, so people will not forget the Rosses, Zundels and Keegstras, will be opposed when they spread their venom.

I watched knowing that part of my ticket price would assist Atlantic Canadian Jewish youngsters who, in April will travel to Poland and Israel on the fourth biennial March of the Living.

With thousands of teenagers between 15 and 18, they will trace the steps of those incarcerated in concentration camps during the Second World War.

Like the first three, the march will have a tremendous impact on these young people from all over the world.

Eli Rubenstein of Toronto, Canadian director of the 1990 march has compiled *"For You Who Died I Must Live On, Reflections on the March of the Living,"* a collection of poetry, art and essays from many who traveled in 1990 and 1992.

Miriam Naylor of North Wiltshire, Prince Edward Island wrote,

"Flowers grow here, pretty and happy

They don't know what they are hiding underneath

Where it is dark and quiet, lonely,"

And Halifax's Alia Offman penned,

"Some say you never suffered or died I disagree

I have seen the remains of your resting place: I agree

Because forever you live inside of me."

Impressionable young people will never forget

Hopefully, Mr. Spielberg's *Schindler's List* which has, and will, win technical and acting awards, will ensure the perpetuation of the story.

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Schindler's grave in Jerusalem not on tourists' list

by Gil Kezwer

While director/producer Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List* seemed destined to sweep the Academy Awards on March 21, Jerusalem - the city where Oskar Schindler (1908-1974) lies buried - remains untouched by media hype. Spielberg's 185 - minute b&w movie only began to be screened in Israeli cinemas March 3, and the Holocaust hero's grave remains off the tourist list.

Visitors are rare, reports Sulaiman Abu Zayad, the custodian of the Latin cemetery on Mount Zion. In fact, the last time any one came to Schindler's gravesite was over a year ago when Spielberg brought 128 aged survivors of Schindler's list - not actors but the actual people - to file by their German saviour's tombstone as the epilogue to an already epic movie.

As is simply illustrated in both Spielberg's film and Australian novelist Thomas Keneally's 1982 bestseller of the same name on which it is based, Schindler was a war profiteer and a member of the Nazi Party. A shameless womanizer, gambler and drinker, and one of the Catholic Church's least observant sons, the unlikely humanitarian was given special dispensation by the Franciscan parish priest of Jerusalem to be buried in the hallowed soil of the Holy City.

Abu Zayad, an illiterate *fellahin* (Palestinian peasant) from the village of al-Azariyya, where Jesus resurrect Lazarus from among the dead, has been keeping his lonely vigil on Mount Zion for 35 years. He clearly remembers digging Schindler's grave two decades ago and burying him, he says.

In keeping with an ancient Jewish custom, a handful of rocks have been placed atop the simple horizontal monument. It is inscribed in Hebrew "Hassid unot ha-olam" (a Righteous Gentile) and in German, "Der unvergessliche Lebenretter 1,200 verfolgter Juden" (The unforgettable saviour of 1,200 persecuted Jews). The word saviour has been misspelled.



The cemetery is an United Nations of the dead with grave markers in a dozen languages including English, French, German and Arabic. It is perched above the Valley of Hinnom, called Gehenna in the New Testament. The biblical hell, infants were sacrificed there three thousand years ago to the pagan deity Moloch. They were thrown live into the fire in the Canaanite idol's belly as an atonement, or perhaps an appeasement. According to Arab folklore, one can still hear the victims' screams in the quiet of the night.

Across Jerusalem on a ridge on the western edge of the city stands Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust shrine, which painstakingly records the

history of a modern-day Moloch whose crematoria were stoked half a century ago with the corpses of gassed Jews. Schindler has a place of honour there too, on the tree-lined Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles. His is one of 9,000 meticulously documented cases of people who risked life and limb during World War II to save their Jewish compatriots.

How is it, I ask Abu Zayad, that a Muslim is in charge of a Catholic cemetery where a man is buried who saved Jews? "*Nihna kulna bani Allah*" (We are all the children of God), comes the reply.

Gil Kezwer lives in Toronto and writes widely about Jewish and Catholic issues.

Israel's water crisis – the JNF's role

by Rachel Barzilai

"For in the wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert; and the parched land shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water..." (Isaiah 35:6)

In the 1950's, after the establishment of the State of Israel, the Middle East's water crisis was serious enough to lead the Americans to broker a water agreement between Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Despite the fact that these four countries were then in a state of war, the crisis was too critical to be ignored. The agreement that was reached -- which addressed the division and allocation of existing water resources -- was accepted in principle by Israel. In accordance with this agreement Israel began the construction of a water supply network from the Kinneret to the Negev known as the National Water Carrier (NWC). This supplied water for a country with a relatively small population.

Today Israel has responsibility over a larger territory than when the NWC was created (in pre-1967 border area), and her population as well as the Palestinian population has swelled beyond most predictions. With a combined population of over 7 million, and far greater agricultural exploitation than foreseen previously, there simply is not enough water currently harnessed for civilian, industrial and agricultural use. In addition, it is predicted that the combined population is likely to exceed 10 million in a few years and may well surpass 20 million within the first two decades of the 21st century.

The Jewish National Fund (JNF), mandated from its earliest days to restore land and maximize availability of natural resources while maintaining a harmonized environmental balance, is at the forefront of water resource conservation and development in Israel.

In the last ten years the JNF has been expanding considerable energy and resources to address the water crisis. JNF has been working in various regions of the country and finding different solutions, from recycling waste water in the coastal region to construction of a reservoir network to harness run-off rain and flood waters in other areas.

Of special interest is the planned Beit Shean Valley water system, which will provide sufficient water for the communities in this region to maintain human, agricultural and industrial needs on one hand and those of the flora and fauna of the region on the other hand.

The reservoir at Kibbutz Reshafim is the largest of the twenty-one reservoirs being planned for the Beit Shean water system. The reservoir fulfills important objectives:

1. Water retainment and storage for use during the ten rainless months of the year.
2. Irrigation of some 2,000 dunams (500 acres) of agricultural fields (cotton, corn, olive trees, etc.)
3. Commercial fish breeding pond for economical advantages.
4. Provision of sufficient water for the community thus removing it from reliance on the Lake Kinneret's waters.

JNF's goal is to raise between \$2,500,000 - 3,000,000 for the Reshafim Reservoir and your generous support is needed to make this precious resource available to Israel's expanding population.

Yehuda Vinitsky, the JNF Shaliach to Eastern Canada, will be glad to give information about the subject and to share with you the various means through which you can participate in solving the critical water problem of Israel. Please contact him at the Montreal JNF office (514)934-0313 or through Mrs. Rachel Barzilai at the AJC office (902)422-7491.



Baseball's Jewish accent

In winter, baseball fans suffering withdrawal pangs seek solace in novels inspired by the game. Oddly, most of their favorite authors are Jewish.

Besides their love of baseball, many of the finest writers about the sport have something else in common. Enough of them to field their own team are Jewish: **Philip Roth**, **Bernard Malamud**, **Chaim Potok**, **Mordecai Richler**, **Roger Kahn**, **Eliot Asinof**, **Eric R. Greenbag**, **Mark Harris** and **Joseph Heller**. Many more have covered the sport as newspaper reporters.

It was, and is, a somewhat odd fixation - baseball was nurtured in American cornfields, a world away from the *shtetls* of Eastern Europe. Less than 1% of Major League baseball players have been Jewish. Of these, few have played more than a dozen Major League games, and only two - **Hank Greenberg** and **Sandy Koufax** - have been enshrined in baseball's Hall of Fame.

Yet earlier this century, New York's newspaper fed their burgeoning Jewish readership lots of inside gossip about up - and - coming Jewish players. Because the scrutiny was so intense, each player had to be a cultural standard bearer. **Moses Solomon**, a minor league hitter of home runs for Hutchinson, Kansas, in the 1920s, but a short - lived major leaguer, was hailed as the Rabbi of Swat. A 1960s slugger, **Mike Epstein**, was lionised as SuperJew.

Such was the milieu that helped shape the generation of writers that was held sway since the 1950s. Though you do not have to be Jewish to write about baseball (**Roger Angell** and **W. P. Kinsella** are not), Jewish writers have been so prolific that they have added enormously to the enjoyment of literate fans of the sport. In seeking to explain the Jewish affinity for baseball, some Jewish intellectuals point to an entire generation's attempts to grapple with American culture. The Jewish immigrants who settled in North America early this century bore children who found themselves caught between old - world traditions and new. Tugged by a vibrant culture, most children of immi-

grants chose to assimilate.

What better way to "become American" than spend summer afternoons on the diamond or, more likely for those growing up in urban New York, on the sandlot? It was an easy and enjoyable way for boys to flaunt their American - ness, and irritate their tradition - minded parents in the process. So powerful was this attraction that **Peter Bjarkman**, a baseball historian, has termed baseball "the ultimate *shiksa*" - a Yiddish term for the blonde, Christian girl who is supposed to be so tempting to young Jewish men.

Bernard Malamud, who attended games at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field from an early age, wove his mythical novel *The Natural* around a farm-boy ballplayer (a role later played on screen by **Robert Redford**). **Eric R. Greenberg's** *The Celebrant* explores the kinship between **Christy Mathewson**, a star pitcher in the 1910s and **Jackie Kapp**, a fictional Jewish jeweler who supplies rings to Mathewson's New York Giants. In the novel, as in life, Mathewson is heroic, educated, clean-cut and gentile; he provides the fan with emotional sustenance, yet the relationship is ennobling. "Through the tragedies endured by Mathewson, Kapp, who faced his own misfortunes, learns how to suffer with dignity, which is central to the Jewish experience," says **William Simons**, a baseball historian.

Chaim Potok's celebrated opening scene in *The Chosen* uses a baseball game between assimilated Jews and black - hatted Hasidim as a way to introduce the chasm between the two communities. And **Joseph Heller** commented that his closing scene in the novel *Good as Gold* - a man unable to read the Hebrew lettering on his mother's tombstone passes a baseball game between Jewish kids on the way home - was "as vivid an anecdote of assimilation as I could find".

Alongside the theme of assimilation is that of insecurity. It is commonly thought that the Wandering Mundys, a baseball team in Philip Roth's *The Great American Novel*, represents the

rootless Jewish diaspora. (Asked why he also used baseball as a motif in *Portnoy's Complaint* and "Goodbye Columbus", Mr. Roth quipped: "Because whaling has already been used.")

Similarly, **Mordecai Richler**, growing up in Montreal, followed obscure Jewish ballplayers because they were archetypal Jewish anti-heroes. One, **Ziggy "The Fireball" Freed**, was shipped out to a class D team in Texas and lasted one season. Another, **Kermit Kitman**, played in Montreal. In his memoirs, *The Street*, Mr. Richler admitted: "It used to give us a charge to watch that crafty little Jew, one of ours, running around, out there with all those tall dumb Southern crackers."

Old-fashioned Jewish progressivism also emerges through baseball novels. **Eliot Asinof** used the Black Sox scandal - in which gangsters bribed Chicago White Sox players to throw the 1919 World Series - as the basis of his novel *Eight Men Out*. The book argues that the eight players were oppressed when they were banned from baseball for life. More recently, the unhappy, forsaken heroine of **Sylvia Tennenbaum's** feminist novel *Rachel, the Rabbi's Wife* found solace in her lifelong love of baseball. In one scene, she begins to understand the pieces of her life at a Mets game. It seems that most of these writers have, indeed, seen baseball as a rite of passage - and sometimes as a bond between the generations. This is especially true of

Roger Kahn, who faced no assimilation crisis (his family came to America in 1848). Mr. Kahn says that going to baseball games with his father, an ex-player, gave them a chance to talk about something that provided a vital emotional link between them during the horrors of the second world war.

As a writer, Mr. Kahn says he found that baseball chatter, among both players and fans, provided a wealth of stories to mine. His *The Boys of Summer* follows the triumphs and tragedies of the 1950s Brooklyn Dodgers, both on the field and after their baseball careers were over. Unlike most of the others, it is a factual book, not a novel. Yet it passes a severe test of fiction: it leaves its readers wiser.

Reprint, *The Economist*, January 1994

Canada's national youth program to Israel

Four major national Jewish organizations in Canada are combining forces to run an Israel summer program for Canadian Jewish Youth.

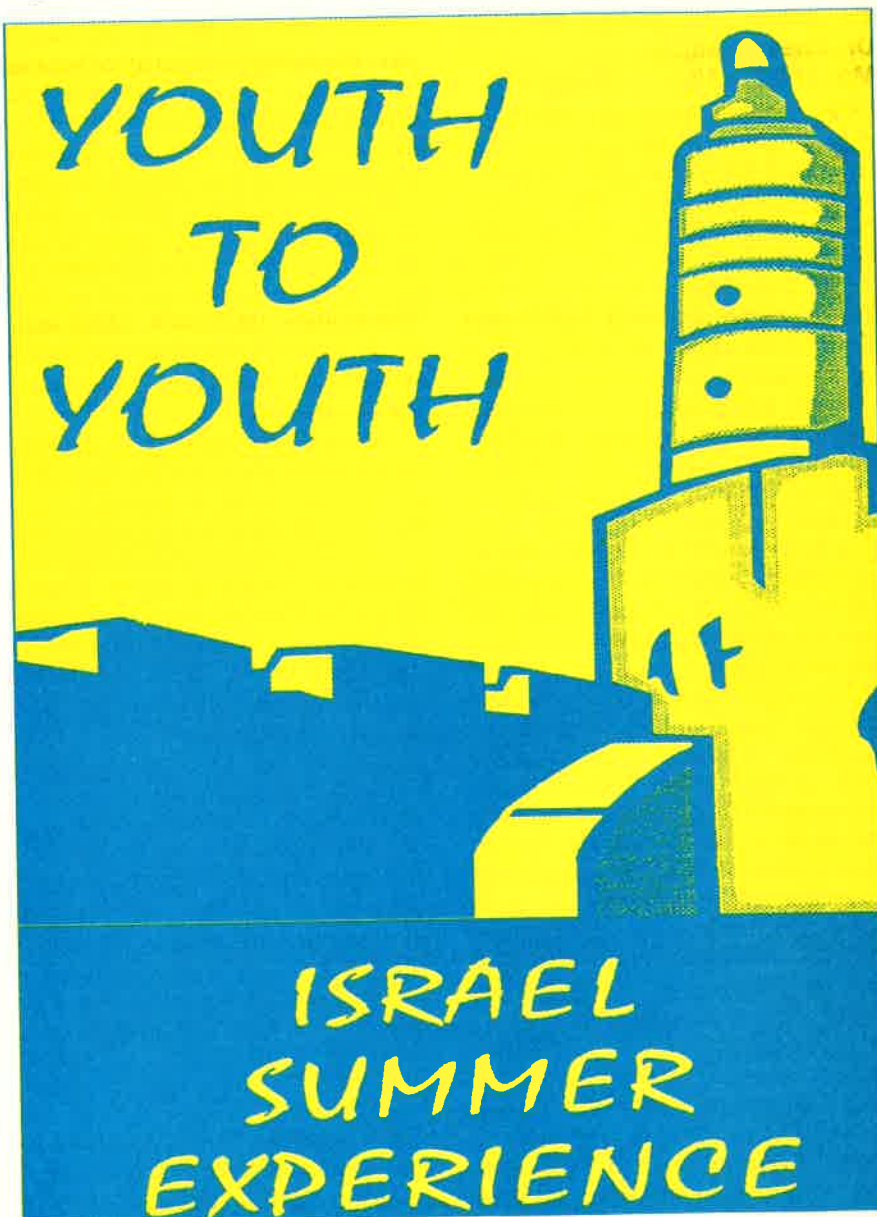
"Youth to Youth - Israel Summer Experience" (ISE) is open to all Canadian high school students who are seeking a different, more intense and first hand encounter with Israel.

A unique feature of ISE is the MIFGASHIM program. (Mifgashim is a Hebrew term meaning encounter). During MIFGASHIM participants will have the opportunity to build long lasting relationships through a week-long retreat where Canadian and Israeli teens will celebrate their shared backgrounds and diverse cultures. Other highlights of ISE include Shabbat and volunteer work in a Project Renewal community and a hands on environmental activity with the Society for The Protection of Nature in Israel. In addition to all of the above, participants will tour the length and breadth of the land of Israel on an exciting all encompassing itinerary.

"An Israel experience, with all the deep emotional and intellectual impact it has at this impressionable age, goes a long way to strengthening a teenager's Jewish identity", noted **Elizabeth Sokolsky**, National Director of BBYO Canada. "It is a wonderful way to expose our youth to an experience which is positive, exciting, culturally enriching and profoundly Jewish."

"Not only did I experience the thrill of touring around Israel, but I also had the chance to meet new friends, both Canadian and Israeli," remarked **Daniel Perlin** 16, of Burlington, Ontario a previous ISE participant. I now have a whole new family from all across Canada," added **Daniella Abramson**, 17, of Vancouver, BC.

Eli Rubenstein, Director of Young Leadership Development for United Israel Appeal of Canada explains: "Anytime you send a teen to Israel you can look forward to a wonderful experience. What makes this program so special however, is the unbelievably close connections and relationships the Canadian teens form with their fellow teens.



It is not an exaggeration to say that many of these friendships will last a lifetime."

ISE is jointly sponsored by BBYO Canada, United Israel Appeal of Canada, The Canadian Council of Jewish Community Centres and the Canadian Zionist Federation. The co-operation of Canada's national organizations in this program is part of a trend that sees major national Jewish bodies working together to promote Israel travel. The

initiative was sparked by the CRB Foundation which is launching a national drive to bring more teens to Israel.

ISE is set to run from July 10 - August 8, 1994. The cost is \$3,850 from all points in Canada and some scholarships are available for applicants in genuine financial need. For further information and/or ISE application forms please contact **Jon Goldberg** at the **Atlantic Jewish Council** at (902) 422-7491.

A SURVEY OF JEWISH SENIORS OF ATLANTIC CANADA

This survey was prepared by
Dr. Sheva Medjuck,
Mount Saint Vincent University
for the Atlantic Jewish Council

Executive Summary

In the fall of 1993, a survey was undertaken on the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada sixty years of age or over. In total 159 individuals responded to this survey. The respondents represent a cross-section of Jewish seniors in terms of sex, age, region, and marital status. By in large most respondents claim to be in relatively good health.

The vast majority of respondents live in their own home or apartment (either owned or rented). One-third of our sample lives alone, while another 54 percent live with their spouse only. This suggests that the majority of respondents are able to live reasonably independently.

Services which were deemed important by respondents as indicated by their use were the synagogue and the Rabbi. Kosher food was used by a large minority of the sample (slightly less than 40 percent). Social and cultural programmes seemed under utilized to a large extent. Only slightly more than one-fifth use a Jewish Senior's Club (only one-third in communities where it is available). Where Senior's programming exists, less than 20 percent use this programming. However, since almost two thirds do use general Jewish programming, one might speculate that this under utilization of Senior's programmes might relate directly to the programmes themselves rather than the interest of the seniors.

Analyzing the responses to services not now available in the Atlantic communities, we were able to

clearly identify services which the overwhelmingly majority of seniors both saw as important and would use. These included an information centre on seniors issues, visits by Jewish people, and a Jewish drop-in centre. Less salient services include kosher style meals on wheels, assistance with financial planning, and kosher meals on wheels. There does seem to be a potential market for an independent apartment complex for Jewish seniors as almost 50 percent of respondents said they would utilize such a complex all or some of the time. Home care would be utilized less frequently by respondents.

Finally, the need for a Jewish nursing home in this region was explored. Again the vast majority of respondents would consider it very or somewhat important that a nursing home they would enter be a Jewish home. Few, however, were willing to relocate for this purpose.

Aging in Canada is one of the most important demographic changes in our society, and yet little attention is being paid to the social and economic consequences of demographic aging. It is estimated that by the year 2021 there will be as many people over the age of 65 as under 14 years of age. While no one would dispute that it is important to continue to provide Jewish programming and services to Jewish youth, it may be time to focus some of our energies to this rapidly growing elderly portion of our population. The Jewish community seems to be lagging behind in terms of its planning for an older population. This problem is especially important in smaller Jewish communities, many of which have seen an out migration of younger people, causing an even greater inflation in the

top end of the age profile.

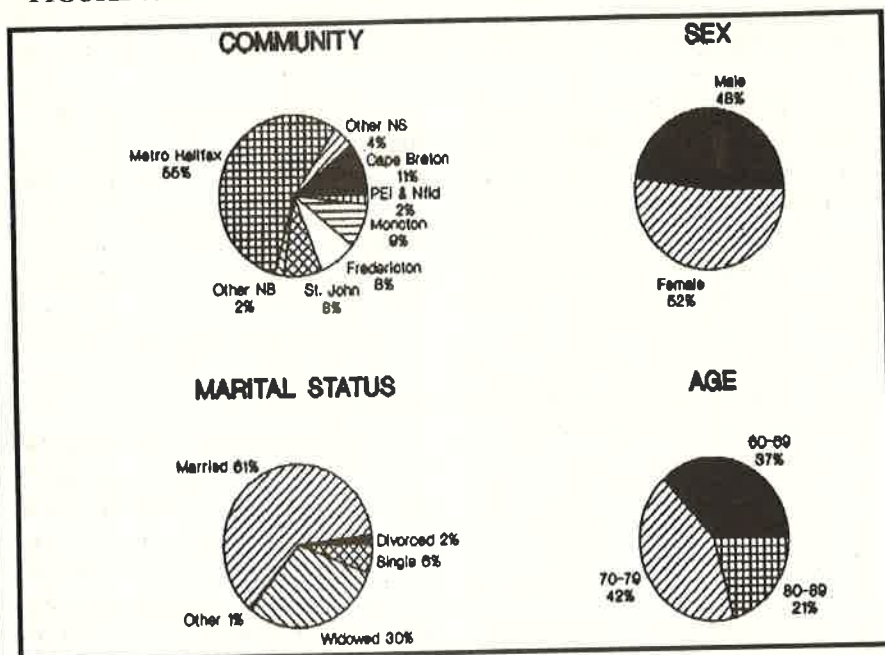
In light of these changes, this survey was undertaken on behalf of the Atlantic Jewish Council to provide a preliminary basis for addressing the current and potential needs of this segment of the population. In the fall of 1993, a questionnaire was sent to every address on Atlantic Jewish Council's mailing list asking any senior (60 and over) to please complete a small survey and return it to AJC's offices. If the senior was unable to complete the survey him/herself, then another family member was asked to assist the senior in its completion. All respondents were guaranteed anonymity.

Socio-demographic Profile

In total 159 persons responded representing all four Atlantic Provinces. While 56 percent of our respondents live in the greater Halifax metro region, other regions are also very well represented by this sample. In Nova Scotia, another 11 percent of our respondents live in Cape Breton (including Antigonish), and 4 percent live in the South Shore and Valley Region of Nova Scotia. Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton represent 8 percent, 8 percent, and 8 percent of the population respectively, while another 2 percent come from the smaller communities of New Brunswick (Figure 1).

The respondents also represented a good cross section of the elderly population in terms of sex, marital status, and age distributions. Briefly, 48 percent of the respondents were male, 52 percent were female (see graph). In terms of marital status, 61 percent were married, 30 percent were widowed, 6

FIGURE 1: PROFILE OF JEWISH SENIORS IN ATLANTIC CANADA



percent were single, while another 3 percent were either divorced or other. Thus, almost 40 percent of our respondents were without spouses. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of widowed persons are women. Almost 80 percent of widowed persons in this sample are female (Figure 1).

Among the population of respondents 60 years of age and over, our respondents represent the entire spectrum of age ranges. Approximately 37 percent of our respondents were 60-69 years of age, 42 percent were ages 70-79, and a further 21 percent were 80 years of age and over. The age distribution of the senior population did not differ significantly from community to community (Figure 1).

In terms of the health status of respondents, over two-thirds stated that they were in excellent or good health, while only one-third were in fair or poor health. The younger the respondent, the more likely s/he had excellent or good health. Thus, for example, almost 80 percent of those in their 60s had excellent or good health compared to only 46 percent

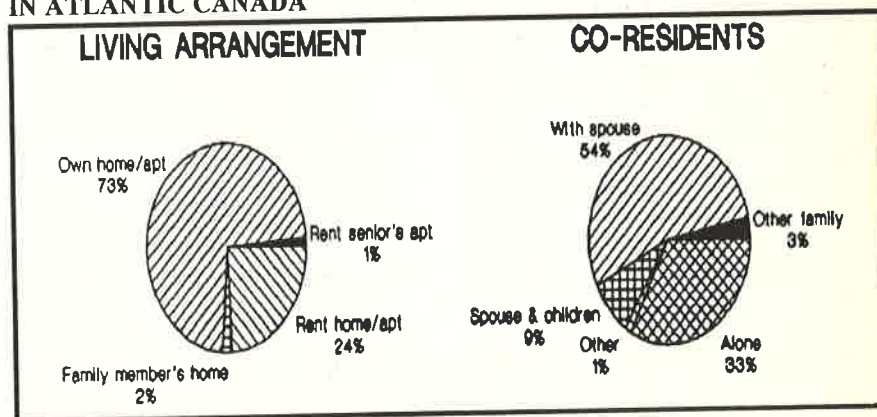
of those in their eighties. Nevertheless, the overall profile of respondents is one of reasonably good health.

In summary, the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample are relatively diverse in terms of gender, marital status and age. The respondents are generally geographically representative of the region as well as being in relatively good health. These data appear to reasonably represent a range of respondents in the region.

Current Living Arrangements of Atlantic Canada's Older Population

Among our respondents the vast majority are home or apartment owners. Almost 73 percent of the respondents owned either their own home or apartment. Most of the remainder (24 percent) were home or apartment renters. Only 3 percent live in the home of someone else, or in some form of senior citizens' housing. Consistent with the large number of not married respondents (largely through widowhood) is the significant numbers of respondents who live alone. Almost one-third of respondents live alone. The majority live together with their spouse only (54 percent). Older respondents are more likely to live alone than younger respondents. For example, only 13 percent of respondents in their 60s live alone, as compared to over 63 percent of those in their 80s. Thus, most seniors in this region live with only their spouse (and no other family members) or by themselves. (In total, 87 percent of the respondents lived in these circumstances.) This suggests that the vast majority of our respondents are independent, able to maintain their own home or apartment, and able to live either by themselves or with

FIGURE 2: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF JEWISH SENIORS IN ATLANTIC CANADA



only their spouse (who in most circumstances would also be older) (Figure 2).

Use of Available Jewish Services

The synagogue is clearly an important services to the older Jews in Atlantic Canada. Almost 87 percent reported that they use the synagogue in their community, while less than 10 percent responded that they do not use the synagogue (Table 1). A further 3 percent note that a synagogue is not available in their community (Table 2). This latter finding is particularly curious, in that approximately 7 percent of our respondents come from communities outside a fifty mile radius of a synagogue. This suggests that even for those at some distance from a synagogue they still use synagogue services.

An analysis of the use of Rabbi's services was confounded by the fact that at the time of the survey only three communities had Rabbis and only two of these Rabbis were full-time. Thus a significant number of our respondents would not have a Rabbi available to them. Of those who responded that there was a Rabbi available (about 62 percent said there was a Rabbi available to them), 71 percent use the services of a Rabbi. (Table 1) Of those who claimed there was no Rabbi available, 73 percent of them claimed that they would use a Rabbi if one were available to them (Table 2). The vast majority of our respondents either use, or would use if one were available, the services of a Rabbi. Thus, while not as common as the use of a synagogue, the use (and potential use) of the services of a Rabbi is still quite important. A significantly large number of older Jews in the region use kosher food. Over 38 percent of respondents said that they used kosher food (Table 1).

Another 17 percent claimed such food was unavailable to them in their community. Of those who answered that kosher food was unavailable, almost two-thirds said they would use it if it were available in their community (Table 2). As almost 40 percent of respondents use kosher food, irrespective of availability, this seems to be an important services to a significant number of Jews (albeit the minority of older Jews).

In terms of social and cultural activities for older Jews, only 21 percent of respondents use the services of a Jewish Senior's Club. Even eliminating those who claim it is unavailable to them, still less than of a third of respondents who have a Jewish Senior's Club available use this Club (Table 1). Curiously, when those who claimed that this service was not available in their community were asked if they would use such a service if it were made available, over two-thirds claimed that they would (Table 2). Thus of those who have these services, less than one-third make use of the service, but fully two-thirds of our participants without the services state they would, indeed, utilize such a service.

With respect to Senior's programming, a significant minority claim that there is no such programming in their community. Almost 40 percent claim that no such pro-

grammes are available, while over 70 percent claim they would use such programmes if available. Of those respondents who say Jewish Senior's programming is available, less than 20 percent use this programming. Here we encounter a similar discrepancy as we did with the data on a Jewish Senior's Club. Those who have the service available are less likely to use it, while those who do not have it respond overwhelmingly that they would like to use such a service if it were available (Table 1).

This discrepancy might in part be explained by the difficulty in separately Senior's Programming from general Jewish programming. Thus when we asked respondents whether they use general Jewish programming in their communities, we find that only 28 percent respond negatively to this question, while another 25 percent claim it is not available. In other words, of those who say general Jewish programming is available, 63 percent use this service. Of those who claim no such programming exists, over 84 percent state they would use such programming, if available. Since 63 percent use general programming where available, but only 20 percent use Senior's programming, it might be reasonable to assume that this reflects problems in the quality, suitability, or availability of Senior's Programmes rather than disinterest

TABLE 1: CURRENT USE OF SERVICES BY JEWISH SENIORS WHEN AVAILABLE

	Yes	No
Synagogue	89.7%	10.3%
Rabbi.....	71.4%	28.6%
Kosher Food	45.9%	54.1%
Jewish Senior's Club	32.1%	67.9%
Jewish Seniors Program	19.4%	80.6%
General Jewish Program	63.0%	37.0%

in Jewish programming by seniors.

Importance and Use of Services to Jewish Seniors

We asked respondents to indicate both how important they felt it to be for various Jewish services for Seniors be available in their community, and also how often they themselves would use such a service if available. As to be expected there are some discrepancies between the importance ascribed to a service and the respondents own potential use of such a service. Nevertheless, we can see clear patterns in the ranking of these services.

An Information Centre on seniors issues was regarded as both important as well as likely to be used by

TABLE 2: USE OF SERVICES BY JEWISH SENIORS IF MADE AVAILABLE

	Yes	No or DK
Synagogue	50.0%	50.0%
Rabbi	73.1%	26.9%
Kosher Food	65.2%	34.8%
Jewish Senior's Club	66.7%	33.3%
Jewish Seniors Program	71.8%	28.2%
General Jewish Program	84.4%	15.6%

respondents. Over 80 percent felt that this service was a very important or somewhat important service, and almost three quarters of respondents indicated that they would use such a service if available to them

(Table 3). A Jewish seniors drop-in centre was indicated as very or somewhat important by almost three-quarters of respondents and similarly almost three-quarters of respondents claimed that they

TABLE 3: USE AND IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH SERVICES TO JEWISH SENIORS

	IMPORTANCE			USE		
	very imp	some what	not imp	all the time	some time	never
Kosher Meals						
On Wheels	25.4%	35.5%	39.1%	10.8%	34.6%	54.6%
Kosher Style						
Meals on Wheels	13.9%	36.1%	50.0%	8.2%	33.6%	58.2%
Home Care by a						
Jewish Organization.	39.6%	30.2%	30.2%	16.3%	40.3%	43.4%
Regular Visits by						
Jewish People	44.9%	28.7%	26.5%	20.2%	36.4%	43.4%
Drop-In Centre	34.8%	39.0%	26.2%	23.6	49.2%	26.9%
Independent Apt.						
Complex for Seniors.	41.4%	22.9%	35.7%	25.8%	23.4%	50.8%
Information Centre						
on Seniors Issues	44.4%	35.6%	20.0%	27.6%	45.7%	26.8%
Assistance with						
Financial Planning	16.4%	35.8%	47.8%	10.2	26.6	63.3

would use such a service all or some of the time. Visits by Jewish people was also seen as very or somewhat important by almost three-quarters of the sample and over 56 percent stated they would use such a service, if available. Home-care provided by a Jewish organization was considered very or somewhat important by approximately 70 percent of respondents, while 56 percent would use the service if available in their community (Table 3).

Those services deemed less important both in terms of their importance and in terms of their potential use were assistance with financial planning, kosher style meals on wheels, and kosher meals on wheels. Almost half of the respondents said that financial planning was not at all important, and over 60 percent said they would not use such a service. Kosher style meals on wheels is also seen as less important

than other services. Almost 50 percent felt that it was not at all important, and almost 60 percent claimed they would not use such a service. Kosher meals on wheels (as opposed to Kosher style), was deemed unimportant by 40 percent of the sample, and would never be used by almost 55 percent of the sample (Table 3).

Finally, with respect to an independent apartment complex for Jewish seniors, almost 65 percent of seniors felt that this was somewhat or very important, and almost half felt that they would use such a complex all or some of the time (Table 3).

In summary, in terms of services, it would seem that services such as an information centre, visits by Jewish people, and a Jewish drop-in centre are seen as important and would be utilized to a great extent by Jewish seniors. An independent

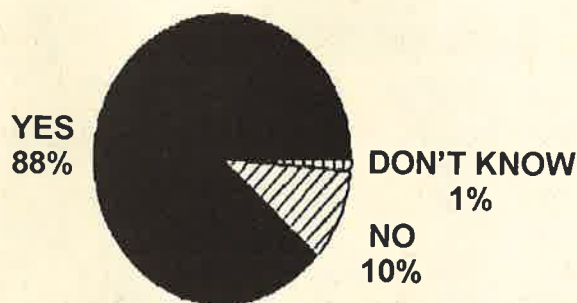
apartment complex for Jewish seniors would be utilized by over one quarter of the population all the time, and almost another one-quarter some of the time. Home care by a Jewish organization would be used all of the time only by 16 percent of the population and some of the time by a further 40 percent. Services such as financial planning, and kosher style meals on wheels are seen by the respondents as less important and would be used less often. Kosher meals on wheels, if they were available, would only be used by approximately 45 percent of the population (and by slightly more than 10 percent all of the time.)

Nursing Home Care

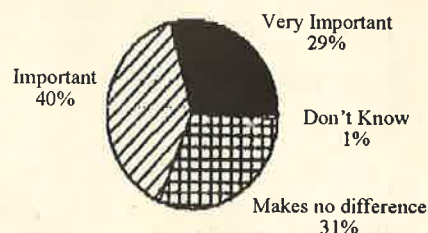
The final questions in this survey concern the issue of nursing home care. We asked respondents whether or not they would consider nursing home care, if the time ever

FIGURE 3: ATTITUDES TOWARD NURSING HOME CARE

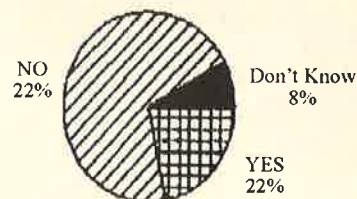
RESPONDENTS WHO WOULD CONSIDER NURSING HOME CARE



IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH NURSING HOME CARE AMONG THOSE CONSIDERING A NURSING HOME



WILLINGNESS TO RELOCATE FOR JEWISH NURSING HOME CARE



came when they need greater care. Over 88 percent of respondents responded that they would consider such care. Of those who would consider such care, almost 70 percent felt that it was very important or important that the nursing home facility be a Jewish nursing home, although only slightly more the 20 percent were willing to relocate for Jewish nursing care. Thus, while the vast majority of respondents would consider nursing home care, and would want that to be in a Jewish facility, they do not wish to move to another community in order to get Jewish care. This suggests that there is a perceived need for such care in the local communities.

Recommendations

In terms of these latter findings, it would seem that the Atlantic Jewish Council could direct its attention to both short term and more long term developments.

In the **short term** it would seem that the following services would be utilized by most Jewish seniors:

1. An information centre on seniors issues
2. Regular visits by Jewish people

3. A Jewish drop-in centre

In the **long term**, issues which could be explored are:

1. An independent apartment complex
2. A Jewish nursing home.

From the desk of Gar Meltzer



What are seniors worth? . . . We are worth a fortune! . . . Remember, old folks are worth a fortune - with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas

in their stomachs! I have become older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into by life - frankly, I have become a frivolous old "gal". I am seeing gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, **Will Power** helps me out of bed. Then I go to see **John Next**, **Charlie Horse** comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, **Arthur Ritis** shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with **Ben Gay**. What a life!

Reprint



Queen Elizabeth High students Jacob Medjuck and Morris Glazman in character for "Fiddler on the Roof" (Photo by J. Mendleson)



Can you assist to enhance this collection? The Society would be pleased to receive photographs related to the history of the Jewish Community of Nova Scotia. Contact AJC office (902) 422-7491 or Gertrude Shane at (902) 422-4888.

**From the records of
the Jewish Historical
Society, Halifax.**

**TAU EPSILON PHI
FRATERNITY, Annual Banquet
& Ball, Lord Nelson Hotel, 1954.**

Born in the U.S.S.R.

This Soviet Jew Dreamed of Freedom. UIA Delivered.

For the first time ever the Israeli flag appeared at the Winter Olympics ... carried by Misha Shmerkin, a 23 year old immigrant to Israel from Odessa.

Not only did your donation to United Israel Appeal help bring Misha to Israel, it also assisted in his training at the Canada Centre Sports Complex, in Metulla, Israel, built through Canadian UIA contributions.

SO NO JEW STANDS ALONE

1994 CAMPAIGN - ATLANTIC REGION

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Now skating for Israel...Misha Shmerkin!

PHOTO: GERALD CHATAGNEAU