

SHALOM שלום

*Jewish Continuity
Keeping the eternal
flame lit in
Atlantic Canada*

SUMMER 1994
Volume 19, No. 4
TAMMUZ-AV 5754



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The Atlantic Jewish
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FRONT COVER:

"SABBATH CANDLES", the cover of
a congratulations card from the
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President's letter

by Larry Freeman

Another school year is over and we begin our summer hiatus. Summer signals a time to take a break from our normal schedule, regroup and rethink your various commitments for the upcoming year.



the upcoming year. At this juncture we see a need for increased staffing to look after a seniors secretariat that we would like to set up. The needs of our communities have changed and programming for seniors has become as important as for our

This past year has been a successful one for the Atlantic Jewish Council. We have been able to accomplish most of our goals. As your president it never ceases to amaze me that the more we do, the more there is to do. During this past year our responsibilities seemed to have increased with fewer and fewer clergy in the region. We have done a lot of outreach programming in the secular community and we continue to assist our membership in daily problems that affect Jewish communities. It has become my belief that we are only scratching the surface of the needs in our region, yet our office is working beyond capacity. Our Executive Director **Jon Goldberg** works tirelessly on your behalf as do all of our staff. In the fall of this year before our Bi-annual meeting in November, the executive of the Atlantic Jewish Council will meet to discuss planning and priorities for

youth. There appears to be a need for aid to many in our communities whether it be financial or moral support. The larger Jewish centres provide all of these services through their federations. We believe it is time for the Atlantic Jewish Council to move beyond our traditional role and reach out to our communities to satisfy many different growing needs.

It has been our goal during the past two years to constantly re-examine your needs in an effort to provide better servicing. We are your Atlantic Jewish Council. The funding we receive comes from our own dollars raised in this region. I would ask everyone to remember this when the campaign begins in the Fall.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and it has been a pleasure serving you.

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

By Jon Goldberg

Summer is here! The spring sure flew by quickly and I begin by wishing all our readers a happy and healthy summer season. These past few months I've done quite a bit of traveling. In

May I attended the National Officers meeting of Canadian Jewish Congress held in Ottawa at the Parliament Buildings. We convened in the "Railway Room" down the hall from the House of Commons. This meeting was arranged in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of C.J.C. and we were addressed by a number of Ministers of the Crown. What struck me, however, was that on a Sunday evening in our nation's capital quite alone but for a few security guards the C.J.C. was burning the midnight oil in Canada's parliament building. I guess we've come along way as a Jewish community here in Canada since 1867. Also that weekend

we were invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. In a stirring ceremony at our nation's War Memorial hundreds of Jewish war veterans paraded together in a march past. Those of us who were born after W.W.II could not help but feel proud of their service and sacrifice. I ran into **Ellic Marshall** of Glace Bay at the ceremony and he told me in 1939 there were 120 Jewish families in Glace Bay; by 1945 there were 90 Jewish men and women serving in the Canadian armed forces from that town, the highest percentage of any Jewish community in Canada.

The next weekend I was off to Montreal with our president, **Larry Freeman** for Council of Jewish Federations of Canada board meeting. During two jam-packed days of deliberations with executive directors and presidents of all the federated and un-federated communities in Canada, we discussed the budget requests for 1994/95 of all the major organizations including C.J.C., J.I.A.S., Canada-Israel Committee, Network and others. Also discussed was an immigration policy report, and other issues of major importance for Canadian Jewry. While the Atlantic region is unfederated, we have been given a place on this body through our major funding organization United Israel Appeal of Canada. It is one of the few organizations where our region has equal representation with the bigger communities.

The next weekend I was off to Fredericton as a delegate to the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies annual convention. I spent two days meeting and listening to the problems of many interest groups which make up our cultural mosaic here in Canada. Native Canadians, Afro-Canadians,

various woman's groups, disabled groups, gays and lesbians, Italian-Canadians, Arab-Canadians, Hindu-and Moslem- Canadians. It was interesting to hear other people's problems and perspectives within our society.

Next week I shall visit Saint John and Moncton with the Or

Yehuda kids from Israel, and I hope to be in Cape Breton a few weeks later. This will give me a chance to meet and hear first hand from many of our fellow Jews in the region.

When I firmly settled back home in mid-June I began to work on our summer edition of *Shalom*. I had a tough time choosing the cover. Usually for the summer edition we use a bright color cartoon, but with the High Holy Days coming early this year and our fall edition not out until early October, I was struck by the beautiful photograph of the candles, which say so much about our faith and history as Jews. During the past



Jon Goldberg

year I've gone over our community list for various reasons many times and I've

noticed just how many fellow Jews in Atlantic Canada are not members or affiliated with a synagogue, in particular those of you who live more than 50 kilometers from our major communities.

Most of you are aware we have few Jewish institutions in Atlantic Canada. Our synagogues are our most venerable and tangible Jewish institutions available to us and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the AJC I urge all who are not affiliated to make the effort to pray at a shul near you this coming Yom Tov. The AJC want you to pick the synagogue of your choice and attend. If single go alone, if a family unit go together, if your spouse is not Jewish don't feel inhibited either, bring him or her along or go alone. Most of our shuls offer special rates for out of town members or visitors, and in other cases welcome guests at no charge. If you can't afford it but wish to attend then please call me at my office and I'll arrange something for you. If you want a drive or don't want to go alone, call me and I'll arrange something for you. If you can't get off work please let us know and we'll contact your employer.

Those few of us here in Atlantic Canada whom are Jewish represent a link in a 5000 year old chain of unbroken faith in one G-d, the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We are so isolated and assimilated in the region that to be born a Jew, to "feel" Jewish or even to be involved in "Zionist" activities is not enough.

If we are to retain our faith then we must worship in the

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house of G-d: our synagogues. Camp Kadimah's six-week Jewish experience is not enough, even a Sunday school class once a week is not enough. On Rosh Hashanah and once a year is not enough. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we Jews are given through our faith an opportunity every year for a moral and spiritual re-awakening, through prayer, reflection and discussions.

The High Holy Days are a key component of our faith and beings as Jews. Judaism is not a mail order religion, we are not offered "correspondence" services. I urge you to do everything possible to be in Shul this coming Yom Tov.

Below I will list the names, addresses and contacts of each Shul in Atlantic Canada. Let's all bring in the year 5755 together as Jews in synagogue!

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

(Orthodox)

1480 Oxford Street,

Halifax, NS B3H 3Y8

Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein (902)422-1301

President: Irwin Mendleson (902) 443-8420

SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION

(Conservative)

1981 Oxford Street,

Halifax, NS B3H 4A4

Rabbi Pamela Hoffman (902)423-5848

President: Lloyd Newman (902) 453-4268

CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL

(Orthodox)

Westmorland Street,

Glace Bay, NS B1A 3C8

President: Ellie Marshall (902) 849-4145

TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL

(Conservative)

Box 311 Whitney Avenue,

Sydney, NS B1P 6H2

President: Martin Chernin 539-1769

CONGREGATION TIFERES ISRAEL

(Orthodox)

56 Steadman Street,

Moncton, NB E1C 4P4

Rabbi David Ellis (506) 858-0258

President: Ivan Cohen (506) 855-9185

SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

(Orthodox)

One Prince Street,

Fredericton, NB E3B 3L7

Rabbi David Spiro (506) 454-9698

President: Arnold Chippin (506) 452-1990

CONGREGATION SHARREI ZEDEK

(Conservative)

P.O. Box 2041

Saint John, NB E2L 3T5

President: Isadore Davis (506) 652-4298

BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

(Conservative)

128 Elizabeth Avenue

St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 1S3

President: Dr. Michael Paul (709)737-6995



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(902) 425-6190
fax (902) 425-1095

Gali's Window



by Gali Salamon

Opening my article for *Shalom* is always an interesting challenge, since I could write endlessly about what's going on; yet I have to put everything in one article. So, here are some highlights of what has been happening lately.

As soon as Pesach was over, we got into a busy month full of activities and programs. Young Judaea meetings were planned with great help from the madrichim. Aaron Pink and myself worked on a Pgisha (meeting) for the leaders to plan the months before the summer vacation. Those who attended the Pgisha deserve full credit for their initiation, the good ideas they've come up with and for actuating the functions. Young Judaeans who attended the functions and enjoy them so much, keep on asking "so when is the next program for us?". Everyone who joins us, goes back home with a good taste of Judaism and Zionism. We also had on our calendar some fun programs like the pool party in Northcliff recreation center. All these programs are part of National Canadian Young Judaea, as we are working together with the regional offices in Montreal and Toronto. I was invited to participate in a leadership seminar which took place in Toronto at the beginning of May. I realized how much the good job that is being carried here speaks for itself all across Canada. When I talked to the Young Judaea Shlichim they mentioned again and again how much they are pleased with the way Y.J. functions in Halifax.

As well as working with the Jewish youth, I have the challenge of working with non-Jewish schools that invite me to speak about Judaism and Israel. Last month I spent a whole day with students from Oceanview Elementary School. This is not my first visit to this school, yet it was a great experience. The students were anxious to hear more and more stories about the Dead Sea, the wonderful Israeli weather, and they were excited to see that we write "backwards" in Hebrew. As for adult education, my conversational Hebrew students have graduated their "primary grade" and we hope to start meeting again in the fall for a more advanced class.

Mentioning education, I would like to thank the women of ORT Halifax for their invitation for me to come and speak at their meeting and I am most grateful for becoming an honorary member of ORT.

In April, all the community joined to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut. Yes, that was something!! That was a joyful day that resulted from hard work and successful coordination. I have no doubt that whoever was there had great time.

After a short break in my travels I had to pack my suitcase once again and head to St. John's, Newfoundland. Except for one day of the week I spent there, the weather was sunny and warm. Besides working with the Hebrew School kids, I had the pleasure to tour around and see some of the sights of St. John's. My other visit this spring was to New Brunswick, for the picnic at Magic Mountain in Moncton, which was well attended by families from Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff Rinzler for his help in planning and organizing the picnic in Moncton. From Magic Mountain I travelled to Point Pleasant Park, where the Halifax picnic took place. With the weather so great, the picnic was a good excuse for everyone to take a break and to relax in the park. This was a big community get together which enabled each one of us to have fun, even the babies who were sitting on the grass nibbling buns. Lots of thanks to Mrs. Marcia Yampolsky for her help in making the picnic so successful.

Now I have to label and pack my clothes for camp. Camp Kadimah, here we come!

I wish you all a great summer, make the most of it!

*Mazel Tov to Ivan Levine, AJC
Chairman of the Board, who has
been appointed to the Board of
Directors of the Atlantic Human
Rights Centre.
The Chair is located at
St. Thomas University, Fredericton.*

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March of the Living '94

by Evelyn Luner, Chaperone

I feel fortunate to have been able to share experiences with the sons and daughters of the Maritime Jewish community on the March of the Living. You would have been proud of their accomplishments on the trip. They acted with thoughtfulness and sensitivity. They made new friends and strengthened old relationships. They demonstrated intelligence and talent. The long bus and plane rides often on sleepless nights were made entertaining by their sense of humor. Phrases such as "fact of the day" and names like **Marsha** and **Coby** bring back fond memories.

As Jews, we have the ability to cry and then to uplift our spirits in the same 24 hour period. We cried at Majdanek on Friday afternoon, yet that very evening we ate and celebrated in performing the mitzvah of ushering in the Sabbath. Our hearts dropped as we heard the siren at 11 a.m. while on the streets of Jerusalem on Yom Ha-Zikaron. We were silent, as we honored those who died protecting Israel. That night we danced and sang on those very same streets in the celebration of independence on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

When discussing how the March of the Living had changed us, the teenagers came to the conclusion that they did not notice change that much while on the trip because they were experiencing it together. They noticed that change came in little things such as the way they will feel when they see an empty pair of children's shoes or a barbed wire fence. As I sat at the Shabbat table visiting my relatives in Jerusalem the first Friday night after the March, my daughter kept saying, "My mother is never this quiet." Then the children sang zmirot and my cousin said, "This is the way they used to do it in Poland." It was at this time that my feelings of loss surfaced. Waves of sadness swept over me. I have since then been left with a deep feeling of emptiness particularly noticeable when young people are singing old Jewish songs. I am left also with a great deal of hope, pride and determination from my experiences on the entire trip.

I can see that changes are taking place for these students in a big way, in the way they see themselves as Jews, connecting with our people past, present and future. At the kiddush at Beth Israel Synagogue honoring the Marchers I knew that the bond was made, as I witnessed the closeness that had appeared between the teenagers and the Holocaust survivors who were present. The generations were linked. Survivors and marchers sang;

"We rise again in the faces of our children,

We rise again in the voices of our songs,

We rise again like the waves out on the ocean,

and then, we rise again...

Survivors and marchers singing together, sharing, caring.

I spoke to **Leon Dubinsky** recently and thanked him for the song. He said

that he was honored that we sang it. For the Cape Breton Summer Review he lists among the song's three highlights, being "chosen for the March of the Living commemorating the Holocaust in Europe and Jerusalem".

The Nova Scotia participants in the March of the Living received many compliments on their recent presentation to the community at Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Most significantly, Holocaust survivors told me, "It helps. Knowing that the teenagers were there and that they will never forget, helps."

Our youth marched with the Israeli flag from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Yom Ha Shoah. They waved the flag and sang with it on Yom Ha'atzmaut in Jerusalem. I know that, as leaders of our community, they will carry it proudly into the future.

A participant's poetic salute

THE PROMISE

*I scratch the walls, where you once scratched
But I cannot touch you
I touch your glasses, you once wore
But your eyes do not see
I touch your shoes, you once walked in
But they fall limp in my hand
I touch the bed, you once cried on
But I feel no wetness on your pillow
I walk east, where you once marched
But I cannot hear your footsteps
I walk to a place you never knew in life
This is where I find you
I look to the ashes, where you now lie
I can hear your cries and your footsteps
I look to the bones, that lay amongst you
I can feel your touch, hair and eyes
To the bones and to the ashes,
that belong to you
I promise to never forget
what your eyes once saw
what your hand once touched
where you once walked
and why you cried*

(Poems by Michelle Hiltz)

ON PARADE

*On parade
We walk
On parade
5000 blue jackets side by side
Unity
On parade
At the side people wave, others grimace
We wave and walk proudly
On parade
The flags wave for miles ahead
Their colours show our independence
but, the tracks are laid to remind us
Of why we walk
On parade
5000 blue jackets side by side
Proud
On parade
For those who passed before us on this road
Shivering, hungry and weak; it is for
those for who we march
On parade
We stumble on loose rocks
They stumble from hunger
They are shot
We march on forever
On parade*



*The March
of the Living 1994
Auschwitz
Poland*



CJC turns 75: plans for 1995 Plenary

by Mike Cohen, National Director of Communications and Israel Affairs

It has been an exciting past several months for the Canadian Jewish Congress as we continue to celebrate our 75th anniversary as the national representative organization of Canadian Jewry. Activities began on March 16 at the Monument National Theatre in Montreal - at the very site where CJC held its founding meeting exactly 75 years earlier.

The 75th anniversary theme was front centre at the Plenaries of the Ontario and Quebec regions and in Winnipeg at the National Education Conference, which was attended by a number of representatives from the Atlantic Jewish Council. In Ottawa May 30 CJC held a conference in conjunction with the National Executive meeting entitled *NGOs in Canada: Partnerships in Human Rights*. Close to 200 people attended and Justice Minister Allan Rock delivered the keynote address. AJC Holocaust Remembrance Committee Chair Larry Riteman, an active lobbyist on the war crimes issue, was one of the first individuals to ask the minister a question on this dossier. The following day CJC held an emotional ceremony at the National War Memorial, in cooperation with the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Federal Minister of Defence David Collette was one of the speakers and among the AJC contingent on hand were President Larry Freeman, David Attis, Ivan Levine, Jon Goldberg, and Mr. Riteman.

Soon it will be the AJC's turn to mark CJC's 75th anniversary. CJC President Irving Abella is pleased to announce that Congress will hold its first national

officers meeting ever in the Maritimes on the weekend of November 12-13, coinciding with AJC's bi-annual convention. Officers from coast to coast will take part in programming throughout the weekend.

Meanwhile, CJC is extraordinarily

crimes prosecutions efforts...CJC met with officials from the World Sikh Organization of Canada to discuss the implications of a vote taken by the delegates to the Royal Canadian Legion convention to disallow the wearing of religious headgear in Legion halls.

"Our two communities believe that the decision taken by the Royal Canadian Legion flies in the face of Canadian human rights legislation and our long established code of decency", stated CJC President Abella...

CJC expressed sadness following the passing of Romanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, recognized as his country's leading figure in the postwar Jewish community...

The CJC National Israel Affairs Committee (NIAC), chaired by

Moshe Ronen, is playing an active role on the dossier of Israel's MIAs. Zvi Feldman, Zacharia Baumel and Yehuda Katz went missing on June 11, 1982 when they were captured following a tank battle with Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Another MIA, navigator Ron Arad, was shot down over the Sidon area in southern Lebanon on October 16, 1986. It is believed he is being held hostage somewhere in Iran or Lebanon. CJC recently sponsored a second visit in four months to Canada by Miriam Baumel, Zacharia's mother. In May, a student demonstration was organized on Parliament Hill with a protest also being held in front of the Iranian Embassy. The NIAC is setting up a mechanism whereby it will serve as the address for Canadians who have reason to believe certain companies are complying with the Arab boycott of Israel.

If you have any information, please pass it on to Jon Goldberg who will in turn communicate with us.



The Atlantic Jewish Council was well represented at the Canadian Jewish Congress sponsored event in Ottawa May 30 commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day. Shown here are (L) Col. B.J. FINESTONE of Montreal and Defence Minister DAVID COLLETTE. (Photo by Michael Bergman)

busy making plans for its 24th triennial National Plenary Assembly. It will take place May 14 and 15, 1995 at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel in Montreal. CJC National vice-president Goldie Hershon has been appointed chair of the event. Please circle this date on your calendars. Plenary is the highest decision-making body within Congress and a time when a new slate of officers is elected. AJC has been well represented in the past and we hope that will be the case again next year. We have intentionally shortened the program - the last Plenary was five days - to make it easier for people to attend.

Congress Capsule: CJC delegations have met twice with Justice Minister Rock and once with Solicitor General Herb Gray to discuss the issue of Nazi war criminals. Mr. Rock has reaffirmed his commitment to bringing war criminals to justice. Mr. Gray indicated that the RCMP War Crimes Unit continues to fulfill its function as the investigating and policing arm of Canada's war

Letter from Israel

by Reuven Rosenfelder,
UIA Israel Emissary in the
Atlantic Region

As I write this letter to you, members of the Jewish community and supporters of Israel and UIA in the Atlantic Region, the Assembly of the Jewish Agency for Israel is taking place in Jerusalem.

This is the major annual event focusing attention on Israel-Diaspora relations. It brings together hundreds of delegates from Jewish communities around the world, mostly in North America -- with Israeli representatives, volunteers, officials and public figures, to discuss a wide range of issues involving this unique partnership.

When you take part in the inspiring ceremonial events, when you attend the plenaries and workshops, listen to the presentations, hear the constant flow of discussion in the corridors -- you wish that Mr. Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, were here to judge for himself.

Beilin, you may have heard, recently created a stir when he described the Jewish Agency as irrelevant to our times, and argued that Israel no longer needs Diaspora contribution. He was roundly criticized by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who virtually called him a fool and stressed the crucially important role of the Diaspora's support for Israel, as expressed by the United Israel Appeal and its sister campaigns.

But the Assembly this week spoke louder than words. It clearly proved Beilin's thesis to be uninformed and misguided. On the contrary, it showed the Jewish Agency as a remarkably vibrant and relevant forum for Diaspora-Israel interfacing, dialoguing and action. This relationship has progressed far beyond talk and lip-service to Diaspora involvement. Based on its philosophy, the Jewish Agency has in fact evolved the mechanism for Diaspora input, influence and involvement in decision making. It's something Yossi Beilin does not adequately know about, or does not wish to know.

The Assembly was off to a rousing start with a colorful opening ceremony at the Hebrew University's magnificent amphitheatre on Mt. Scopus. The theme was Jewish continuity. In song, dance and visuals, the impact of "Israel Experience" programs on young Jewish people was shown. One thing emerged clearly; there is no substitute for a quality experience in Israel for a Jewish teenager. It can change his or her life. In the least, it will give them a new sense of pride in being Jewish.

Mr. Beilin -- this is give, not take. It's all happening now, at the Agency.



The amazing growth and range of Israel Experience programs is a response to the perceived need in the Diaspora, and it is to the credit of the Agency that it has reacted to the need. The most fascinating piece in the delegate's kit was a catalogue of over 200 selected educational modules which are offered for the Israel Experience in 1994. Jewish continuity, you say? - yes, it's a major concern, but take a few minutes to look through this document. Among its pages, there is at least part of the answer.

Another theme: *Partnership 2000*. The Assembly approved this major program which envi-

sions the development of 27 regions in Israel, mostly in the Negev and the Galil, based on a system of twinning with specific Jewish communities in the Diaspora. The emphasis is regional, not local. Why this new program? Precisely because of the wish to involve representatives of Jewish communities in a meaningful, hands-on process in Israel. So they will get to know the country and its people "on the ground", through a sophisticated, goal-oriented project away from the big population centers.

Dr. Gary Tobin, a well-known researcher of the Jewish scene in North America, made a highly interesting presentation. He interviewed many major donors and found that their response, in the future, will be based more on need and less organizational loyalty. Their focus will be on clearly understood programs relating to contemporary issues. It may be immigrant rescue operations, or Israel Experience programs, or whatever the need may be. It requires flexibility and ongoing assessments on the part of the Jewish Agency.

Some critics may not concede this, but fact is that the Agency has proven to possess just these qualities. Five years ago, it mounted the massive Operation Exodus and carried it out almost flawlessly. In 1994 it is setting new directions, mainly in Jewish education world wide, be it among Jewish youngsters in the former Soviet Union (the Na'ale 16 project, which brings them to Youth Aliyah institutions in Israel as students, without their parents) or in the countries of the West, where the situation is entirely different.

Israel Experience, Na'ale 16, Partnership 2000 - just three of the programs sharing the limelight during this Assembly. All were discussed, shaped and decided upon by Israelis together with Jewish representatives from abroad.

There is nothing outmoded about that.

Best regards and Le'hitraot -- see you soon.

Jewish continuity for Atlantic Canada

by Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein,
Beth Israel Synagogue

Each Jewish person represents a car driving down the highway of Jewish history. However, the car needs fuel and on occasion a battery recharge in order to continue on its special journey. We need spiritual fuel to exist.

What is the main Jewish diet which will sustain us? It is essentially that which develops both the Jewish heart and Jewish mind.

There are two special areas: One has to block time and dedicate each Friday night to have a meal of joy. The Shabbat is the holiest of time. It is a unique reservoir of connections to our heritage. Not only special Shabbat food, but the family together, singing Hebrew songs and discussing ideas of our heritage...

this will invigorate us. The Midrash says that The ALMIGHTY spoke to the Jewish people and told us that there is a wonderful gift for us in The Divine treasure chest and Shabbos is its name.

The second and very important element of Jewish fuel is the study of our rich and challenging heritage. When one reads and learns and incorporates Jewish thoughts into one's life, then continuity can be guaranteed.

In our 3,306 years of Jewish history as a nation since G*D's Revelation to us at Sinai, any Jewish community which did not have Torah study disappeared. The car will never run out of fuel with Torah knowledge.

There is one more element which is quite important. A rich connection to Israel, our Homeland, will help to develop loyalty to the Jewish people. This

should include constant reading about Israel through newspapers such as *The Canadian Jewish News* and *The Jerusalem Post*, identifying with Israel, being supportive of her, rejoicing in her joy, and feeling sad with her suffering, and also visiting and absorbing Israel into our very beings. For this reason I will be leading a tour with people from Atlantic Canada in conjunction with Mizrahi of Canada at the end of December.

I am available as a teacher and guide, whether it is in Torah study, religious counseling, or the teaching of new Jewish songs. If you were not given an opportunity to read Hebrew, there is a free class in the fall, *Learn to Read Hebrew in 7 Easy Lessons*. Let us go forth from strength to strength with sincere dedication to a continuous mature quality of Jewish living. I wish you a very wonderful summer.

Notice to all Jewish service men & women

by Maurice Jake

I am presently working to put together the only War Memorial dedicated to active Jewish service men and women from the Maritime provinces who served in the 1939-1945 conflict. The Memorial will be on permanent display in Tiferes Israel Synagogue in Moncton, NB.

I would appreciate hearing from any Jewish personnel on active service from the Maritime provinces, in the army, navy, and air force. I am seeking details on Maritime personnel who served in all theatres of war, in all branches of the service, to ensure a complete record.

Please write with your information to Maurice Jake, P.O. Box 623, Moncton, NB E1C 8M7, (506) 855-0011.

Kadimah 94 update

Matthew Cohen, Assistant Program Director

Camp Kadimah 1994 is fast approaching, and all should be excited for what will be the largest camp in its 51 year history. Camper registration is approaching 240, and there are approximately 75 staff members to look after them. **Sheldon Cohen** will be back to direct this enormous camp, with **Michael Soberman** serving as his primary aid in the assistant director's chair. Other senior staff include **Bill Chernin** as Rosh Machar, and the package deal of **Jamie Cohen** and **Wendy Hyman** who are taking their talents off the waterfront to conduct landsports and programming respectively. The demographics of Kadimah '94 reveal some interesting statistics. Male camp-

ers will have several choices to make as they comprise only 35% of the camper population. This summer is also the year of the Central Canadian invasion, as there are far more campers from Quebec and Ontario that ever before. The C.I.T. program continues to upgrade as it will now face the task of training 37 budding staff members. The sophistication of the C.I.T. trip continues to grow as well, as they and their lucky staff will embark upon a trip that will take them to Camp Habonim in Maryland as well as to Washington, D.C. Those are the major highlights, but as you all know, the best stories are written AFTER camp!

Anyways, enough talk, we've got a camp to run!!

News from PEI

by Joe Naylor

Congratulations:

To **Lauren Lavigne** on her highly commendable interviews on CBC radio on March 16, repeated on March 27, about her participation in the March of the Living, and on May 10, repeated May 17, reporting on her March of the Living experiences.

To **Rebekah Sherman**, and her father, **Joseph Sherman**, for their extensive review of *Schindler's List* on CBC Radio on March 22, an excellent account that was replayed twice.

To **Cindy Bressler** on her graduation with the degree Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and her winning the Spirit of '90 award. Unfortunately, her graduation means that we have to say good-bye. All best wishes, Cindy!

To **Sara Walsh** who will be spending a month in Kenya with an exchange program (involving teachers and Farmers)

Gali Salamon, AJC/UIA regional Areva, visited our Community on March 12-13. Her visit, although brief, was very beneficial and a great success. She helped with the Hebrew School's model seder, her stories of past Pesachs with her family in Israel made obvious impressions on the children. Gali's participation also made a rare event for our Community even more special - a baby-naming service and shower for **Jan Lunn** and **Mitchell Zelman's** new son, **Jacob Elijah**. And

she showed a most appropriate film for the occasion, a film on being born Jewish.

David Brock, who accompanied her as driver, was also very helpful. They both were hits in our Community.

Their new friends here will welcome the news that **Gali & David** have announced their engagement.

A Community Passover Seder was held on 26 May, 1994. Thanks to **Rosalie Simeone** and **Clive Pickles** for leading it, and to all who participated and contributed to making the event so successful.

Under the auspices of the A.J.C., **Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein** from Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, met with our Community on June 13, 1994. The topic was *Retaining Your Jewish Identity in an Assimilated Environment*. Rabbi Grafstein was accompanied by his son, **Israel**.

The evening's discussion on the topic was wide ranging, from observances in the home to the role of Israel. The Rabbi stressed that Jewish identity could be reinforced through pleasurable, positive steps within the home; Judaism and yiddishkeit can and should be presented a joyful manner. Advantage can be taken of Shabbat rest, for example, in order to hold special family evenings and get togethers. This creates happy memories and associations that remain with children.

Thanks to all who participated, to the AJC for making the evening possible, and especially to **Irene** and **Dr. Kassner** for hosting the event.

News from Newfoundland

by Claire Frankel-Salama

This last quarter has been very eventful. In March the community distributed Passover baskets to refugee and new immigrant families from the former U.S.S.R. We would like to thank J.I.A.S. for their monetary support as well as those members of the community who made this *Mitzvah* possible.

In April the community concentrated on Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut. Once again, **Naomi Skoll** put together a very moving Holocaust Memorial program. Approximately 150 members of various faiths listened to verbal accounts, poetry, and prayers. In addition, **Alex Hoenig** played *Ani Ma-amin* on his flute.

The following weekend we had the pleasure of listening to the **Yitzhaq Argaman Duo** from Toronto. Their lively renditions of Israeli songs inspired many of our members to get up and dance. We really appreciate the concerts we get, as Beth El is not well known for its vocal abilities.

In May, **Gali Salamon** arrived for a week long educational visit. She was able to meet with our junior, intermediate and senior Hebrew school classes, as well as several adult students. She left all of us with a very warm, positive feeling about our educational program, and we are looking forward to welcoming our own Areva this fall.

On May 21, the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador witnessed a first. Three members of the senior Hebrew school class celebrated a triple Bat Mitzvah. On

Friday evening the three *Mitvah-teers*, **Sylvia Gross**, **Miriam Noel**, and **Arielle Salama**, helped to lead the services. On Saturday, they shared the Haftarah of Parashat "Naso" and delivered remarkably feminist sounding speeches to the 140 invited guests. The whole weekend was a series of dinners and receptions, the like of which has not been experienced here for many years. We have now recovered from such crises as the Levitt's meat order being stuck in Sydney, Nova Scotia on the Thursday before the luncheon, and the teacher's early departure one month before the affair. In fact, we are now looking forward to the October Bar Mitzvah of **Alex Hoenig**.

Finally, on June 19 we held our annual Hebrew school closing barbecue and soccer match at the Gross'. Although it was foggy, and the hot dogs still haven't arrived from Toronto, a great time was had by all. Unfortunately we have had to bid farewell to the **Kartsevs** and the **Paines**. Some of you may remember **Daniel Kartsev** from Camp Kadimah last summer. And thus shrinks the community.

To all *Shalom* readers we wish a warm and wonderful summer. So far the sun has been shining and the temperatures have been relatively hot for St. John's. No icebergs have been sighted past the Narrows, and the capelin have stayed away in droves. If you plan to visit the rock this summer, please do not hesitate to walk in for services on Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m., or on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Your presence is always appreciated, and we are an equal opportunity Minyan.

From around the Region



Halifax Mayor, MOIRA DUCHARME, presenting a memento from that city to MR. MAX EISEN, of Toronto, special speaker from The Holocaust Education, CJC.



WHAT ME WORRIED?
AJC 21st Century Leadership
(L-R) Eric Goldberg, Avrum and Joshua Spatz.



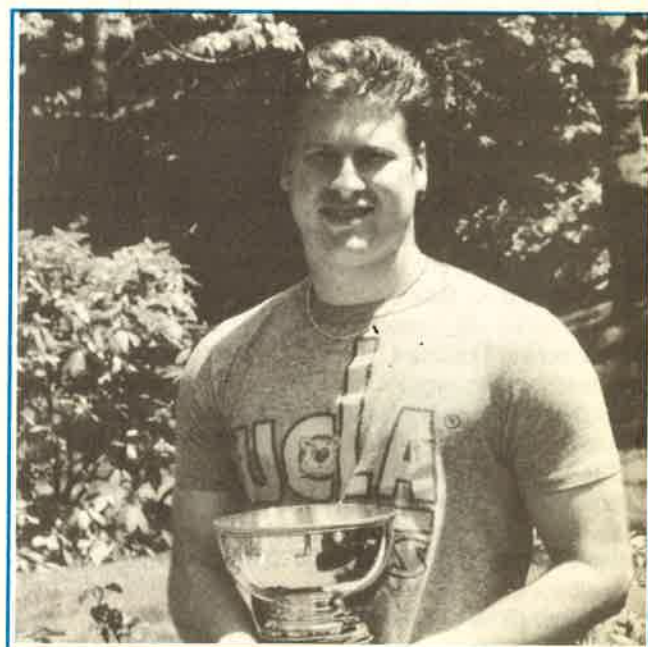
MS. CAROL KASSEL, Co-chair of the CJC 75th Anniversary and GALI SALAMON, visiting Peggy's Cove, March, 1994. Ms. Kassel visited the area from Toronto



Babies, parents and grandparents at Point Pleasant Park Community Picnic, Halifax, June 12, 1994.



March of the Living participants perform in Halifax, May 1994



LOUIS WOLFSON of Halifax was awarded Q.E.H. trophy Male Athlete of the Year, 1994. Louis, who is 18, plans to attend university in the Fall.



Young Judaea function
SYMBOLS OF ISRAEL
Madricha - RACHEL PINK
April 1994.



WARREN COHEN elected to JNF Board of Directors.

At the annual meeting of J.N.F. in Montreal on May 7 and 8, WARREN COHEN of Fredericton was elected to the Board of Directors. Mr. Cohen has been active with J.N.F. in Fredericton for the past seven years as chairman and was thanked by the newly elected president, SID HALPERN, for his dedication and commitment to working together for a stronger national and regional J.N.F. Warren hopes to work closely with national to maintain and enhance J.N.F.'s image as a major link for Diaspora Jews with the State of Israel.



AT THE YOUTH ALIYAH IN FREDERICTON (L-R): Rabbi DAVID SPIRO; LIL FREEMAN, convenor of the Youth Aliyah Brunch; MIRIAM COHEN, Chairperson of the Youth Aliyah Program; Reverend JAMES LELAND, guest speaker; SANDRA LEVINE, N.B. Regional Representative of Hadassah-WIZO; MARILYN KAUFMAN, National Secretary of Hadassah-WIZO of Canada.



Young Judaea: POOL PARTY
Madrichim AARON PINK and ERIC HARTMAN
May 1994.



The March of the Living 1994
This was taken in Halifax on the reunion weekend, at the slide show/presentation for the parents and families. (L-R) Riva Barak (part), Evelyn Luner, Mrs. Glazman, Ann Raskin, Karen Mendleson, Carmi Rubin, Mrs. Mendleson, Naomi Ginsberg, Barak Queija and Lisa Mendleson. (Photo by Leigh Lampert)

Yom Ha'atzmaut Happy Birthday, Israel!

By Gali Salamon

To Celebrate Israel's Independence day, what do you think could be more exiting for me as a Shlichah from Israel? When the preparations for the celebration began, I wondered how I would feel, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut so far away from Israel. I didn't know that this would turn out to be one of the most exciting days of my stay in Halifax.

The preparations obviously started long before the "big day". Jon Goldberg arranged to bring in the Isaac Herman duo entertainers from Toronto: the Shaar Shalom and Beth Israel Hebrew schools were practicing for their shows, the teenagers did their best to help me with the preparations and decorations for the hall; and Jonathan Mendleson arranged the technical aspect of the function. We decided to have Israeli food - falafel balls in pita, houmus, Jaffa oranges and a special birthday cake with a blue and white Magen David decoration on it.

Half an hour before the celebration started I was standing in the center of the hall, smiling, looking at all the pictures and posters of Israel, and at the Israeli flags all over and listening



The Shaar Shalom Hebrew School performance April 17, 1994, Halifax.

to the entertainers tuning their guitars. I wasn't sure how many people to expect but I did know at that moment this was going to be a happy occasion. Then people started coming, one by one, family by family and before I knew it the hall was crowded with about 250 people of the community. We opened the program with the food and we ran out of the falafels very soon. We enjoyed the performances of the Hebrew schools: the Shaar Shalom kids were singing and dancing to Israeli music combined with short readings about Israel and the Beth Israel kids had a birthday party for the new holiday that was born to the Jewish people - independence day.

Finally the Herman duo started their show. At the beginning the people were a bit shy to get up and dance but soon the atmosphere warmed up and the floor was filled with children and adults dancing and singing. There was sense of unity in the air and a strong sense of continuity, watching all the kids with their parents and grandparents, some sitting, some standing, some singing and some just listening. Thank you, all, for making me feel at home on that important holiday of our country Israel!

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AJC holds meeting in Fredericton

by Miriam Cohen

The Atlantic Jewish Council held its Executive meeting in Fredericton on Saturday evening, April 30, and Sunday morning, May 1, at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. The meeting was well attended by most of the Executive under the leadership of the president of the AJC, Lawrence Freeman, and his capable executive director, Jon Goldberg. Committee reports were given and well gone over by all in attendance. There was much discussion and constructive dialogue throughout the meetings. We were fortunate to hold the meeting in Fredericton as the turnout was superb.

As an added feature we were fortunate to have a program in place for the communities of Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton on Sunday May 1, 1994, in the Miramichi room of the hotel. Alan Echenberg of Ottawa, Senior Editor of *Ottawa Magazine*, and son of a former Maritimer, Michelle Green, presented his video production of *Surviving Freedom*. Alan is a graduate of McGill University and Carleton University where he received his master's degree in journalism.

Surviving Freedom was part of his thesis in his last year at



VICTOR GOLDBERG, V.P. of AJC, MIRIAM COHEN, Fredericton Representative for AJC, ALAN ECHENBERG, Guest Presenter, and LARRY FREEMAN, President of AJC.

Carleton and dealt with the issues of Jewish identity and continuity in both large and small communities in Canada. His video spoke clearly of the changing conditions in our country that are continuing to show a demise in the Jewish tradition. His documentary was received and enjoyed by all. Mr. Echenberg answered questions following his presentation.

The Executive of the AJC was introduced to the large turnout of approximately 100 persons. Larry Freeman made himself available, as well as the rest of the Executive for questions and answers as to how and what AJC can do for each community.

Ivan Levine presented *The Jerusalem Plaque* to Reverend James Leland, a united church minister, well known in the Atlantic area for his continued support of Holocaust studies and concern for the rise in anti-Semitism. Reverend Leland was most gracious and humble in receiving this plaque to a standing ovation.

Following the presentations and discussions a bagel brunch was provided by the AJC for all in attendance where informal dialogue continued and all seemed to enjoy the program immensely. The weekend was convened by Fredericton's AJC representative, Miriam Cohen.



IVAN LEVINE presenting Reverend JAMES LELAND with "The Jerusalem Plaque".

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum opens ninth season

The award winning Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, 290 Wellington Row, will be open for its ninth season from May 24 to September 30. Museum hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during July and August. Group tours are welcome by appointment throughout the year. The museum closes on major Jewish holidays.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, one of Saint John's preeminent tourist attractions, draws thousands of local visitors and tourists to its permanent and seasonal exhibits. Our mandate, says curator Marcia Koven, is to educate and help eliminate discrimination.

The museum consists of a religious artifacts display, a chapel, a ritual bath, a Hebrew school classroom, art gallery and gift shop, and archives (open by appointment only) and a library which, according to Koven, attract historians and ge-

nealogists from around the world. Light lunches will be served Monday through Friday in the Museum Tea Room.

This Season's Exhibits:

All Season:

- Health Care Professionals
- Koom Ahaim Revisited

From June 19 through July 27:

- Portraits by Clint Wiesel, a prominent Saint John photographer in the 1940's & 50's

From July 31 through Labour Day:

- Electric art from Basil Stead's private collection

The History of the Saint John Jewish Community is available on video for \$24.95 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling. For further information contact: Marcia Koven, Curator, (506) 633-1833

Human rights leader gets AJC award

By Joel Jacobson

Dr. KEN OZMON, chairman of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, was presented with the Atlantic Jewish Council's *Jerusalem Plaque* at a Halifax ceremony June 7.

Ozmon, also president of Saint Mary's University in Halifax, received the award from council chair **Larry Freeman** "as a member of a community involved in peace and world justice."

It was the second presentation of the award, which was also given this year in New Brunswick to Premier **Frank McKenna** and **Reverend James Leland** of Fredericton, a man who has spoken against anti-Semitism and Holocaust deniers such as **Malcolm Ross**.

Last year Halifax Mayor **Moir Ducharme** received the first Jerusalem Plaque.

"I am honored," Ozmon told the audience of more than 200 at Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

"I accept on behalf of the many people who work harder and are more deserving than I in fostering human rights in Nova Scotia," he said.

In an interview, Ozmon said the Nova Scotia commission offered to assemble a panel on human rights discrimination for the New Brunswick commission to further discuss the Malcolm Ross issue, "but they didn't pick up on it. I think it is worthwhile to talk of the whole matter of free speech."

"There has to be some point where free speech has the potential to affect someone else's rights. And that's the Malcolm Ross issue, where there is an objective of fomenting hatred. There have to be mechanics to face this."

The plaque presentation was accompanied by 12 Nova Scotian teens recalling their experiences on the recent March of the Living.

The Halifax teens spoke eloquently about the emotional ups, and downs they felt. "Poland was death," said **Naomi**

Ginsberg, "but Israel was life. Flying into Israel was such a hopeful sight. It was one of the most magnificent feelings."

Lisa Mendelson said the beauty and warmth and greenery of Israel was welcoming after being in "cold, dirty, grey and disgusting Poland. You had a sense you were finally home."

The small contingent of Maritime teens was also overwhelmed by the camaraderie of being among 3,000 other Jewish youngsters.

"At schools, there are only a few Jews and at Camp Kadimah there are a couple of hundred," said **Shaun Keyes**. "But on the March there were so many, from so many countries. It was a marvelous experience."

Carmi Rubin was touched by the courage of the Jews who perished on their march to the

death camps. "We marched on a very cold day, for only a few hours, and were wearing coats and sweaters and scarves and warm shoes and gloves. When the Jews of Poland marched, they had poor clothing and they marched for days and weeks."

On the bus that transported the Maritimers and several Montreal teens, **Heidi Lipkus** and **Morris Glazman** of Halifax asked everyone on board to join them in singing *We'll Rise Again*, a patriotic Cape Breton song written by Sydney's **Leon Dubinsky** and made internationally famous by the Juno-award winning Rankin Family.

"We sang it first and taught it to the rest of the kids," said Lipkus. "It was very emotional. Then we all sang it in an old Polish synagogue near Auschwitz. There was a massive group hug and lots of tears as we felt so close."

She said the song became somewhat of a theme for the trip as they presented it at "a lot of gatherings, any opportunity we could."

The 12 teens then rose again and concluded their 45-minute presentation to the Halifax community with another rousing rendition.



AJC President **LARRY FREEMAN** presents the "Jerusalem Plaque" to Dr. **KEN OZMON**

From the desk of Gar Meltzer

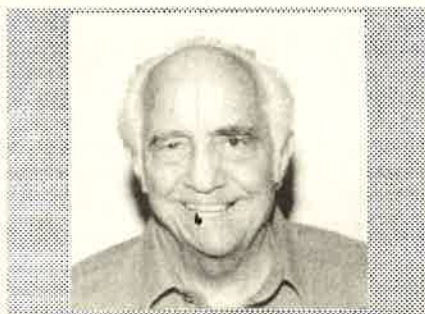
On May 30 an historic event took place at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

For the first time in Canadian history, the Canadian Government honored the involvement of Canadian Jews in the battle against Nazi Germany.

The Minister of Veterans affairs **David Collett**, described how Jews participated in the war effort, from volunteering for active service to the results of heroic achievements of many Jewish people in 1947, praising them for their efforts in helping Canada along with her allies in achieving the victory against Nazi Germany.

Sam Pasternack, the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada told the large assemblage at the War Memorial that more than 10% of the total Jewish population of Canada at that time volunteered for duty in the armed forces of Canada. "Anywhere there was a battle with the Germans or her collaborators, whether it was in the skies, on the ground, on the sea or beneath the waves of the oceans, Jews were there fighting the enemy."

Mr. Pasternack further added that during the war, there were people from British Columbia, from the Yukon, from the Maritimes, from Quebec, from Ontario, from the Territories, in fact they came from everywhere in Canada. "They fought together, they bled together and they died together as Canadians. Let us make sure that what they



fought for, bled and died for remains as a united Canada, a Canada that includes Quebec."

Rabbi Reuven Bulka and Cantor Pinchas Levinson of Ottawa led the religious part of the ceremony. For the first time, "Kel and Kaddish" were intoned at the National War Memorial.

Another historic event took place at the same time. Led by the Central Forces Band, units of the Canadian Armed Forces presented a salute of recognition to the Jewish War Veterans of Canada honoring their place in the military history of Canada.

On June 6, the Jewish War Veterans of Canada commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Allied Armies landing on the beaches of Normandy.

More than eight hundred guests were in attendance at a special dinner honoring the memory of "D-Day". Key members of the Diplomatic Corps were present and brought greetings from their respective governments. Senior high ranking representatives of the Metropolitan Police Department and many

members of the General Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces were present as **Major General Bruce J. Legge** delivered the keynote address.

National Commander **Sam Pasternack** was the chairman of the event and reiterated what was said at the National War Memorial on May 30th, that he wished for a united Canada, however, he added that he was extremely upset over the recent vote that was taken by the Canadian Legion in Calgary. He stated that was not what we fought for in the war. We fought for equality for all Canadians in Canada and we will not have anything to do with any legion branch where members of certain faiths are excluded because of their religious dress code or for any other racially motivated injustice. The National Commander hoped that the Legion would reverse their vote.

Sam Pasternack presented certificates of trees that will be planted in the newly created "Jewish War Veterans of Canada Grove of Honor" to **Major General Bruce J. Legge** and to **Chief William McCormack**.

The D-Day dinner was under the Patronage of Colonel The Honorable **Jack Marshall**, CD, Senator of Canada, **Major General Bruce J. Legge**, CMM, CM, KStJ, ED, CD, QC, **Chief William J. McCormack**, Chief of Metropolitan Toronto Police.

A special dinner and dance is planned for October in Halifax by the Jewish War Veterans. Further information will follow.



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Reflections:

A teenager's visit to Poland

by Naomi Ginsberg, Halifax

During my trip to Poland I experienced a variety of very powerful emotions. Although it is very early after to stand back and analyze my own thoughts and reactions, some ideas have been put into perspective. I observed a clash between my intellect and my emotion; this often led to confusion. The immensity of the Holocaust is unbelievable. I do believe that all of my confusion and my handicap in believing, stems from my conflict between intellect and emotion.

Throughout my journey I could approach a matter from two opposite points of view. I could tell myself that I was touring history; however, I could be overwhelmed by the tragedy of the historic, horrific events which were being commemorated. The intellect is calm and composed, and it accepts facts, whereas the emotion is agitated and upset, and dwells on facts in wonderment. In the middle is numbness. Walking through Auschwitz I felt nothing, no joy, no sorrow, nothing. I absorbed what I saw and what I was told but I did not worry at that point about understanding or even trying to. It was too soon. The first time I broke into tears, I knew why. I was at a commemorative ceremony in Birkenau and I saw 5000 youth like me, standing together for the same purpose. Tears streamed down my cheeks, and I was not really able to justify them. Perhaps it was the first time my emotions actually won the battle with my intellect. We sang many songs, all of which had beautiful melodies. Songs gave us a sense of unity, but I did not really concentrate on the words, I was interested in the melody. Now, looking over the theme song of our trip *The April Wind*, the words in the chorus take on a new meaning;

*"For you who died, I must live on
Just empty barracks and barbed wire left to mourn
Hold out your hands, please give me strength
to find your eyes,
to pray, to cry, to live to fight,
the songs you could not sing I promise,
yes I promise I will sing"*

I must live for those who did not---it is my utmost duty. However, these words will never get through enough. The immensity of the Holocaust is incomprehensible.

Firstly, what is six million? The number of Jews who perished. Even more, what is 11 million? The number in total of those exterminated by the Nazis. How can one understand such numbers when one cannot even understand 60 deaths? During the Holocaust the number of deaths may be compared to one death every minute for 12 years. At Auschwitz alone, 20,000 were killed in one day---the population of my high school times 20! However, with the use of numbers, people lose their identity. This leads to dehumanization. Secondly, why weren't the Germans stopped? There were individuals who understood Hitler's plan. Engineers were hired to design crematoria that would function as efficiently as possible. Railways were built by people who must have understood why. How could a civilized community in Europe transform (in majority) into barbarians? How could everyone in the world be led so astray into believing that Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals, and other ethnic groups were not humans, but mere rats? **Albert Einstein** once said, "The world is too dangerous to live in, not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who sit and let it happen." All of these issues, along with many others kept students on the March of the Living baffled; we still are.

Confusion reigned over. What to feel? I am helpless learning about those who perished. I cannot bring them back. Why do I deserve to live when other innocent people who deserved better lives than me were murdered? Those who willed to survive the terrors of the concentration camp surpass my tolerance, my ambitions, and my courage in every way. I cannot imagine being starved, frozen, over worked, beaten, frightened, and still willing to survive! How is one supposed to react to such an atrocity? Words do not describe it, nor do images. Nothing is understandable. Walking through the village of Checyn, observing the door frames where a mezuzah was once placed, and entering a synagogue, seeing the holy ark, and being told it is now a meeting hall, is chilling. Observing the life that is no longer, a life that was once so vibrant with culture, is so odd. One may only wonder what would have become of it had all of the Jews not been taken away. Witnessing a mound of ashes under a dome at Majdanek--a mound larger than the room in which I sit -- is unreal. The ashes of one human could fit into the palm of my hand! My singular reaction remains as confusion --it is impossible to understand why.

I visited Poland two months ago and there are many aspects of my journey that still remain unclear. Perhaps they always will. My emotion and intellect continue their struggle against one another as I stand helpless. It is impossible to understand how the Holocaust which we commemorate could simply happen. Although I may come to some conclusions, I will always remain confused. The most important issue to remember is that the minute we forget is the minute it may all reoccur. I was taken to Poland to be able to tell others of my experience, and I intend to do so, as long as I possibly can.



Mark L. Stein

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*Israel Memories
March of the Living
1994
Atlantic Participants*



Dr. Frankiel visits Halifax

By Joel Jacobson

Noted American teacher and writer **Dr. Tamar Frankiel** thinks development of women's minds in a spiritual direction should follow the same developmental patterns as in the larger society.

Speaking in an interview after hosting a Scholar-In-Residence weekend for the Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax in mid-June, Dr. Frankiel strongly urged women to form classes and study groups to better their understanding of the Halachic process and why their learning field has been expanded.

Dr. Frankiel, a professor in history of western religion at Claremont School of Theology in California, spent three days in Halifax, addressing issues in Orthodox Judaism such as learning, prayer and relations between men and women.

Dr. Frankiel, who also spoke at the Sunday installation of **Rabbi Sholmo Grafstein** as spiritual leader of the Beth Israel Synagogue, holds a Ph.D. in History of Religion from the University of Chicago. She has taught comparative religion, and American religious history at Stanford, Princeton, San Diego State, University of California at Berkeley and the University of Judaism.

Congregants were impressed with her ease in drawing questions and providing answers.

"She is a true teacher," said **Joy Mendleson**, volunteer synagogue librarian. "She is empathetic and considerate, heard what we were saying and answered our questions."

Jayson Greenblatt, a past president of Beth Israel, said she gave women the idea that they have a role that did not come from God but from man. "She suggested we could chip away at those feelings and



(L-R) Dr. HOWARD and KAREN CONTER, DEVORAH and Rabbi SHLOMO GRAFSTEIN, Dr. TAMAR FRANKIEL seen at the Installation Dinner at the Beth Israel Synagogue, June 12, 1994.

get some loosening in the framework. And she emphasized that questioning is not forbidden."

Dr. Frankiel said women have the same obligation to pray twice a day as men and an obligation to understand. "You can certainly do as much as you can, it can increase your sense of gratitude and joy and develop a closeness to God".

She emphasized women "could pray privately or let public davening assist you in carrying you forward in your prayer."

Dr. Frankiel said the dynamics between men and women is the core element of Judaism. It is basic to family and morality and differences between men

and women should be celebrated.

"The general Judaic focus for women is the inward dimension of strengthening home and family, the foundation of Jewish life. The focus for men is the synagogue."

She admits she's a feminist, "I will assert that women would have a clear voice in what affects them. This is a change for women to no longer need men to translate their concerns."

She encouraged the congregation to support Rabbi Grafstein in his new job, "which is not an easy one. We all have the treasure box of Torah which can reveal so much to us. When you are not sure how to access that treasure box, the rabbi can source areas and solve problems in so many ways through Torah."

Rabbi Grafstein said his responsibility is to teach, enlighten and inspire. "When I see the devotion of this community, it gives me an inspiration to serve with more devotion."

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The battle for Jerusalem resumes

By Dr. Gerald Steinberg

Since King David made Jerusalem his capital almost 3,000 years ago, this city has been the focal point of Jewish history, religion, and culture. During the millennia of exile, the Jewish people continued to pray for the restoration of Jerusalem. Throughout this period, and despite constant hardships, many Jews made their way back to Zion, establishing numerous synagogues and centres of learning. With a few exceptions, Jews have always constituted the majority of Jerusalem's population.

Under the November 1947 United Nations Partition Plan, Jerusalem was to be treated as a "corpus separatum", an "internationalized city" under UN administration. However, the Arabs rejected the plan and Jerusalem became a principal battlefield. In the 1948 War, the ancient Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City was captured by Jordanian and Palestinian forces, and after a long siege the Jewish population was expelled. Although the Israeli-Jordanian cease-fire stipulated that peoples of all religious faiths would enjoy free access to their holy places in Jerusalem, this agreement was not honored by Amman. Between 1948 and 1967, Jews and Israelis were not allowed to visit the Western Wall and other holy sites, and many ancient synagogues and other institutions in the Old City were systematically desecrated and destroyed. The ancient gravestones on the Mount of Olives were used to make paths to the latrines of the Jordanian Legion, and a deliberate effort was made by Jordanian officials to erase all traces of thousands of years of Jewish presence in the holy city.

In the 1967 War, the Israeli army liberated the Old City and removed the walls that had divided it. Immediately after the war, Knesset legislation placed the reunited city under Israeli sovereignty and the Jewish Quarter was rebuilt. The Israeli government took steps to insure the access of Moslems and

Christians to their holy places, and each religious group was (and is) allowed to maintain control of these sites, with a high degree of autonomy from Israeli civil and military authorities.

The Israeli Consensus on Jerusalem

Israelis are strongly united in rejecting any effort to redive Jerusalem or allow external forces to gain sovereignty or control over any part of it. There is an overwhelming national consensus, encompassing most of the political parties and segments of Israeli society, in support of the proposition that the status of Jerusalem - as the undivided capital of Israel - should be maintained no matter what the outcome of negotiations with the P.L.O. (or any other Arab party).

The Rabin government sought to postpone discussions on this issue as long as possible, and the P.L.O. seemed to accept this position. In the Declaration of Principles (DOP), the issue of Jerusalem is left to the final stage of the negotiations, after all other phases of the interim agreements on autonomy have been implemented. The hope was that, by then, if the process succeeds, the Palestinians would be reluctant to risk all their achievements in a bitter fight over Jerusalem. Alternatively, if the process fails, the status quo remains, and the issue of Jerusalem would not have to be addressed at all.

Palestinian Pressure

It is now clear that the Palestinians are not prepared to abide by the timetable outlined in the DOP, and are pressing for the immediate start to negotiations on Jerusalem's final status. P.L.O. Chairman Yassir Arafat placed the issue firmly on the table in his May 11 speech to a mosque in Johannesburg, South Africa. That speech was entirely devoted to Arab claims on Jerusalem, which, Arafat declared, "is our capital", and urged all Muslims to "fight and to start

a jihad" to liberate the city from Israeli Jewish control. Arafat continued: "Our main battle is Jerusalem...Jerusalem, the first shrine of the Moslems." He also declared that he had a letter from the Israeli government acknowledging Palestinian responsibility for Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem.

Predictably, Arafat's declarations set off a political storm in Israel, and government officials reiterated their policy that Jerusalem will never be redivided and will remain the capital of Israel. At first, government officials denied the existence of any letter on Jerusalem. Later, they admitted that a letter had in fact been sent to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister, Johan Jorgen Holst, pledging that "the Palestinians institutions of East Jerusalem" including "economic, social, educational and cultural, and the holy Christian and Moslem places" will be preserved. Holst, in turn, transmitted the letter to Arafat.

Technically, the text of the letter is of little importance (i.e., it does not refer to the status of Palestinian "political" institutions). However, politically, the letter and the controversy that has surrounded it is critical. Through Arafat's statements, the revelation of the "secret" letter, and, most importantly, ongoing Palestinian efforts to establish "facts" in Jerusalem, it is clear that they are attempting to build-up their claims. East Jerusalem's Orient House has become the P.L.O.'s unofficial headquarters -- most Palestinian leaders refer to it as the seat of Palestinian government -- and the centre of Palestinian diplomatic activity. Israeli opposition politicians charge that many of the political and administrative activities related to autonomy in Gaza and Jericho are coordinated out of P.L.O. offices situated in Orient House. Yassir Arafat is planning a trip to Jerusalem, in conjunction with his forthcoming "return" to Jericho, to reinforce Palestinian claims over the city.

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A Political Controversy for the Rabin Government

These developments have created additional problems for an Israeli government which already is confronted by a number of domestic and external political challenges. Critics charge that in his letter to Jorgen Holst, Foreign Minister Peres broke with twenty-seven years of Israeli government policy to not use the term "East Jerusalem" and to reject legitimacy or autonomy for Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem. Some analysts compared the current incident with one in 1978, when Prime Minister Menachem Begin threatened to break off the Camp David negotiations when U.S. President Jimmy Carter repeatedly sought to specify Jerusalem as "occupied territory."

Israeli Policy Options

The renewed Palestinian pressure to place Jerusalem on the current political agenda, for the purpose of acquiring control over "East Jerusalem", raises the prospect of a redivision of the city. While the Palestinians and some Israelis have suggested that the two sides can "share" Jerusalem, with both peoples maintaining independent capitals in their sections of the city, this does not seem practical or realistic. (As already noted, the UN plan to transform Jerusalem into an "internationalized city" was

a political non-starter.) Instead, most Israelis fear that the city will be redivided, and that Jews will again be denied access to the Western Wall and other holy places.

In response to these various pressures, the Rabin government is making a concerted effort to remove the Jerusalem issue from the agenda, and to reduce Palestinian political activity in all parts of Jerusalem. Prime Minister Rabin noted that the Cairo Agreement on implementing autonomy specifically requires that the offices and administrative apparatus of Palestinian autonomy be located in Jericho, and not elsewhere in the territories or in Jerusalem. Israeli officials also firmly rejected any change in the negotiating timetable on Jerusalem outlined in the DOP, and reiterated their absolute support for the Israeli national consensus on the city's status.

However, in the longer term it is clear that the battle for Jerusalem will be difficult and, like the P.L.O. effort over the past three decades to gain recognition and legitimacy, will be fought primarily through television, newspapers, and the court of international opinion. As highlighted in Arafat's Johannesburg speech, and in subsequent declarations, the Palestinian effort to appeal to public opinion is (and will be) based on the claim of ancient Islamic religious rights and attachments to Jerusalem. Clearly, Israel will have to mount its own public relations campaign. Setting the early theme for this campaign, the popular columnist Yoel Marcus noted that Jeru-

salem has never been the capital of any Arab nation: "When our ancestors were building the Temple, the Palestinians were nowhere to be seen." In 1997, Jerusalem will mark the 3,000 anniversary of King David's entry to the city — plans are already being made for a series of highly visible public events celebrating the Jewish historical connection to Jerusalem. In addition, the history of the period between 1948 and 1967 will be highlighted by Israeli spokesmen. The division of the city, and the failure of the Jordanians and Palestinians to respect Jewish rights is (and will undoubtedly continue to be) cited as evidence of Arab intentions and objectives in Jerusalem.

In the final analysis, if Israel is to defend Jerusalem from Palestinian attempts to redivide the city, it will have to take the offensive and act decisively to define and enforce limits on Palestinian rights, and to reinforce the Jewish links with "the City of Zion." While there are debates among Israelis on the importance of the Golan Heights and on the future of the territories, there is no such dispute over Jerusalem. For Israelis and Jews the world over, Jewish control over Jerusalem is non-negotiable, and continued P.L.O. efforts to force the issue now will have a disruptive effect on the entire peace process.

Special to Shalom Magazine. Dr. Steinberg is a senior research associate at the BESA Centre for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

CANADA DAY

Dr. RUTH GOLDBLOOM, MOC, presided over the Citizenship Swearing-in ceremony of 27 New Canadians on Canada Day at the historical Pier 21 site in Halifax.

The new policy of the federal government abolished the Citizenship Judge positions. Also present at the ceremony was the Hon. **SERGIO MARCHI**, minister of Citizenship and Immigration, who travelled to Halifax from Ottawa specially for the occasion. Besides the minister is Mrs. **RAQUEL LEYTON**, a visitor from Chile.

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