



UIA Atlantic Region Leadership Mission, October 1994.

Participants gathered at their farewell dinner at the *Cardo Culinarea* restaurant in Jerusalem.

FRONT ROW, L-R: Mark Rosen, Dick Goldbloom, Ruth Goldbloom, UIA Hostess Medina Pearl, Constance Glube, Dick Glube, and the UIA guide, Tzipi Segal.

BACK ROW, L-R: Reuven Rosenfelder, Victor Goldberg, Judith Goldberg, Jim Spatz, Marcie Gilsig, Lillian Goodman, Maurice Goodman, Ivan Levine, Ethel Cooper-Rosen, Danny Levine (UIA Scholar-in-Residence), Lois Levine, Barbara Newman, and Jon Goldberg.

inside:



**UIA MISSION:
The Whole Story**

pp 16-21



**Highlights of the 9th A.J.C.
Bi-Annual Convention,
the BEST EVER!**

pp 9-15



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Supervising Editor:

Jon M. Goldberg

Copy Editor:

Christina MacNeil

Features:

Joel Jacobson

Chairman of the Board:

Ivan Levine

Typesetting:

Angela Geoffrey

We encourage input from our
readers in the form of Letters
to the Editor, or articles
relating to Jewish life in
Atlantic Canada.

Address all correspondence to:

Editor, c/o Shalom
Lord Nelson Hotel

1515 South Park St. Suite 305

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L2

Tel. (902) 422-7491

Fax (902) 425-3722

Open Community Seder

Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein
will run an educational Seder

Saturday evening, April 15
Time: 8:45 - to midnight

Participants will bring their own supplies
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Cost will be kept to a minimum
(approximately \$5 per person
for "uniform translated Hagaddah"
and space rental)

Place to be announced.
Please respond to reserve a place.

Halifax, (902) 422-1301

Thank you
Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein

President's Message

The Executive of the Atlantic Jewish Council is now embarking on a new term of office for the next two years. I have remained as President and I am happy to say most of the Executive agreed to another term. It is gratifying to me that in these times when lay leadership in many organizations are looking forward to the expiration of their terms, most of our Executive wished to continue on.



by Larry Freeman

I believe there are many factors contributing to this, including strong professional staff, moral, financial and program support from our national organizations and, last but not least, the commitment from Atlantic Jewry to ensure the survival of our Jewish communities.

There also has been strong camaraderie amongst our Executive during the past two years and this makes volunteer work so much more enjoyable.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our returning

Executive members and welcome the new blood to the Executive. We have accomplished a lot to date but there is a lot more to do. Please continue your support so that in two years we will still feel the same.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy, Healthy and Successful 1995.

Shalom.

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

It's December 27 and a cool clear evening as I look out on Spring Garden Road. Just a few more days left in 1994, and another winter issue of *Shalom*. Where has the year gone? There is so much to do and always a shortage of time and resources. I can only hope that we at the AJC have been able in some small way to improve the quality of Jewish life for some of you out there and I will strive to do a better job in the coming year.

The last three months have flown by for me. In October I accompanied our UIA Atlantic Region Leadership Mission to Prague and Israel. What a trip! (see articles in this issue of *Shalom*) With eighteen of your fellow Maritimers, I was able to share some unforgettable experiences, and most gratifying to me was being able to reinforce my commitment to our common goal as Jews. To be in Israel, to see the Jews from all over the world who have come to make that land their home and to know that I along with all Atlantic Jewry have been in some small way able to contribute to that process gives me a sense of satisfaction and even more solidifies in my mind the concept of the partnership that unites all Jews in the path to a better Jewish homeland, at peace with the world. When I stepped off the El Al Flight at Mirabel, I stepped in to our '94 UIA Campaign which began in late October, and I hope to finish up this week. **Reuven Rosenfelder** returned from Israel with the mission and spent a month in the region. We started a bit later than usual, but I hope all our readers have had an opportunity to donate to their local UIA Campaign. Israel and Atlantic Jewry need your support.

On November 11 we welcomed delegates to our 9th Bi-Annual AJC Convention here in Halifax. The National Officers of Canadian Jewish Congress also met here that weekend and I believe we had our best ever convention. Good attendance, excellent workshops and a great feeling of Chevra among our delegates. (see articles in this issue)

Two days after the convention I was on my way to Denver, Colorado for the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations November 16-19.



by Jon Goldberg

The AJC is affiliated in the CJF and our executive was kind enough to send me as your representative. I along with the Executive Directors of all the major Canadian communities and 3500 other delegates was quite impressed by the gathering held in the new Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver. I was able to see and hear **Prime Minister Rabin**, US Vice-President **Albert Gore**, Opposition Leader **Benjamin Netanyahu** over the three day period. I also attended various forums including "The Meaning of Jewish Community in the 21st Century", "Innovations in Media Communications: The Future is Now." Did you know in two years there will be a Jewish television network on satellite available on cable just like CNN or TSN? I'll keep you informed "UIA Campaign-Hard Truth, New Directions" and on Friday November 18 a session, "Innovative Programs in Small Communities, Creative Community Building Ideas." Included in the session was 1. *Project Arevim* - New London, Ct, which began their program based on consultations with the AJC on our project with **Gali Salamon** and 2. *Holocaust Education Symposium* -- by **Bruce Elman** from

Sydney, NS, now president of the Edmonton, Alberta Community. I also had a chance to meet some university students through **Josh Ross** of Network and **Bena Medjuck** of Halifax now attending McGill and in Denver as a delegate of the CZF. Unfortunately there were so many great forums running concurrently, I couldn't attend them all. Next year the GA is going to be in Boston, Mass, and I hope we at the AJC will be able to send a number of delegates and I encourage all of you who can, to attend. I'll be sending out further information later in 1995.

Well, my friends, space is running short and I want to thank all who have helped bring *Shalom* magazine to you the past year. These names are on the inside page of this issue. We can do a better job in '95 but only with your support. Send in your articles on your issues and we will be delighted to print them!

If I were to make some new year's resolutions, besides my usual stop smoking etc., it would be to ask of myself and all who work with the AJC to continue our efforts to: preserve and foster Judaism and to hold fast to its values particularly Tzedakkah, Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bakzeh (all Israel must care for one another) Tikkun Olam (healing of the world), and Klal Yisrael (The community of Israel). For it is with these goals and values the AJC can help ensure the creative survival and continuity of the Jewish people in Atlantic Canada, Israel and throughout the world.

May 1995 be a year of good health and happiness to all our readers and their loved ones.

STOP THE PRESS!!!

Congratulations to **Dr. Ruth Goldbloom** of Halifax on her recent appointment as Chancellor of the Technical University of Nova Scotia. Dr. Goldbloom, long time active in UIA and other Jewish community events, recently participated in the Atlantic Region Mission to Prague and Israel with her husband **Dr. Richard Goldbloom**... Mazel tov to **Arnold Budovitch** of Fredericton on his assuming the Presidency of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue... To **Joel Etienne** of Moncton recently elected President of Network, the Canadian Jewish University Students Organization... Congratulations to **Gali Salamon** and **Lt. David Brock** (Royal Cana-

dian Navy) who recently departed for Israel to be married on January 29, 1995. The newlyweds will return to Halifax on February 15... It's the big "Five-O" 50 years young, as **Camp Kadimah** director **Sheldon Cohen** celebrated this milestone on December 23, 1994. Mr. Cohen will be returning to Kadimah as Director for a record breaking 15th year this coming summer. Happy Birthday Sheldon!... Congratulations to **Mark Garson**, son of **Ralph** and **Ruth** of Halifax, who recently was appointed Crown Attorney for Gore Bay, Ontario (150 miles southwest of Sudbury). Mark is the youngest Crown Attorney in Ontario.

Gali's Window

Just a short note from Jerusalem. As you are reading this issue of *Shalom* I will still be in Israel for a visit home. It was great to meet all my family again after spending 14 months in Canada. You can all imagine how wonderful the weather is; we've been lucky to get lots of hot sunny days. In a week all the trees will be blooming with white flowers. Tu B'Shvat is coming, children will celebrate Tu B'Shvat by planting their own trees in the Land of Israel.

Besides the weather I was happy to see that Israel has developed a lot in the

past 14 months, cities are growing bigger, new shopping malls are opening, high tech industry is being developed everywhere and other changes are noticeable walking downtown Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. I am doing a lot of touring and my plans include visiting the Atlantic Canada JNF forest in Israel and the city Or Yehuda, I promise to tell you everything about my visit when I come back to Halifax.

I hope that everything is going well and that the winter is easy on you in Atlantic Canada. In Israel the tempera-

ture gets to plus 15 and everybody is complaining that it is cold. Now, I get the chance to tell them what real winter is. I'll try to jar some and bring it back with me. However, before I pack to come back I have one more important thing to do, that is to get married. As most of you are probably aware, **David Brock** and I are getting married in Jerusalem. If any of you happen to be in Jerusalem on the 29th of January, you are welcome to join us in our Simcha.

Keep warm, live long and prosper. I will see you all very soon.

Greetings from the Newfoundland Hebrew teacher

by Efrat Tzadik

My name is Efrat Tzadik. I came from Israel four months ago. I landed in cold St. John's but I think I shall get used to it.

The St. John's community is very small but this does not stop us from having big parties on the holidays such

as Chanukah. We had lovely plays that the children prepared; we had songs and candles and the atmosphere was very nice and warm.

I teach Hebrew every afternoon. I like the lessons and hope the students like them too.

I also give presentations about different topics to non-Jewish school stu-

dents. Their questions are very interesting and humorous such as: Do you ride a camel? How long does it take to eat ice-cream in the hot weather? Do you celebrate Christmas?

I can say in one sentence about my experience here. I came here to teach, but they show me everyday that I am here to learn.

The youth of St. John's

Elementary School Report

by Daniel Salama e-mail:

cfrankel@calvin.stemnet.nf.ca

I am eight years old and I live in St. John's. The weather is very bad. I study Hebrew at Hebrew school three times a week and I like it.

I like the parties that we do each holiday. We had a party at Chanukah and we had a play. The *Evening Telegram*, our local newspaper, took my picture lighting the Chanukah candles. It was fun to have my picture in the paper.

Junior High School Report

by Silvia Gross, Arielle Salama e-mail:

cfrankel@calvin.stemnet.nf.ca

Miriam Noel e-mail: jnoel@public.compuserve.nf.ca

So far, this year has been fun for us at the Beth-El Synagogue in St. John's. We started off with Rosh Hashana, and then there was Simchat Torah. Rosh Hashana was a special one because our teacher, Efrat, had just arrived from Israel. Efrat brought thirty special jars of honey from Israel for the congregation.

A very special event was the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Hoenig. It was a lot of fun and something we shall remember for a while.

We had a great time at the Chanukah party where we did a talk show about the holiday. It was greatly enjoyed by the audience. The Chanukah party was the best one in recent years.

This year our Hebrew classes are fun. We have made good progress with our new Hebrew teacher. We go to Hebrew school twice a week after school for one and a half hours. With our great new teacher we are booming with progress.

This past weekend (Dec 9-11), we had a B-I-G storm. Most of the Avalon Peninsula lost power for the weekend and some communities lost power for one week. Most schools were closed for one day and some phone lines were down. People were depending on propane stoves and fireplaces to heat food and to get warm. Restaurants that had power were doing a booming business. We were looking for places to sleep that had power. Today it is cold, windy and we have snow.

Please feel free to contact us by e-mail!!

High School Class Report

by Polina Litvak

The transition from one education system to another was difficult but very interesting and sometimes an embarrassing experience. The teachers in the country where I came from push the students ahead really hard because it is considered if a student has not reached his or her full potential, the teacher will not be considered for an award (teacher of the month or something).

Here, not to offend anyone, the teachers concentrate on meeting time guidelines and following the curriculum. Sometimes students who are slow learners or have many problems score lower on the exams than they would if they had spent more time on that subject.

NOTE: Polina arrived in St. John's from Estonia two years ago. She, her sister Rufina, and her parents Sergei and Tamara, have become active members of our congregation.

Kristallnacht

by Joel Jacobson

Larry Riteman was guarded in his analysis of the third annual Dignity Day, held in Halifax November 9 to remember Jews robbed of their dignity by the Nazis and recognize the dignity of those who fought in the Second World War.

"I am a bit disappointed that this event is not growing beyond the Jewish community," he said after the Halifax ceremony in which public figures and private citizens lit candles to remember November 9, 1938 when Germans destroyed Jewish communities throughout that country. "This should be of more concern to the general community."

He said it is appropriate for people to ask themselves, prior to Remembrance

Day November 11, "Am I worthy of someone to have given their life for me to be free?, they should ask," said Riteman, Atlantic regional chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress Holocaust Remembrance Committee. He has organized the first three Dignity Days in Halifax and said "I feel we're running out of time on this event. It is 49 years since the war. Next year, people will focus on 50th anniversary dates and the public will think of World War II. But in the years following, they will start thinking about the Cold War, the hardness of the late 1940s and 1950s, and maybe we will have lost the opportunity to make an event like this spontaneous."

The 50 people attending the event met at Nova Scotia's Province House

(home of the legislative assembly) and marched, with lit candles, the short distance to downtown cenotaph where provincial and civic leaders, including newly-elected Jewish alderman **Jerry Blumenthal**, placed candles.

"It was encouraging to see so many teens and young adults attending," said Mr. Riteman. "Maybe we can keep this going."

Dalhousie University student **Jodi Lassner** of Montreal, one of the several speakers, said "We are here 56 years after Kristallnacht, to ensure that history will not be forgotten and not be repeated."

Brian Indig, a 21-year-old Dalhousie student from Yarmouth, NS, played the part of a Nazi at the ceremony and smashed a pane of glass to create the mood. "I felt the pain and sympathy of what Jews in Germany went through. Emotionally it was disturbing, you know, that we were just treated like dirt, like garbage." Mr. Indig is president of Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation.

Moncton Remembrance Day services

by Mendel Greenblatt

We wish to report on the 1994 Armistice Day services in Moncton, on Saturday, November 5 in the Synagogue, and the following Friday November 11, at the Moncton Coliseum.

Unfortunately at this time, we regret to announce the death of **Sam Gordon** of Moncton, killed in a traffic accident a couple of weeks before Armistice Day. Sam was an annual participant in our Synagogue services and his presence will be sorely missed at the Armistice services in the Synagogue.

The regular service was held at the Moncton coliseum. This is the third year the service has been held indoors. The organizers of the event, Moncton Royal Canadian Legion, claim there is a better turn out when the event is held indoors, and this seemed to be so, as there was a good crowd of both participants and spectators.

In the absence of **Rabbi Ellis**, who was away in Halifax, the benediction was said by **Dr. Frances Weil**, and the wreath on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans was laid by **Mendel Greenblatt** Branch Commandant.

Jewish War Veterans - Atlantic Post #4

by Gar Meltzer, Saint John

On November 11 Canadian Jewish War Veterans participated in the laying of wreaths. **I.J. Davis**, **Berny Bloom** and **Max Franslow** laid a wreath at the cenotaph in Kings Square Center of City. **Gar Meltzer** laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in West Saint John. **Nate Green** laid a wreath at the cenotaph in Lancaster. **David Lubin** made a prayer at the cenotaph in King Square at 10:55 a.m.

The Jewish War Veterans joined multi organizations at Catholic, Jewish and Protestant cemeteries where they laid wreaths at individual chapels. At our cemetery a Canadian flag was attached to each veteran's stone resting

there. It was a sight to see. Over 200 people were there and we were proud to see their faces. At our chapel **Dan Elman** chanted Kaddish in English and Hebrew. **Mrs. Joan Smith** and **Mrs. Bertha Master** laid wreaths accompanied by flag bearers **Nate Green** and **Max Franslow**. At our chapel the crowd was greeted by Commander **Gar Meltzer** and President **I.J. Davis**.

On Sunday, November 13, 1994 at 2 p.m. Canadian Jewish War Veterans were invited to the Cathedral for a tri-service (Army, Navy, Air Force). Over 800 people attended a very beautiful affair. Commander **Gar Meltzer** was asked to read a prayer from Mica and wore a yarmulke.

Sydney Remembrance Day services

by Dr. Garson Lecker

The annual Remembrance Day services were held in Sydney at Temple Sons of Israel on Saturday, November 12.

All veterans took part in regular Shabbat services: Shacharis by **Max Lubetski**, Aliyahs, Haftorah by **Dr. H. Dubinsky**, and Musof by **Dr. Irving Perlin** (of Halifax).

The message for the day was delivered by **William "Bill" Sampson** a veteran of 5 years in the RCAF where he attained the souls of Flying Officer. A past president of Branch 12, Sydney, of the Royal Canadian Legion, he was accompanied by two legionnaires.

Mr. Sampson's message dealt with the why of Remembrance Day and the everyday role of the Legion.

The services were followed by a kiddush sponsored by **Dr. and Mrs. Garson Lecker**.

From Around



AJC President, Mr. LARRY FREEMAN, on his way to lay a wreath during 1994's Halifax Remembrance Day Service.



At the AJC Bi-Annual Convention, RUTH NOEL, Newfoundland Representative and ITZIK GELBER (R), Shaliach, CYJ, and JEREMY COHEN (L), CJF Toronto.



We can have our cake and eat it too!



Dr. IRVING ABELLA (L), Pres., Canadian Jewish Congress and JACK SILVERSTONE, Executive Director CJC, at the Hospitality Suite, AJC Bi-Annual Convention.



SHULAMITH MEDJUCK and BARBARA PATON, AJC Secretary, at the AJC Bi-Annual Convention.

the Region



Rabbi S. GRAFSTEIN, Beth Israel Synagogue, with Catholic and Protestant clergy at the Remembrance Day Service 1994



EZRA WEXLER as Joseph, with part of the cast, December 4, 1994.



JONATHAN FREEMAN shown with members of the cast at the performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, in Halifax.



JUDITH GOLDBERG talking about Israel at UIA Parlour Meeting held at her home during November, 1994.



The Annapolis Valley Jewish community getting together to light the Chanukah Candles, November 27, 1994.

Do you know these faces?

Submitted by Martin Frank



TEP STEAK STAG. January 30, 1966, Lord Nelson Hotel

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

by Ray Ginsberg

Although it might be more fitting for someone else to review the Jewish Community Players production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, I suppose that I could offer a few not so impartial comments about the Halifax-based company's musical rendering.

I have not seen the local newspapers' reviews of the show nor have I received any clippings from the *New York Times*'

critics. The Maritime tour lasted only one day. No booking agents have turned their attention to the company. How then should one measure the success or failure of such an undertaking? The answer lies, for me personally, in the faces of the youth who courageously paraded on stage, and in the hearts of the families of these children. The answer lies in the memories of those who participated, and in the memories of anyone who has ever participated in this type of production.

To answer the question, consult your local Jewish participant. Is it not typical to answer a question with a question? Well, why not here? Was this a success ?!!! Don't ask !!! With approximately 250 spectators in the audience, how

could it not be a success? Did the kids put on a good show? I can only say that no one has complained to me about any aspect of the show. I already have numerous offers of assistance should we decide to take another step forward. And I can assure Camp Kadimah staff that they will have many willing campers to audition for whatever musical they decide to put on this summer.

Measured by all of these standards, I can say with no hesitation that there is no doubt in my mind as to the answer to this question. The only question that remains is --"What will next year's undertaking be?"

One final word. Thank you to all those who helped (and as you know there certainly are a lot of you). Thanks to Geri and Blair for the music. Thanks to Jean for direction. Thanks to Shirley without whom this production would never have taken place. And thank you to the AJC, whose Board of Directors believed enough in me to allow the show to go on.

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"Do the Right Thing"

At the 9th biennial AJC Convention



(L-R): Arthur Saffron, Lou Michelson, Dorothy Mark, Frank Budovitch, Dr. Jayson Greenblatt. Missing from the photograph are Harry and Shirley Dubinsky, who were unable to attend.

by Joel Jacobson

"Do The Right Thing" was the theme of the 9th biennial Atlantic Jewish Council convention in Halifax in November.

It was only fitting that seven Atlantic Canadians who have "done the right thing," in their communities over the years were honoured with Community Service Awards.

"We can be proud to have served others and to have made this world a better place," said **Dorothy Mark**, who has devoted herself to the Moncton community for the last 52 years. She has been a convenor, president, governor, board member, conscientious shul-goer and caterer of synagogue functions.

In their secular community Mark has participated in Meals on Wheels, served Christmas dinners at churches, and been a volunteer member of several organizations including the Red Cross and United Way.

Others honoured were: **Frank Budovitch**, Fredericton; **Harry and Shirley Dubinsky**, Sydney; **Jayson Greenblatt**, Halifax; **Lou Michelson**, Saint John; and **Arthur Saffron**, Springhill, NS.

Budovitch, a 70-year resident of Fredericton, has led his community as synagogue president, B'nai Brith Lodge president and United Israel Appeal and State of Israel Bond Drive chairman. He has been a member of Fredericton Rotary for 30 years, director of the hospital foundation board and a leading member of a Labatt Relay team of former heart patients who

raised more than \$120,000 for the hospital foundation.

The Dubinskys of Sydney have been very active in Cape Breton Jewish organizations. Harry has been synagogue-involved, teaching bar mitzvah lessons as well as Hebrew and Jewish history to the remaining Sydney youngsters. He represents the Jewish community in many official functions and served the Canadian Army reserve for many years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Shirley Dubinsky has served Hadassah in Sydney and rose to become National Vice President for a five-year term. Interested in community theatre, she was a member of Habimah players and starred in several successful musicals. A community volunteer, she was a freelance broadcast and was on the local committee of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra.

Greenblatt, a defense scientist and energy research consultant, was president of the Baron de Hirsch congregation three separate times, chaired Israel Bonds and UIA campaigns in Halifax, served on the boards of Agudath Israel Congregation in Ottawa and the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged, and was vice-chairman of the Halifax School Board. He has been chairman of the Atlantic chapter of the Chemical Institute of Canada and was first president of the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Society of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Michelson has been instrumental in keeping religious serv-

Continued on page 12

At the AJC 9th Bi-Annual Convention:



Our Convention co-chair, **CLAIRE SALAMA** welcomes the panel of the opening workshop: *Jewish Life in Atlantic Canada*, held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue.



AJC President **LARRY FREEMAN** and **ARTHUR SAFFRON**, Springhill, N.S., recipient of 1994 Community Service Award



UIA National Field Director, **BARNEY HARRIS**, acknowledging Mrs. **BARBARA NEWMAN** and Justice **CONSTANCE GLUBE** for their key roles as leaders in the 1994 UIA Campaign. Halifax Campaign Chairman **VICTOR GOLDBERG** looks on.



Panelists of the workshop *Servicing the Jewish Youth of Atlantic Canada*: (L-R) **MARK ROSEN**, moderator; **ROSALIE SIMEONE**, parent and Hebrew School Teacher; **RUTH NOEL**, Newfoundland Representative; **GALI SALAMON**, Areva, AJC; **ITZIK GELBER**, Shaliach, CYJ.



Judge **IRWIN LAMPERT** at the podium during JNF lunch.

Halifax, November 11-13, 1994



Saint John's (NB) **LOU MICHELSON** accepts Atlantic Jewish Council Community Service Award.



REUVEN ROSENFELDER, UIA Emisary, shown moderating workshop *Israel, The Peace Process*. The Consul General of Israel, Mr. **DANIEL GAL** (seated, first from right) was also a panel member.



THREE'S A CROWD! AJC President **LARRY FREEMAN**, with **FRANK MEDJUCK** and AJC honouree, Dr. **JAYSON GREENBLATT**.



AJC Executive Members **CLAIRE SALAMA**, of St. John's, Newfoundland, and **DAVID ATTIS** of Moncton, NB, appraise the situation.



Members of the audience attentively look on during one of the workshops.

9th Biennial Convention

by Joel Jacobson

Battling assimilation with continuity of Jewish activity plus parental guidance of young people are the keys to survival for small communities in the Atlantic provinces more than 150 delegates to the 9th biennial convention of Atlantic Jewish Council were told Nov 11-13.

Rabbis, youth leaders, students and national Canadian Jewish Congress officers combined to hammer home realities to representatives of communities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

For the first time in its 75-year history, Congress held a national officers meeting in Halifax. And, in conjunction, the national community relations committee, under the chairmanship of Hal Joffe of Calgary, also met in Halifax.

"We have to spread the message of Judaism and idealism with education," said Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein of the orthodox Beth Israel Congregation in Halifax. "We can't live off the past. There are new forces tugging all of us. But we have to stand up on the positives of our heritage for togetherness, not just

the negatives of events like the Holocaust which hold us together."

Marty Zelenietz, president of the conservative Shaar Shalom Congregation of Halifax, said today's religion bears little resemblance to that of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and King David. "It is a religion of constant change and adaptation. If we change ourselves, and recognize overall change, we can build for the future."

Sandy Brown, education and culture chair, Canadian Jewish Congress, told the conference "Continuity is dependent on the individual, family and community seizing control of the Jewish identity. This challenge requires will. The answer is to do the right thing. And that only requires doing something."

The conference provided six workshops for its participants. Youth problems, at the university level and below, were discussed thoroughly. "We have to seek the needs of students, recognize they have problems and understand them, and then use what we have at our disposal to solve them," said Jeremy Cohen, newly appointed assistant director of the Council of Jewish Federations. "We have to appeal to people in ways

that are sensitive and grabs them. There are ways of taking our heritage and passing it on. We see the campus generation as our next generation so we must pull our resources together to reach them."

Parents of children in very small communities appealed to the Atlantic Jewish Council and its arevim to provide programs that will keep children involved. "Many of the children are linked through Camp Kadimah but they, and those who don't attend camp, need something through the rest of the year," said Ruth Noel of St. John's, Nfld., where there are a handful of Jewish children. "It's tiresome to be a Jew in a vacuum. We must plan regional themed weekends that will focus on the young people's interests, making it worthwhile for us to send them to a major centre for activity."

Gali Salamon, areva for the region since September 1993, has run into roadblocks, with only a handful of children showing for many programs but with numbers increasing slowly. "We need support from parents," she said. "Every child has something to contribute but parents have to convince the kids they must participate."

The Right Thing...

ices alive in a community with a declining population. When the last resident rabbi left in 1981, Michelson started leading weekly Shabbat and all festival services. He is Torah reader, teaches bar and bat mitzvot, officiates at funerals and unveilings and represents the community at ecumenical gatherings.

Saffron, born in Springhill, has been active in Jewish and secular organizations. A member of Tiferes Israel Synagogue in Moncton, he has been a board member of Atlantic Jewish Council, president of the Springhill Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce and Nova Scotia representative to the Atlantic Chamber of Commerce. He has been involved in Red Cross, Family and Children's Services, and has been on several provincial advisory committees.



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Wine Merchant

Other workshops highlighted the future for singles, seniors and the observant in Atlantic Canada; community relations, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, a panel featuring Joffe and **Bernie Farber**, national director of the NCRC; and Israel, the peace process and the effect of Middle East politics around the world.

The latter topic featured **Daniel Gal**, consul general to Canada, **Herzl Makov**, World Zionist Organization, and **Moshe Ronen**, chair of Israel Affairs of CJC. The panel emphasized the new realities in the Middle East with peace necessitating an effort to keep communities together. Before peace, people were tied together by negative forces. It's easier to assimilate when those forces are not there, a large audience was told.

Another session featured the reactions of four Atlantic university presidents who visited Israel on a CJC tour last July with 14 of their counterparts from the rest of Canada. "I was tremendously impressed with the history, tradition, and with the human resources and outstanding development of the last 40 years," said Dalhousie University president **Howard Clark**.

CJC president **Irving Abella**, who hosted the tour, said in an interview the appearance of Clark, **Ian Newbould** of Mount Allison University (Sackville, NB), **Daniel O'Brien** of St. Thomas University (Fredericton) and **Elizabeth Parr-Johnston** of Mount St. Vincent University (Halifax) was "the first time

in the history of any country that four university presidents spoke together in front of the Jewish community about their impression of Israel.

"We put the trip together to create a relationship in research and exchanges, both students and faculty, between universities in Canada and Israel," said **Abella**. "We also want to show the presidents how far Israeli universities had come. They certainly saw the legitimacy of Canadian students taking courses there."

"We hope exchanges can happen

soon," said **Clark**. "And we're talking about visits of Israeli university presidents to Canada when we'd talk to specific proposals so something can happen."

During the convention, seven Atlantic Canadians were presented community service awards. The AJC recognized **Frank Budovitch**, Fredericton, **Dr. Harry and Shirley Dubinsky**, Sydney, **Dr. Jayson Greenblatt**, Halifax, **Dorothy Mark**, Moncton, **Lou Michelson**, Saint John, and **Arthur Saffron**, Springhill.

Lawrence Freeman re-elected

by Joel Jacobson

Halifax lawyer **Lawrence Freeman** was re-elected president of the Atlantic Jewish Council at the organization's 9th biennial conference November 13 in Halifax, to serve a second two-year term.

In his report to more than 150 delegates from the region, Freeman reviewed the successes of his term, including executive meetings held throughout the widespread region, completion of a report on a seniors' secretariat, and the outstanding increase in programming activities and attendance at events.

"We need to ensure the continuity in programming in Atlantic Canada," he

said. "We can't stop now. It is vital to our future."

The entire slate of officers was returned for a two-year term including chairman **Ivan Levine**, Fredericton, first vice president **Victor Goldberg**, second vice president **Sheva Medjuck**, treasurer **Mark Rosen**, and secretary **Barbara Paton**, all of Halifax. Members at large include **Seymour Prince**, **Sherry Pink**, **Larry Riteman** and **Kathy Zilbert**, all of Halifax and **Irwin Lampert**, Moncton.

Other members-at-large, from Cape Breton, Annapolis Valley (NS), Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John, will be elected in their own communities.

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Headdress, Legions, Poppies, and the Canadian Jewish Congress!

by Joel Jacobson

The Canadian Jewish Congress will continue to send a message to Royal Canadian Legion branches that refuse to bend on the headdress issue.

Members of the National Community Relations Committee, meeting in Halifax November 13-14, said they would urge groups considering using legion halls for upcoming company and private holiday parties to alter their plans if the hall has discriminatory practices.

"We are asking people wanting to engage a legion hall to ask the hall's headdress policy and, if necessary, move to another legion hall for their function," said **Bernie Farber**, director of the NCRC. "We're imploring churches, unions, municipalities and other groups to stand with the Canadian Jewish Congress and Sikh organizations and be heard on this matter. And we want to remind politicians on all levels they should not visit legion halls that discriminate."

Committee chairman **Hal Joffe**, of Calgary, said Congress has had positive response, receiving letters from legion branches "telling us they changed their headdress policy. We do not have exact numbers but now think the minority of legion halls restrict admission" to Jews and Sikhs wearing yarmulkes and turbans, respectively. "We give credit to those who realize the significance of the issue," he said.

He emphasized Jews did not boycott the purchase of poppies prior to Remembrance Day. In Calgary, where, he said, all legions are discriminatory, the community Jewish council bought poppies directly from the Poppy Fund and distributed them to merchants. "We still ensured funds went to needy veterans and their families, but did not funnel those funds through the legions."

The NCRC meeting, attended by more than 20 national committee members, also faced the continuing issue of racist extremism in Canada.

"We are now seeing a youth movement in the extremist racist element," said Joffe. "It's a small group with numbers that aren't increasing significantly but they are more active in promoting an agenda of violence than were their predecessors, mostly old men who nodded off at meetings."

Joffe said education is the key. "We have to make our community and the general public aware. These racists would like to take over society. I don't think they can do that but they can certainly hurt people."

He said communities have to work with law enforcement agencies and must be more mindful of technology. Holocaust deniers are now presenting their case through the internet and strategies must be developed to combat that.

Fortunately, he said, there are Jews and non-Jews who are already debating with deniers on the internet.

The Daughters of Zion Chapter of Yarmouth

by Rosalie Indig

The Daughters of Zion Chapter of Yarmouth, NS, through its 6 dedicated members has made it possible to still be part of the National Organization of Hadassah-Wizo.

While membership has declined in recent years, Yarmouth Hadassah-Wizo continues to succeed in reaching its annual budget without public participation.

Most recently we had a combination Chanukah and Anniversary party. Participants from "Canada World Youth Vision" (Egyptians and Canadian young adults) joined us in our program. The evening was most enlightening for all who attended. They told us of the customs in their country in contrast to ours.

The exchange program is about giving Egyptians and Canadians a chance to learn about another culture by working and living together in a Canadian, and, then, an Egyptian environment. The participants spent 14 weeks in Yarmouth living with their "Host Family". It was wonderful for our community to see that Jews and Egyptians can celebrate a holiday together. This gives one hope that peace can be attained in our time.

Our group is small but mighty and proud to say we continue to succeed.



Mervat Ahmed Hamdy of Egypt holds up the wedding dress she wore as part of a cultural presentation to say goodbye to the people of Yarmouth. Nuning Getty, her friend and Canada World Youth exchange partner, stands beside her. The young people left for Egypt on Tuesday. Rosalie and Victor Indig hosted the above girls.



Countdown to CJC Plenary

by Mike Cohen CJC National
Director of Communications and
Israel Affairs

May 14 and 15 in Montreal

Planning and preliminary work are already well underway for Canadian Jewish Congress's 24th Triennial Plenary Assembly, which will be held at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel in Montreal, May 14-15, 1995. More than 1,000 delegates from across the country will convene for this important event.

Plenary Chair **Goldie Hershon** is counting on a strong turnout from the Atlantic Jewry. This prestigious triennial event features the election of new officers, including a president, as well as a series of high-profile plenums and workshops dealing with public advocacy, national unity, racism and anti-Semitism, the media, Jewish continuity, student issues and Holocaust Remembrance. The latter session will focus on the situation 50 years after Liberation in an interactive session written, directed, produced and hosted by international television star **Shirley Solomon**.

Plenary registration forms are now available at the Atlantic Jewish Council office or by calling CJC in Montreal (514-931-7531). A special full-time student price of \$28.49 has been established. Fees for delegates and observers are \$96.86 and \$51.28 for young adults and senior citizens before March 31.

After that date the fees rise to \$125.35 and \$68.37 respectively. All prices in-

emphasizes that in the past resolutions have often restated well-established

CJC policy positions which the standing committees of congress have incorporated into their ongoing activities. Other resolutions reiterated statements of principle, entrenched in CJC's Aims and Objectives. Non-controversial and often voted upon as a block, the sheer volume of these resolutions has restricted, or eliminated altogether, the time available to debate resolutions aimed at revising existing Congress policies or dealing with innovative issue areas for CJC's agenda.

Accordingly, this year CJC will be accepting approximately 18 resolutions that effectively move Congress policy in new directions or seek to change long-standing positions. CJC is asking regional representatives and members of national standing committees to initiate discussions to formulate resolutions they may wish to bring forward. All resolutions proposed must be ranked

in order of priority and submitted to the National Resolutions Committee by January 31, 1995. Those seeking further information should contact **Jon Goldberg**, **Myra Freeman**, **Ivan Levine** and **Arthur Saffron** are among the AJC representatives on the Plenary planning committee. It is their hope to attract a significant delegation to Montreal for a very important convention.



Shirley Solomon

clude GST and PST.

As the democratic decision-making body of Canadian Jewry, the resolutions process guides Congress policy for the following three years. CJC National Resolutions Committee Chair **Reisa Teitelbaum** has announced that this will be somewhat modified at the Plenary and the community's cooperation is being sought in making it more meaningful and effective. Ms. Teitelbaum

UIA Atlantic leadership mission: the visit to Prague

by Reuven Rosenfelder
UIA Israel Emissary in the
Atlantic Region

Jon Goldberg asked me to write an article for *Shalom Magazine*, relating to the UIA Atlantic Leadership Mission to Prague and Israel, and suggested that I focus on Prague. I usually do what Jon suggests, so I want to share with you the following comments.

Prague is probably unique among the cities of the world, in that its historic Jewish section is a major attraction not only for Jewish visitors, but for general tourists as well. This is due to the remarkable preservation of the Jewish sites, all concentrated in a compact quarter, the former ghetto.

Here, along a short and narrow street, you will find the famous "Altneushul", a medieval synagogue with walls as thick as those of a fortress. It has been a synagogue for 600 years, and so it is today. Or the equally famous cemetery, with thousands of stones piled on top of each other, accumulated over several centuries. Rabbi Yehuda Lowe, creator of the legendary Golem of Prague, is buried here.

As our group made its way along the narrow footpath in the cemetery, shaded by tall and leafy trees, we were transported as if by magic to a different era. The Jewish past became concrete. Between those ancient cemetery walls, we were filled with a sense of belonging to a people with deep roots, that has gone through so much.

It was ironic that the most spoken language around us was German. Prague is filled with German visitors. Hitler had intended to establish in Prague what he had thought to call a "Museum for an

extinct race", and to that end the Nazis brought to Prague invaluable Jewish artistic and ritual treasures from other con-

What our group managed to do in two and a half days was quite incredible. On Thursday afternoon, we did the Jewish Quarter, followed by a view of the magnificent Old Town Square. In the evening, we met in our own dining room at the hotel with Tomas Kraus, Executive Director of the Czech Jewish Community.

Here was a man in his early forties, speaking a fine English, sharing with us the complex challenges of his job. The great Jewish past is no more. The community is small and aging. On the other hand, Prague is once again free and flourishing. It attracts thousands of foreign residents, many of whom, according to Kraus, are Jewish. Is there a future? Will a new kind of community evolve? Will the older establishment, still re-

membering the Communist era, let it happen?

There are other matters, Kraus said. The Czech government has just recently turned over ownership of extensive Jewish properties, confiscated by the Nazis and retained by the Communists, to the present community organization. The government also turned over the vast Jewish treasures assembled by the Nazis. So here is a community, lacking the experience and tools to deal with major issues, having to respond to them.

Prague is an hour's drive from Terezin, the former Theresienstadt concentration camp. Actually, it was (and still is) a small town within walls, into which the Nazis crammed tens of thousands of Jews, many of them to be transported farther east, to the gas chambers. 33,000 did perish here. The story of Theresienstadt is special. "Auschwitz was the Kingdom of Death.



Mission participants shown at the cemetery at Theresienstadt. An actual survivor, who had returned from Israel (with handkerchief), and his daughter (with video recorder) were also in this group.

quered cities. Now German tourists flock to the Jewish Quarter.

A graphic reminder of the Holocaust is right near the cemetery. In the Pinsker synagogue (not active any more), the



This cemetery in Prague is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe.

names of thousands upon thousands of Czech Jews deported to their deaths during World War II are inscribed. We walked around, read names. It was all so enormous, so overwhelming.

Theresienstadt was the Kingdom of Deceit," wrote **Chaim Potok**.

Some of us had expected a place that was starker, more shocking. But by the end of the day, everyone had a clearer sense of what the Holocaust was. Guiding us on this tour was **Mrs. Lieblova**, herself a survivor of the camp now living in Prague. In her restrained, quiet manner, she passed on a great deal of information. We held a moving ceremony at the crematorium. We met an Israeli family. The father had been interned in Theresienstadt. 50 years later he came back. He pointed to his family, which he raised in Israel, and said "This is my revenge."

And then we were back in Prague, and we went to the "Altneushul" for the Friday evening service. All right, maybe the rabbi spoke endlessly in Czech which nobody understood. And maybe the women were set aside behind the "Mother of all Mechizahs" as one sharp guy defined it. But when it finally came to singing "Lecha Dodi" in that ancient shul, I, for one, had a feeling of elation.

To be frank, the kosher restaurant in the Jewish Community Center, two-minutes walk from the Altneushul, doesn't merit three stars. But it was Friday evening, and we were among our people. It was raining hard, but **Danny Levine**, our Mission's scholar-in-residence whom we came to admire, walked back with some friends to the hotel.

Besides being a place of great Jewish interest, Prague is also a marvelous place to visit for general sightseeing. It has gone through tremendous change in a few short years, after the fall of Communism. So our group managed to do some touring of landmarks, and certainly got a feeling for this great European city. We even attended the national opera, in a sumptuously ornate hall.

More than one nodded off during that unmemorable performance. It was understandable. We did a lot and experienced a lot - and that was just the preliminary part of the Mission program, with Jerusalem and Israel awaiting us for the main part....

Letter from the Golan Heights

by **Jim Spatz, Regional UIA Chairman**

Our bus climbs and climbs; hairpin turns that would test a Ferrari, our driver maneuvers with ease. We ooh and ah, like children on a circus ride. The Hula Valley below, the Heights above, higher and higher we go.

Days before, in Jerusalem, we are given the glasses through which to view this experience: right wing glasses to see that peace is for suckers, nothing but risk and danger, not really there for the taking; left wing glasses, to see that peace is the only way to break the cycle of risk and danger, and only there for the taking if we give up the vanity of land. We stay above it; we are civilized Western man, cool and rational, outside the oven that makes of the Middle East a stew of blood and religion.

Higher and higher; wild boars scamper, gazelles grace the ridge, then are gone. Bombed out Syrian bunkers speak to the blood that bought this land, and the blood that must be paid to hold it. The autumn sun beats down on the silence. The light is crystal clear.

Later at the Kibbutz,

achingly beautiful, commanding the valley from the edge of the Heights, we meet the people who live here. Our host tells us his story. The irony of it: his escape from Vietnam-era America, from war, has brought him to the edge of the Golan Heights, but not to peace, rather to the knife-edge upon which the Middle East peace process now seems to rest. The left wing radical of the late 60's is now the fellow traveler of the Israeli right wing: the irony of it. And yet he is right in wanting to be outside the politics; in wanting to live on the land he has worked, to taste the fruit of

his sweat. And too, he is right: peace with your neighbour, yes; but peace when you can't sit at the same table with him, before he will look you in the eyes?

The drive down: late afternoon dusk, finished our journey for the day, ready to be where we're going, but still not there; the impatience to be, the reality of becoming; like the journey on the twisting road to peace - the golden light ahead, the impatience to be there, the chasms and pitfalls and blood on the way; is this really the road?

We are civilized Western man, rational and compromising, settling our disputes with ink, parachuted into the Middle East, where nothing is settled, except perhaps accounts, and then not in ink but in blood. Today we have seen the sweat of every man's brow as he lives his life, tills his land, feeds his children and we have left a little of our certainty, our rational point of view up there with him, on the Golan Heights.

What kind of peace is this? And yet, what kind of life is this, without peace?



Members of UIA Leadership Mission addressed by a local settler at Kfar Haruv, a kibbutz on the Golan Heights.

The UIA Leadership



Photos by:
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GOLDBERG.

At the Canada
Centre in
Metulla, L-R: L.
Levine, C. Glube,
E. Rosen, I.
Levine, Mayor
Yossi Goldberg,
and a Bruins fan
from Ontario.



Participants stop for a lecture at the Beit She'an excavations.



Out for a walk: Victor & Judith Goldberg, shown strolling on the Golan Heights, overlooking the Hula Valley settlements.



Dick Glube gets serious at an archaeological dig at Tel Mareshah.



AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg shown with Mark Rosen, getting a bang for his buck, at the border patrol training camp, outside Jerusalem.

Mission of 1994



Scholar-in-residence, Danny Levine, leading the participants in Havdalah services. Marcie Gilsig looks on attentively, as UIA hostess Medina Pearl hold candles.



An army lieutenant, with our army tour guide, brief the Chevra at an I.D.F. Army Base in the Jordan Valley.



Ruth Goldbloom visits with Ethiopian children at the Mevasseret Yerushalayim Absorption Center outside Jerusalem, to see our UIA dollars at work, "SO NO JEW STANDS ALONE".



Shown at the base of Massada, (L-R): M. Rosen, V. Goldberg, J. Spatz, I. Levine, and E. Cooper-Rosen.



Hands Up! A minstrel review takes place at the Dead Sea. L-R: I. Levine, J. Spatz, Dick Goldbloom and M. Rosen having a mud bath.

Barbara and Norman Newman Scholarship Fund

by Joel Jacobson

Barbara Newman had never visited Israel. She and her late husband, **Norman**, had not had the time or opportunity but when a United Israel Appeal Atlantic Canadian mission was proposed for this past October, she knew the time was right.



Barbara Newman

Her husband passed away in December 1993 after a long illness. Barbara knew she wanted to do something concrete in Israel to memorialize him and felt this would be the proper time.

"What she did was a breakthrough for Atlantic Canada UIA," said **Reuven Rosenfelder**, director of communications, UIA Canada/Israel office, based in Israel. "The size of her contribution for a single project in Israel sets a new

standard for giving in the Atlantic region."

The establishment of the \$250,000 Barbara and Norman Newman Scholarship Fund will provide assistance for 15-18 year-olds in the upper Galilee region to attend Migal Research Institute of Tel Hai Regional college.

"I was a high school teacher and guidance counselor and always interested in education," said Mrs. Newman. "I wanted to support a project dealing with bright young minds in Israel. When I visited the Migal Institute as part of our eight-day mission, and met with the director who gave us the tour, I knew that was where I wanted to direct my donation."

She said the research done at Migal and Tel Hai can help not only the students, but also the country. "I'm a practical person and could see the practical application of what they were doing."

Interest from the donation of \$250,000 will be matched by UIA, guaranteed for the next five years, with a possibility for five additional years, she said. The money will provide multiple scholarships.

The mission was attended by 16 community leaders from Atlantic Canada. "We were impressed with what had been accomplished in Israel where enormous problems have been faced and



The late Norman Newman

dealt with effectively," said Mrs. Newman. "Now that I've been there, any news item I read or see will make me more interested in what is happening and give me greater understanding. I will definitely go back."

Norman Newman was a successful Halifax businessman who served on the boards of many business and arts organizations, including Dalhousie University, Symphony Nova Scotia and Shaar Shalom Synagogue. He was also a major benefactor of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Fredericton Remembrance Day services

Rabbi Spiro honoured the veterans of Fredericton by calling them up to the Torah on November 5. On November 11 after Mincha, he delivered a sermon on a Remembrance Day theme and a moment of silence was observed by the congregation.

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Mission to Israel: Highlights of the UIA Brunch

by Joel Jacobson

Ivan Levine had never been to Israel. But on his return from a United Israel Appeal mission in October, the Fredericton businessman termed his trip "the most profound experience with travel and learning I have ever had in my life."

Levine was a member of a 16-person group of Atlantic Canadian Jewish community leaders on a trip planned "to have people see for themselves what Israel is doing and return home with a renewed commitment," said **Victor Goldberg**, Halifax UIA chairman. "You could see the pride of our people



Barbara Newman and members of the Mission listen to a flutist at Yad Varshe during a ceremony at the Valley of the Communities.

when they were there and this will help in re-building our own communities."

Levine, chairman and past-president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, said he found things in Israel for which he was totally unprepared, in areas of history, religion, social life and the military. "It is now up to us to explain to others the message, the feelings, the sensations of what is happening, where Israel has come from and where it is going and what is needed from the people of the Diaspora."

At a UIA luncheon Nov 13, held as part of the biennial AJC conference, two members of the mission were presented Lion of Judah pins for major donations.

Barbara Newman established the Barbara and Norman Scholarship Fund in the Upper Galilee with a donation of \$250,000. "This was my first trip to Israel," Mrs. Newman told 200 people at the luncheon, "and it was outstanding in every respect. I learned about the country and I learned about myself. I am pleased to give the scholarship in my late husband's name."

Madame Justice Constance Glube, chief justice of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, gave a major donation to establish a home environment centre in Or Yehuda, a community long supported by Atlantic Canadians.

Lois Levine, who accompanied her husband, Ivan, on the mission, said, "Before we went, we were committed to Israel. At the end of the mission, we shared our experience in a de-briefing and were asked to share our experiences with those at home. Now there is a passion to tell the story. Israel is part of our soul, our whole being."

While the mission was in Israel, history was made. There was a hostage taking, the Tel Aviv bus bombing "only a few hours after we were in that area", said Ivan Levine, and the on-going discussions of peace. "You feel directly involved because our leaders' sons and daughters were involved," he said.

Yona Gazit, a 48-year-old former member of the Israeli Defense Forces, brought close to home the connection between Israel and the western Diaspora, talking about terrorism in North America after the luncheon.

"We now have peace on our borders but trouble at home," he said, "and that trouble is spreading world-wide. In the last 10 years, 1,000 new Moslem Brotherhood mosques have been built in the United States. In Chicago there are summer camps,



Constance Glube effusive after discovering some ancient artifacts at Tel Mareshah. Watching closely are Ruth Goldbloom and Mark Rosen.

and in Kansas and Oklahoma, conventions, where car bomb classes take place."

He said a report by the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* identified the International Moslem Organization of Canada in Montreal as a base for terrorist action.

Gazit urged Atlantic Canadian support to UIA for the funds, he said, help rescue missions in places like Tazsikstan, Ethiopia, Albania, Syria and Yemen from where the entire Jewish communities have been brought to Israel.

"In the last five years, 600,000 Jews have arrived in Israel and your money has helped house, educate and provide health care for them. Bringing them in and caring for them for their first three months has been done with UIA funds."

A gala celebration for Rabbi Spiro

by Amelia Goldman

A gala celebration was observed on the weekend of October 16, honouring 50 years of dedicated service by **Rabbi David Spiro** to the Congregation of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton.

The Shabbat service was conducted by the children and grandchildren of Rabbi and **Edith Spiro**. The d'var torah was delivered by son-in-law **Louis Newman** of Montreal. He went back to their roots describing their origins with tales of the fathers of Rabbi and Edith, both of whom were Rabbis.

Following the service, the congregation and out-of-town guests enjoyed a delicious kiddush in the vestry, beautifully decorated for the occasion.

On Sunday evening, close to 150 guests gathered for dinner, all members or former students of the Rabbi who returned "home" to celebrate this historic occasion. The planning committee encountered only one problem; how to respond to the many non-Jews in Fredericton who wanted to participate. There were numerous tributes from the local clergy and the many friends the Spiros have in the city at large.

Irwin Rosenzweig was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The Spiros' children and grandchildren did them proud. The only ones of their 17 grandchildren missing were the three studying in Israel. The highlight of the evening was a song written for the occasion and performed in the style of *The Sound of Music* by three of the younger grandchildren. They related their version of **Zadie and Bobbeh Spiro's** life in Fredericton.

It was a beautiful and nostalgic evening of laughter and emotion. The program included memorable remarks by **Harry Levine** and **Frank Budovitch**, young married when Rabbi Spiro was hired. **Joe and Mitch Abrams** delighted us with a skit on their days in Cheder. **Leah Adilman** paid tribute on behalf of the youngsters. This was followed by **Dr. Melvin Brown** of Toronto who regaled us with tales of his youth. **Lionel Goldman** of Montreal spoke of the significant role Rabbi Spiro had played in the lives of his siblings and himself. The

final speaker of the evening was **Judge Weldon Graser** who spoke with great wisdom and tremendous humour.

Presentations to the Spiros followed and provided a serious tone to the evening. Rabbi Spiro concluded the evening with a warm and emotional talk.

Tears poured freely when he told us he had spent the morning visiting his old friends in the cemetery.

This was not a retirement party - it was a joyous celebration honouring our beloved Rabbi Spiro, his devoted wife and family.

Cape Breton Hadassah-Wizo

by Evelyn Davis, President

The Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo launched the "Woman for Woman" project on October 5 at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue. **Bea LeBlanc**, administrator of Transition House was the guest speaker.

Deputy Mayor **Bonita Calder** brought greetings on behalf of the city of Sydney. **Diana Schwartz** read greetings from our National President **Judy Mandelman** as well as from **Shirley Croll**, National Women for Women Chairperson. Other greetings came from **Dr. Patricia Ripley** of the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services and **Judy Jackson** of Family & Child Services.

In introducing Ms. LeBlanc, **Shirley Chernin**, council vice-president, traced

the evolution of a most competent woman into the extraordinary administrator she is today.

Our guest speaker kept her audience captivated as she pointed to the work being done in developing solutions to problems more horrendous than ever imagined.

Evvie Druker, who presented the special "Woman for Woman" pin to Ms. LeBlanc, extended thanks and the administration of her appreciative audience.

Reva Nathanson was convenor for this most successful function, while **Evelyn Davis**, council president was chairperson.



(L-R): Deputy Mayor Calder, Bea LeBlanc, Evelyn Davis.
Photo by Shirley Chernin

Big news from a small island

by Rosalie Simeone

The Prince Edward Island Jewish Community has had a fairly active Fall. Rosh Hashana celebrations were held on September 4, at **Anne Marie and Kim Dormaar's** house. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Succot was hosted by **Joe and Jane Naylor**. Jane treated us all to a lovely Kosher meal. The children and some adults made pictures and chestnut chains to decorate the Succah.

From November 6-10 we had the pleasure of the company of **Rabbi David Ellis** of Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton. He was graciously hosted by Jane and Joe Naylor. During his busy week the Rabbi met with a group of adults and students to discuss the Kabbalat Shabbat Service. The Rabbi also spoke at the University, and

addressed the subject of Bible Heroes to the 65 grade 4 students at L.M. Montgomery Elementary School. In addition, Rabbi Ellis met with the Jewish studies group and recorded study tapes for our community. We sent him back tired, and with many thanks for an enjoyable and educational visit.

In preparation for Chanukah a small and active group of parents and children met at the **Simeone's** on November 20, for a "Chanukah Extravaganza". Among the activities were wrapping paper decorating, Chanukiah construction, decorating pencils, and lots of latke eating. Our annual Community Chanukah party was hosted by **Ann and Joe Sherman**. This party, held on the last night of Chanukah was a huge success. **Miriam** and Jane Naylor led the singing, the Hebrew school distributed gelt

and presents from the Atlantic Jewish Council, and a great potluck followed. Chanukah was also brought to several other groups by **Kate Lehman, Shawn Naylor**, and Rosalie Simeone who altogether visited 2 elementary schools, 1 kindergarten, and a Beaver troop.

Our sights are now set toward the next few months. Hebrew School will continue at the Simeone's after New Year's. Adult study group will continue. Upcoming events include Tu B'Shvat celebrations hosted by the Hebrew School at the National Park, and in February a community Shabbat service and pot luck supper.

I look forward to representing PEI on the executive of the Atlantic Jewish Council, and wish everyone all the best for 1995.

More from the UIA leadership mission



TOP: Our Executive Director taking a siesta on the bus, somewhere in Israel, during the UIA leadership mission
LEFT: Richard Glube shown here in Prague, in front of the birthplace of famous philosopher and author FRANZ KAFKA.

Report from the rock

by Claire Salama

Our small but feisty community has had a busy fall. It all started with the Bar Mitzvah of **Alex Hoenig**. Alex's family and the entire congregation was extremely proud of the way he read his Parsha and Haftarah. After the service we had a lovely luncheon in the synagogue. Alex is still attending classes this year with our new teach, **Efrat Tzadik**.

Efrat, a volunteer from the WUJS program, arrived at the end of August. She is teaching four children's classes and several adult classes. In addition, she has several visits from the various denominational schools each week. So far she has had rave reviews from all sources. Unfortunately she was ill for several weeks, but she is in good form now, and getting ready for her first lesson in cross-country skiing. She has already leaned to shovel snow. We attribute her good-natured attitude to these

hardships to her training in the Israeli army.

On the weekend of November 5, we had our UIA reception at the Salamas'. The evening was enhanced by the visit of **Reuven Rosenfelder** whose insight into the current political situation was greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing him again next year. Reuven managed to meet those who did not attend on Saturday evening by coming to our Thrift shop the next morning.

The following weekend was the bi-annual conference in Halifax. Four members of the community attended the events, and derived great inspiration from them. In addition, many valuable contacts were made.

On November 27 we had our community Chanukah party. Entertainment was organized by Efrat, just out of her hospital bed. There were two plays, one by the primary/elementary students, and another by the junior/senior high stu-

dents. In one week Efrat had costumes and decorations made, and the entire program organized. She even had a lovely gift for each child. We shall never forget the incredible effort she put into that evening. In addition to the entertainment, latkes, various salads, cake and beverages were served. Candles were sold to raise money for the synagogue. All in all, it was a great success.

Finally, a hearty Mazal Tov to **Naomi and Simon Skoll**. Their son, **David**, has been awarded a Senate Medal by Carleton University.

In conclusion, please note that our students have sent articles to a new section of the *Shalom* which will be devoted to youth. I have included several e-mail addresses. If you do not have access to the information highway, feel free to contact them by snail mail in care of The Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland, Box 724, St. John's, NF, A1C 5L4.

Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation Report

by Brian Indig, President

On October 1, 1994 APJSF held its opening party at the Dalhousie SUB. The party was attended by 80 people and they all had a good time. Food and drinks were served. The entertainment was music. October 16 we had a bagel brunch at the Dalhousie SUB, and about 30 people attended. We had a discussion about Israel and everyone in attendance had a great time. Special thanks to **Jon Mendleson** for all the work you put into this program. **Josh Ross** resigned from APJSF and I was appointed the new President. Josh, I wish you all the best and thanks for all you have done. I formed an executive consisting of **Jane Shkolnik** and **Jodi Lassner**. Jon Mendleson is campus coordinator for APJSF. On November 9, 15 students attended the Kristallnacht program in Halifax. Special thanks to **Larry Rite-man**, **Jon Mendleson**, **Jodi Lassner**, **Gali Salamon**, and **Jon Goldberg**. Ten Students from APJSF attend the Atlantic Jewish Council 9th Bi-Annual Convention in Halifax. These students had

a very informative weekend. Congratulations to **Larry Freeman** for being re-elected President of the Atlantic Jewish Council. On November 28 we had a Festival of Lights Party at the Dalhousie SUB to celebrate Chanukah. Thirty students attended. Guests were supplied with food, pop, and made menorahs out of beer bottle caps and pieces of wood. Each guest was given a Chanukah present when they came to the party consisting of a draydel, the prayers to light the candles, and a box of candles. Special thanks to **Jodi Lassner**, **Jane Shkolnik**, and **Jon Mendleson** for setting up the room and cleaning up afterwards. This year for the first time in the history of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student

Federation we are holding a regional convention outside of Halifax. The convention this year will take place in Fredericton, New Brunswick. We have rented a bus and are going to every campus in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to pick up students who wish to attend this weekend. Our mailing list now consists of over 165 names. This list is the largest we have had in the history of the APJSF. In the new year we plan to visit UNB, Acadia, and Mount A. to outreach to our students. Student please try to attend as many programs as possible because "YOU" are the future leaders of this community. I look forward to meeting you all on our ski trip and convention to Fredericton.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 5-8	Ski Trip to New Brunswick
February 10	Shabbat Dinner (Beth Israel Synagogue)
February 11	Splatshot or bowling (Halifax)
March 11	Purim Party (Dal SUB)
March 12	Northwood Manor (Halifax) Food to the elderly
March 26	Bagel brunch and guest speaker (Dal SUB)

Kadimah winter report

by Sheldon Cohen,
Camp Director

In late November we had a very successful camp rally in Toronto and had a crowd of over 150, consisting of many new potential campers and their parents, Kadimah staff and alumni from past summers. Refreshments were served and all were treated to a mini slide show highlighting the excitement of the summer of '94 and past summers as well. Last summer, Ontario sent us over 70 campers. As we head into '95, we are anticipating close to 100. A special thank you to **Michael Soberman** and **Stacey Wintre** for organizing the rally and contacting campers, parents and staff.

In early December a small but very effective rally was held in North Dartmouth, Mass. A promotional video was shown to over fifty children from the local synagogue followed by a question and answer period. An open house was held at the **Rudnicks'** and several new prospective campers and their parents showed up. Also parents and campers from past summers dropped by and visited. It was indeed a wonderful afternoon. A Montreal rally will be held in January and a Halifax rally and shabbaton will be held in February.

We have received a record number of staff applications to date. Every effort will be made to select the best and most caring staff for the '95 summer.

Kadimah/Israel is moving ahead as many of last summer's CITs have expressed an interest in this innovative program. It is a post CIT leadership program which takes place in Israel for five weeks and wraps up in Camp Kadimah for one week.

For information you can contact **Jon Goldberg** in Halifax, **Michael Soberman** in Toronto and **Sheldon Cohen** in Montreal.

Wishing all a terrific year. It won't be

long now until we're all back at our second home - Camp Kadimah.

Shalom!

See you at the Rally in Halifax, February 26, 1995!

July 2 - August 13, 1995

Register early!



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The first two Jewish aldermen and city manager in the city's history

by Joel Jacobson

Just seven more men for a minyan and Jewish services can be held at Halifax City Hall.

With the recent election of the first two Jewish aldermen in the city's history plus a Jewish city manager, yarmulkes may be the order of the day at council meetings.

Life-long Halifax residents **Jerry Blumenthal** and **Howard Epstein** won election and will serve the city for the next three years. **Barry Coopersmith** joined city staff as city manager last January.

Blumenthal defeated a long time incumbent to take his north end seat, becoming the first non-Roman Catholic ever to hold the ward. It was his second try at winning the seat, having been defeated in a close race six years ago.

"I visited every home in the (6,400 voter) ward twice and made sure I was visible during the election campaign," said the 54-year-old retired school principal. "I am not a politician. They make promises and then never keep them. I campaigned on honesty. I know so many

parents (of former schoolchildren) and they know I never lied to them or their children."

Blumenthal taught in the Halifax school system for 34 years after receiving his bachelor's and master's in education at Dalhousie University, and furthering his education with diplomas in education administration and physical education. He also completed a French immersion teaching program at University of Montreal.

Blumenthal, a member of Beth Israel Synagogue, was also sports director and tripping instructor at Camp Kadimah, and served several terms on the Halifax Recreation Commission.

He outpolled incumbent **Marie O'Malley** 1,845-1,425, as close to 50 per cent of voters turned out. "I just want to work as hard as I can for the kids and their parents and the seniors in the community," he said. "I'll be accessible."

Epstein, a 1973 graduate of Dalhousie Law School, was executive director of the Ecology Action Centre of Nova Scotia for the past three years. He is presently practicing law and teaching at Dalhousie Law School but plans to

devote considerable time to his aldermanic post.

"I ran for the seat because I found council was making decisions I didn't like," said Epstein, who had battled council on behalf of many parties during his law days. "I want council to make good decisions the first time, rather than spend money and cause aggravation by having decisions overturned."

Epstein defeated two other candidates by 67 and 150 votes. He made the decision to run after the incumbent, who had held the seat for 33 years, decided to retire. "I had thought of running before but there was no point battling **Nick Meagher** (the ex-alderman).

Epstein, who spent six years as a camper at Camp Kadimah (from 1956-61), ran an environmentally-conscious campaign, printing signs on cardboard ("reusable, recyclable and compostable", he said) rather than plastic compounds used by other candidates. "I knocked on every door and literally wore a hole in my shoes."

Both candidates were sworn to office on November 7. The next municipal election will be in October 1997.

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Letter to the Editor

by Denise Nevo

A book on the Holocaust I have been working on for the past two and half years has just been released, and I thought you might want to publish something about it in *Shalom*.

In 1947-48, many teenagers from Eastern Europe, all of whom were children when the Nazis invaded their respective hometowns, were left orphans and subsequently immigrated illegally to The Land of Israel. Once there, they were organized and sent to existing kibbutzim, or given the formidable task of founding new kibbutzim. My husband Natan was one of them, and on February 2, 1949, he started to build Kibbutz Megiddo, as one of its founding members. Forty-five years later, the kibbutz is a resplendent modern place. Around thirty of the founding members still live there, with their children and grandchildren. My husband left Megiddo after five years, but all these years, we have maintained close ties with Megiddo's members, some of whom are very close friends.

In the 1980's, one of the founding members, **Ruth Stern**, felt that it was time to tell their stories. She coordinated the recording of testimonies told by twenty-four kibbutz members, which were published in Hebrew in 1988 (*We Remember - Twenty-four Members of Kibbutz Megiddo Testify*). In 1991, the book was brought to the attention of **Mira Berger**, a retired Hebrew teacher who lives in New York, herself a Holocaust survivor. When she heard that the survivors wanted to see their testimonies translated into English and published in North America so as to reach a wider audience, she agreed to translate one testimony, and then became much more involved.

Eleven translators from a wide range of backgrounds and from various parts of the world agreed to donate their services for this most important project. Two and a half years ago, Natan and I joined the project. There were considerable differences in style and language between the various translations, and Natan and I, with the help of **Anthony Farrell** (from

Saint Mary's University), a linguist and a native speaker of English, took on the task of reconciling these differences. Meanwhile, Mira was able to find a suitable publisher, **Mr. Moshe Sheinbaum**, of Shengold Publications Inc., New York, NY.

I also ran a fund-raising campaign among our friends here in Halifax, as well in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and the United States, to offset the cost of publication. The response to my fund-raising efforts has been very good: more than 50 families and individuals have sent donations, and the New York office of **Yad Vashem** (the Jerusalem Memorial to the Six Million Jews massacred by the Nazis in World War II) offered financial assistance and agreed to serve as our financial agent for this project. The book was launched on October 30, 1994 in New York, during the American Society of Yad Vashem's annual dinner and dance.

What is particularly interesting about this book is that because it recalls the stories of so many people, it can be viewed as a true microcosm of what happened to European Jewry during World War II. Each survivor owes his or her life to either a freak accident or a chain of fortunate coincidences. Some of them survived by being smuggled into the Soviet Union, others by living in the forests or in concealed hiding places, or as "Aryans" with forged documents, while others yet fought the Nazis as partisans and ghetto fighters. Some of them have known the horrors of concentration camps and death camps, up to the point of being saved at the very last minute, after already standing naked at the door of the gas chamber. Collectively, their stories cover practically the entire spectrum of the atrocities committed against the Jews by the Nazis, and of the passivity of their neighbours and of the entire world. What is also remarkable is that these survivors have been able to live "normal" lives side by side for the past forty-five years in Kibbutz Megiddo, to raise children and grandchildren, and to make the kibbutz what it is today, a modern and prosperous community.

The ultimate goal of translating the twenty-four testimonies into English was not only to have the book published, but to have it read by as many people as possible, and presently, I am trying to promote it as best I can. Numerous books have been, are being and will yet be published about the Holocaust, each with the same objectives: letting the world know about the unspeakable atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis toward the Jews some 50 years ago in Eastern Europe, and warning us all about the extreme dangers of religious and racial intolerance.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Denise Nevo was born during World War II in German-occupied Paris (France). In 1965 she moved to Canada, where she has been living ever since with her husband and their two sons. She is an assistant professor of French at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Nevo at (902) 457-6266. E-mail: DNEVO@LINDEN.MSVU.CA.

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National campus services model in the works

by Karen Anthony

The basic ingredients for a national campus service for Canadian Jewish students were identified during a recent weekend conference held in King City, Ontario. The conference, organized and sponsored by the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) Campus Services Committee, brought together students, campus and Federation professionals and community leaders from across Canada.

The retreat, held October 28-30, 1994 at Eaton Hall Inn and Conference Centre, was the culmination of a cross-country consultation process to develop a national campus services model. Among the fifty participants were representatives from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Windsor, Ottawa, Hamilton, Montreal and Halifax.

CJF Canada held the first of three national retreats in 1992 with the objective of dialogue with Canadian Jewish university students. In 1993, a second retreat was organized in order to learn the needs of Jewish campus professional staff.

The theme of this final conference, "From Visions to Expectations to Standards", was the process organizers led participants through over the weekend. Those present were invited to envision the ultimate national campus service. Acting as a catalyst for discussion were position papers from a member of each constituency-community leaders, campus professionals and students.

Peter Freedman, Chair of Campus Services from the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, quickly established his reputation as a connoisseur of potato chips with his position paper entitled *Towards a Multi-Flavoured Jewish Campus*.

Freedman stated that "only through a concerted and focused effort can we get away from the Jewish student organization that resembles a potato chip rack with only one flavor. Given the stakes, we have a right to expect community support for an effort to broaden our organizations, but we need to present a credible plan with realizable goals. It should be one of the tasks of this conference to debate this topic and, if agreed upon, begin putting that plan together."

Zac Kaye, Director of Hillel in Vancouver, asked the question in his paper "Who is Minding the Campus?" He stressed that campus professionals need training, recognition, respect and human resource development in order to attract the attention of Jewish students.

The student paper was co-written by **Doron Goldstein**, **Michael Rackover**, **Michael Heitner**, **Charlotte Kaiser** and **Evan Savelson**. They felt that major problems persist with respect to Jewish student services on a national level including an extremely limited use of existing community resources, a serious lack of communication between campuses, a perceived and actual focus of Network on Toronto, and a continu-

ing image problem encountered by Jewish student organizations across the country. They concluded that developing a national Jewish student service will be a difficult task, however, ignoring the issues will be far more costly in the future.

Professor **Ted Medzon**, chair of the Campus Services Committee, explained CJF's role in national campus issues in the last position paper by reviewing the history of past and current initiatives. He issued a challenge "to seek a solution that takes into account the fact that no two regions of the country operate under the same conditions."

On Shabbat morning, **Richard Joel**, International Director of B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations and **Norbert Fruehauf**, Assistant Executive Director, Planning and Resource Development, CJF (in the US) outlined the programmatic and service requirements of campuses and how they could best be addressed in a viable manner. Both Joel and Fruehauf have been involved in developing new and effective ways of serving Jewish university students in the United States.

Two breakout sessions were convened during the conference. The first, on Shabbat morning, was broken down by constituency groups. Students, campus professionals and a mixed group of Federation professionals and community leaders were asked to discuss and attempt to resolve some of the issues related to their vision of a national campus strategy. Components such as funding and delivery options, staff and program standards and constituency and agency roles were outlined and debated.

On Saturday evening, group findings were recorded and debated at a session chaired by Professor **Irving Abella**. Abella "found it an invigorating session in which a variety of strategies to deal with the problems of continuity and Jewish youth were put forth."

The summary of components for a national campus delivery service developed that evening was subsequently circulated to breakout groups on Sunday, however, this time the groups were a mix of all constituencies. Groups were asked to discuss the list and record resolved and unresolved issues.

Richard Marker, Executive Director of B'nai Brith Hillel Foundations facilitated a dynamic closing session where group representatives reported back their deliberations to conference participants. Agreement was reached on a number of underlying principles for a national system such as pursuing organizational and individual inclusiveness, being committed to excellence of service and personnel, facilitating student and staff networking, utilizing state-of-the-art communications and functioning as a full service support system relevant to staff and student needs.

Whether the system should serve any campus where there is one or more Jewish students or serve only based on critical mass remained an unresolved principle. Consensus was reached on a regional program delivery structure with Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal acting as centres. The details

regarding staffing needs was one of the delivery options that was not agreed upon.

Participants concurred that the national service should promote quality programming and be inclusive at the student level yet be sensitive to the availability of local resources, needs and logistics. They issue a challenge to our diverse communities to reflect their own requirements and character in campus programs. Although it was agreed that the ultimate goal is to promote Jewish values, the group did not define the type of programming to initially attract students to a Jewish campus organization.

There was a consensus among conference registrants that a national service should maintain communal cost sharing with the funding equalization program that guarantees core funding to smaller campuses. Programmatic accountability to students and fiscal responsibility to funders must also be assured. It was recommended that an attempt be made to ensure the fair allocation of funds and to evaluate the cost versus the benefit of utilizing any international relationship with another agency.

It was resolved that students must be respected, consulted and represented at all levels and that campus professionals must be trained and recognized for the important work that they carry out. The national service should ensure it support

special interest groups such as students, campus professionals and faculty.

With regards to agency and constituency roles, it was agreed that the national service shall cultivate the use of faculty and community leaders and operate as a partnership between students, campus professionals and their communities. Whether to make a fresh start rather than utilizing existing agencies and structures was undecided.

Many of the conference participants felt that a positive approach had been taken to deal with the issues related to national and local campus services. Most agreed that there was sufficient opportunity to express their concerns and that much had been accomplished in a short period of time.

It is now up to the CJF Campus Services Committee to develop a model for national campus services based on the findings from this retreat. The model will be circulated to the conference participants prior to a submission to the CJF June board meeting. It is hoped that the proposal will be approved and a national system to serve Jewish students on campuses across Canada will be in place by the fall of 1995.

It all starts with trees

by Mark Mendelson Executive Director - Eastern Canada

The 51st anniversary of Jewish National Fund's three Negev outposts is another milestone in the unique history of the Jewish National Fund. As the executive arm of the Jewish people in redeeming and developing the land of Israel, JNF invest particular effort in the development of the Negev. In this huge expanse which comprises two-thirds of the country's total area, JNF has planted some 20 million trees covering an area of more than 40,000 acres.

Its multi-faceted endeavors to develop the land and improve the quality of life for area residents include the planting of trees, land reclamation and development, the creation of parks, the construction of dams and reservoirs, and the preparation of land infrastructure for housing and tourism.

Two of the forests planted in the Northern Negev on the edge of the desert, Lahav and Yatir, are among the largest in the country and serve as popular nature recreation venues. Further south, JNF has been planting widely spaced trees and natural grasses aimed at upgrading the quality and value of the soil and terrain by creating man-made grassland and tree growth areas to prevent the terrible problems of soil erosion.

Land development in this arid region must go hand in hand with anti-erosion and flood prevention measures. Appropriate drainage and planting projects prevent soil erosion and gully-ing, protecting cultivated fields. Dams and reservoirs improve the water balance, replenish underground water pools and create tourism and recreation sites. Among such projects for leadership and professional development conferences for

constructed in recent years are a major dam in the northern Negev desert, a number of artificial lakes in southern parks, and a network of dams and reservoirs along the northwestern Negev's Besor Riverbed.

Along with settlements and development towns in the Negev, JNF has created parks and planted woodlands for the benefit of local residents. In addition, the Jewish National Fund prepares land for agriculture, settlement and urban housing for new immigrants and the homeless. As immigration surges from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia, JNF enlisted in a national absorption effort, preparing sites for immigrant housing in multitude of areas including Eilat, and Beer-sheva.

In addition, thousands of miles of roads through hills as well as the desert have been constructed and paved by the JNF linking the over one thousand towns, kibbutzim and cities whose infrastructure was prepared by the Jewish National Fund. Today, in the dawn of Peace in the region, the JNF has been once again called upon to search for that life giving natural resource which we in Canada take so much for granted -- water.

However, the water sources in the area have been seriously depleted and the Jewish National Fund, in conjunction with Jordanian authorities, is now in a most serious endeavor in developing new methods to find and save the meager amounts of water which exist in the region. We are certain that this most diverse organization will succeed as it has done so many times with other seemingly insurmountable problems in the past.

Cantor concert in aid of Jewish family services fund

by Leo Weniger

The Three Cantors Concert will be presented at Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, at 7:30 pm, Thursday, May 4, 1995, Yom Ha'atzmaut, presented by the Jewish Mens' Club of Halifax and the Atlantic Jewish Council as part of Israel Independence Day celebrations. All net proceeds from this concert will go to the Metro Jewish Family Services Fund which donates money to Jewish families and individuals who have emergency and short term needs.

Three cantors, each with a wealth of concert experience, will be performing at this event. **Cantor Stuart Friedman**, who recently came to the Beth Israel Synagogue, was previously cantor at Congregation B'nai David in Detroit, Michigan. **Cantor Arie Subar**, originally from Israel, is Cantor at Beth Ora Synagogue in Montreal and has been Cantor at synagogues in Israel and Montreal. His brother, **Cantor Yair Subar**, is cantor at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Montreal and has been cantor in Tel Aviv and South Africa. An exiting evening of song in Hebrew, Yiddish and other languages is anticipated. The Cantors will be singing solos, duets and trios for the audience's enjoyment.

This event will be a fund-raiser for an important cause in our community. With the downturn in our economy and with the increase in family breakdowns, there is an increasing requirement to help Jews in need in our community.

There are three ways that you can assist with this event.

Most important is to show your support by attending. Tickets are very reasonable for professional entertainment of this calibre, adults \$10 and students \$7.

Special seating is available with the added incentive of a tax receipt:

Friend: \$18, receive tax receipt (\$8) and acknowledgment in program

Donor: \$36, tax receipt (\$26), program acknowledgment, and preferred seating

Sponsor: \$54, tax receipt (\$44), program acknowledgment, preferred seating

Patron: \$100+ tax receipt (\$90+), program acknowledgment, front row seating

Businesses can support this concert by buying program ads. A program giving information about the Cantors, the fund, and the music to be performed will be produced. This is your opportunity to get your message to the Jewish community. Ads and/or donations can be obtained as follows:

\$65	- quarter page	\$120	- half page
\$175	- three quarter page	\$200+	- full page

Half page, and three quarter page ads will receive two tickets. Full page ads will receive two preferred tickets.

For more information about the size of ads, deadlines and tickets, please call **Leo Weniger** at 425-3392.

Please help make this event a success. Tickets will be available after February 15 at the AJC office (902) 422-7491, fax (902) 425-3722.

THREE CANTORS CONCERT

1. ☐ Please send _____ adult tickets @ \$10
 _____ student tickets @ \$7

Cheque payable to JMCOH-Concert enclosed: Total: _____

2. ☐ Please send _____ **Friend tickets @ \$18**
 _____ **Donor tickets @ \$36**
 _____ **Sponsor tickets @ \$54**
 _____ **Patron tickets @ \$_____ (over \$100)**

Cheque payable to AJC Charities - Family Services Fund, enclosed: Total: _____

3. ☐ Please send information about program ads
 4. ☐ Please send other information (specify)
 5. ☐ I can offer assistance in some other way (specify)

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University student mission planned for Spring of 1995

ANGUISH TO HOPE

On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany formally surrendered to the Allies. On May 8, 1995, one hundred university students from across Canada will embark on a two week program called *Anguish to Hope*. During their time abroad the students will experience the anguish and despair of eastern Europe's death camps...and the hope and promise of the land of Israel. (The first *Anguish to Hope* student mission, modeled on the highly successful March of the Living program for Jewish teens, took place in 1993 and drew approximately 40 participants.)

Included in the 1995 eastern Europe itinerary are visits to both the Czech Republic and Poland. In the Czech Republic the students will visit historic Prague (birthplace of the legendary Golem), including stops at the Altneu Shul, one of the oldest synagogues in Europe, and the Jewish Museum whose treasures were preserved by the Nazis as a record of a 'soon to be extinct' race. The students will also travel to the Terezin Concentration Camp near Pargue to remember the 15,000 children who passed through the camp.

In Poland the students will tour historic Jewish sites in Warsaw, Cracow and Lublin and mourn the destruction of European Jewry at the death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek, and Treblinka. Meetings with Polish univer-

sity students to discuss Poland's future and to reflect upon Poland's relationship with its Jewish population are also planned.



The Israel portion of the trip includes visits to a number of exciting locations and ancient sites, including Jerusalem (the Western Wall), Massada, the Sea of Galilee, Tel Aviv etc. and an extensive tour of Israel's northern regions. During their visit to the Galilee the group will celebrate Lag B'omer on Mount Meron together with thousands of Israelis who annually visit this mystical site.

Anguish to Hope participants will witness firsthand the miracle of Opera-

tion Exodus by greeting new olim arriving in Israel from the countries of the former Soviet Union. Briefings given by top politicians, military experts, scholars and rabbis on the ongoing peace talks, Israel's security needs, and other issues currently affecting Israel society are also planned.

A special highlight of the trip will be a visit to Jordan, made possible by the peace treaty recently signed between Jordan and Israel. The students will cross the Allenby

Bridge and visit Amman, Mount Nebo (where Moses viewed the promised land before he died) and the magnificent archaeological site of Petra, an ancient city carved out of stone.

The dates of the trip are May 8 - 24, 1995. The cost is \$2,895 plus a minimum contribution of \$100 to local UJA/CJA/UIA Campaigns. (Limited scholarships for applicants in genuine fi-

nancial need may be available in some communities. \$2895 fee applicable from all Canadian points of origin.) For applications and/or more information please contact the Travel Israel Centre at 1-800-567-ISRAEL (1-800-567-4772) A.P.J.S.F. at (902) 422-7491. The *Anguish to Hope* mission is sponsored by United Israel Appeal of Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadian Jewish Federations and the Jewish Students' Network.

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