

SHALOM

שלום

SUMMER/FALL 1995

Volume 20, No. 4

STAV 5755-56



for
ourselves



for
our children



for
Israel

Wishing you a



forever.

Special New Year
Double Issue



The Atlantic Jewish
Council Quarterly

SUMMER/FALL 1995

STAV 5755-56

VOL. 20, No. 4

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President's Message

The summer has now come to an end and we begin to reorganize our lives and become more structured

in our activities. We are fortunate in that this reorganization coincides with our New Year. It is therefore doubly important to structure our lives to include Jewish activities and Jewish learning. Your Atlantic Jewish Council executive have been working

hard on your behalf to help facilitate this objective. In July of this year Yakov Feig, of Ottawa, joined our staff as Director of Youth Programming and University Programming. Yakov has the experience to organize and plan, however the effectiveness of his programs will depend on the young people of our region and their parents.

Over the next few months we will be engaging a staff consultant to organize activities throughout the region for senior citizens. Our survey with seniors indicated a need for a specialized program and a facilitator to carry this out. Your executive are responding to this need.

I feel comfortable in our efforts towards programming for the 7-25 year age group and the 65+ age group but we have not provided enough for the 25 to 65 year age group. We at the Atlantic Jewish Council will be embarking along with the Council of Jewish Federations of Canada on an educational program which we feel

will become a continuing program of study. The major studies in North America have shown that continuing

education is the key factor in insuring Jewish Continuity.

This past summer the Atlantic Jewish Council co-ordinated an Israel Summer Program for 17 year olds in conjunction with Camp Kadimah. The program was very suc-

cessful and will continue next year. We will also be launching the Gift of Israel Program in conjunction with UJA-UJA and the CRB Foundation. The Israel Experience is another meaningful component in the Continuity Struggle.

In closing you will note that we have changed the name of the campaign from United Israel Appeal to United Jewish Appeal. This name change is reflective of the attitude of UJA of Canada and the Israeli Government. The feeling is that dollars must flow back to the communities from which they are raised to insure that Judaism in the diaspora will survive. Your dollars will be spent wisely. The effectiveness of this spending will depend on your commitment to ensuring that your grandchildren will be Jewish. We will provide the infrastructure but you must provide the commitment.

Wishing you and your family a prosperous and healthy New Year. L'Shana Tova.



by LARRY FREEMAN

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High on "5756"

"August 23, 1995, from 37,000 feet somewhere over Maine, en route to Halifax."

Well, here I am sitting on an A320 Air Bus bouncing through the clouds at 8:30 am. Homeward bound from a quick sojourn to Toronto and Montreal. I'm facing an imminent deadline for our next *Shalom* so I thought that now was as good a time as any to put down a few of my thoughts as we head into another Yom Tov and a New Year.

As I sip my airline coffee, I notice the serviette says Tel Aviv-Shalom (Air Canada is pushing its newly inaugurated service from Toronto to Israel). This gives me a starting point as I realize that we can not escape the centrality of Israel in our lives. Another year of the peace talks and terror, of Olim and homecoming for thousands of our brethren. A year of the "Israel Experience" for many of Atlantic Jewry. Teens, college students and adults from all our communities have and continue to go to Israel on tours, programs, missions, etc. This past year saw our UIA Leadership Mission to Prague and Israel, our first Kadimah-Israel Summer Experience, the University Anguish to Hope Program and others. This coming year there will be the Jerusalem 3000 Mega Mission in February (a unique and inexpensive tour from UIA). The March of the Living for teens in April and Kadimah-Israel '96 in June and a Leadership Mission to Morocco and Israel in October '96. Three great opportunities for different age groups but all with the one goal in mind. To experience Israel which will invigorate and renew our commitments as Jews here in the Diaspora.

This year the Atlantic Jewish Council embarks on a most formidable task. We have in place a new Programmer, Yakov Feig, who will be working with campus and youth. We will have a "senior" program consultant (part time) to work with that key segment of our population. There is a small but growing Jewish Aid and Family Services committee in place. I have and will continue to strive to have a chaplaincy service for our communities without a rabbi by January along with a Jewish Education



by JON GOLDBERG

Program for small communities in Atlantic Canada.

You may ask "Who pays for this?" Well, my friends, the answer is not that simple. The AJC is financed from two main sources: United Israel Appeal of Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress. However, UIA maintains a formula based on our regional UJA campaigns which allows Israel to receive a set percentage of our donations every year.

Therefore, if the AJC requires more funding we must go to other sources and, I'm pleased to say, that interacting and meeting with other national organizations such as Council of Jewish Federations, Canadian Zionist Federation and CRB Foundation have brought additional funds to our region. A large part of the credit is to our President, Larry Freeman and a few devoted officers who have networked with national Jewish organizations and by stressing national responsibility, have been able to obtain additional funding for the AJC.

So the coming year will challenge us to begin to deliver to Atlantic Jewry the best possible services and programs that we can. The challenge to you is to support your UJA campaign in your community.

This year's campaign, UJA of Atlantic Canada, has a theme that I feel says it all.

For ourselves. For our children. For Israel. Forever.

May 5756 be a year of Peace, Good Health and Happiness to all our readers and their families.

INTRODUCING
in OCTOBER '95

THE GIFT OF ISRAEL

Atlantic Jewish Council in conjunction with United Jewish Appeal and the CRB Foundation are pleased to announce the launching of **THE GIFT OF ISRAEL** program, an opportunity for young people to participate in an organized Israel Experience, thereby strengthening their Jewish identity.

THE GIFT OF ISRAEL reduces the cost of a trip to Israel through a matching commitment from the Atlantic Jewish Council and United Jewish Appeal as an expression of the Jewish community's commitment to our children's Jewish enrichment.

When registering for **THE GIFT OF ISRAEL**, a child may be enrolled in either programme:

1. **GIFT OF ISRAEL SAVINGS PLAN:** This plan allows parents to start saving for an organized teen or college trip when a child is an infant or in elementary school.

2. **BAR/BAT MITZVAH REGISTRY:** The Registry provides a way for family and friends to recognize the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant by giving a meaningful gift, **THE GIFT OF ISRAEL**.

For further information, contact: GIFT OF ISRAEL, (902) 422-7491 or Myra Freeman, Co-ordinator (902) 422-5326.

From the Programmer's desk...

Shalom! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Yakov Feig, I'm from Ottawa, and am the new Programmer for the Atlantic Jewish Council. In this capacity I will be organizing programs for youth, and teens as well as aiding the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation in coordinating activities for university age students and young professionals. I will also be assisting **Jon Goldberg** and the Atlantic Jewish Council at the Israel Aliyah Desk and with some other projects.

I am really looking forward to some of the programs and events that we at the AJC are in the process of planning for the upcoming year! During the past seven weeks I have had the opportunity to meet many teens and youth from Atlantic Canada at Camp Kadimah, some in Halifax, and a few in the various communities, as well as many of the students that are living or working in town during the summer. This has given me the chance to find out the types of programs and events that interest them and to begin exciting plans for the up-



by YAKOV FEIG

coming year. We also had a summer trip to Upper Clements Theme park and to Wolfville with some students and young professionals. This event took place on Sunday July 23rd and attracted 23 people. We also had the opportunity of meeting **Naomi Honey**, the community representative of the Annapolis Valley as well as her husband **Larry**. Some pictures from this event are included in this issue of *Shalom Magazine*. Due to the success of this trip, it was followed by a camping trip that took place the following weekend, August 18 - 20, at Dollar Lake in Musquodoboit. At this point I really would like to thank **Jon Mendleson**, **Perry Chippin**, **Roselyn Allen**, **Jane Shkolnick**, and last but not least, **Jon Goldberg** for their efforts in helping coordinate these events. Plans are also underway for activities during the academic year at the various campuses in the region. Information tables about the A.P.J.S.F. and our activities are going to be set up at:

Society Day At Dalhousie - Sept. 5, Green Room, 2:30 - 4 pm; Dalhousie - Sept. 14, Student Union Bldg., 10 am - 3 pm

Saint Mary's Exposition - Sept. 7, 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Mount Allison - Sunday Sept. 10, 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Mount Saint Vincent Info Fair - Wednesday Sept. 13, Seton Academic Centre, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm and Thursday Sept. 14, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Rosaria Hall.

University of New Brunswick - During Clubs And Society Days, exact dates to be determined

Acadia University - during Club Extravaganza, exact dates to be determined.

Plans are also underway for many exciting events throughout Atlantic Canada. I was very fortunate to be one of the chaperones for the Or Yehuda trip. This allowed me to meet some of the community in the Shediach/Moncton area, Prince Edward Island, the Annapolis Valley, and in Cape Breton. Needless to say, I was very impressed by the warmth and friendliness of all the Jews that I met and I am looking forward to contacting all of you and planning many programs together. Plans are already underway for an event in Moncton near the end of October as well as apple picking in the Annapolis Valley together with the youth from Halifax on September 17th. I am also looking forward to getting out to the communities that I have not visited yet in New Brunswick (Fredericton, and Saint John) as well as Newfoundland.

In the metro Halifax area, a lot of exciting ideas have been generated and we are also looking forward to implementing them. Some of the upcoming programs include Apple Picking in the Annapolis Valley for Grades 3 - 6 on Sunday September 17, a Murder Mystery Night for Grades 7 - 9 on September 23, and a Murder Mystery Night for Grades 10 - 12 on September 16. We have also convened the Metro Program Youth Committee and are in the process of planning exhilarating programs from October through to June '96. Looking forward to meeting many of you in the next few months. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year - L'shana Tovah Tikatevu Vetechatemun!

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Rosh Hashanah Messages

As we look towards the New Year 5756, our community remains united on the principle elements of the Canadian Jewish agenda. However, this does not mean we can take any of the challenges ahead lightly. We continue to combat incidents of anti-Semitism and racism and urge the government to move quickly on suspected Nazi war criminals resident in our country. With a referendum on sovereignty looming in Quebec, Canadian Jewry must play a significant role in the national unity debate.

Jewish continuity stands out as a truly important element of our agenda. As my predecessor **Irving Abella** said: "We must try to build a Jewish community that is not simply concerned with survival, but one that is creative and attractive to our children—a community with substance and content." It is of paramount importance that we empower youth to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Remembering the Holocaust remains our sacred duty and we owe it to those who perished and to those who survived to carry forth their message to our children and to our grandchildren. We must unrelentingly pursue Holocaust deniers. And we must ensure that our government and other governments continue to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. We cannot do this alone. There has been some movement since last March on the war crimes dossier, but time is running out and whether it be criminal prosecutions or deportation we must all work together to ensure that justice takes its course.

The Canadian Jewish community continues to support the democratically elected government of Israel. It is not our role to dictate to the Israeli government how to conduct its affairs. If Israel's agreement with the PLO does eventually lead to the end of violence and the establishment of a true peace, then all parties win.

On the subject of national unity, Canada is one of the greatest countries in the world. Unfortunately, separatists

On the eve of Rosh Hashanah and on behalf of the State and the people of Israel. I extend to every Jewish home, the warmest greeting for the New Year.

May the coming year be blessed by peace and prosperity and by further reinforcement of the strong ties which link the State of Israel and the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada.

*Daniel Gal
Consul General of Israel*

would choose to divide our nation. We must let those who would divide us know, in no uncertain terms, that Canadian Jews stand for a united Canada. As Jews, we benefit from a strong country. Responsible leadership means saying "no" to separatists and working forcefully to ensure that Canada remain united. When addressing those who seek to break up this country, it is vital to be honest about our commitment to Canada. Earning respect on the question of national unity requires friendly discussion, but frank expression of our support for Canada.

Regarding racism and anti-Semitism, from the Ku Klux Klan and the Heritage Front in Canada, to Ernest Zundel, Malcom Ross and Neo-Nazis here, we must remain vigilant. Internationally, the world picture has changed in ways one would never have envisioned and the changes have had a direct impact on Jews in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Nonetheless, our job is by no means complete. Atrocities continue to be committed in the former Yugoslavia. Genocide has occurred or is being pursued in places like Rwanda, Burma and Somalia. The small Jewish community of Cuba cannot emigrate and needs our assistance in terms of food and other provisions.

Let us hope that the Jewish community worldwide enjoys a happy peaceful and fulfilling 5756.

Goldie Hershon
CJC President

My colleagues and I are always happy to hear your concerns. Please feel free to call our office at **1-800-363-1998 or 424-2040.**



Terry Donahoe
Terry Donahoe, Q.C.
Leader of the Opposition



JNF will rehabilitate and replant all burnt forests within 3 to 4 years

The biggest ever forest fire in Israel's history was brought under control during the night of July 2 by hundreds of JNF forest rangers and fire fighters, National Fire Service squads and fire engines from all over the country, planes and helicopters which doused tons of water on focal points of the blaze, as well as army and police units.

The fire, which raged for some 20 hours in the Jerusalem Corridor, destroyed between 20 and 25 thousand dunams of man-planted forests and natural woodlands housing some 2 million trees. Damage to the forests has been estimated at more than \$20 million. Furthermore, some 30 homes were burnt to the ground at Moshav Shores in the Jerusalem Hill. About 40 people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation, but all were released in good condition.

Since the first rays of daylight the next morning, teams of JNF forest rangers and specialists had been in the field surveying first hand the extent and scope of the fire damage in order to start planning clearance and rehabilitation activities. Surveillance planes hired by JNF flew over the area and taking aerial photos, as part of the measures adopted to collect accurate data.

The JNF Board of Directors has instructed the Afforestation Division to do everything possible to speed up rehabilitation work in order to restore the forest to Israel's inhabitants.

It appears that rehabilitation work and replanting will take between 3 and 4 years, though, obviously, full greenery will be restored to the area only within 15 to 20 years.

JNF has assumed full responsibility for repairing the damage and will not spare any efforts to rehabilitate the forests with its own resources. For this purpose, JNF personnel will make use of knowledge and experience accumulated in this realm over the years.

Inquiries from individuals and organizations have been flowing continuously to JNF offices in Israel and around the world offering assistance and support for rehabilitating the forests. Many JNF retirees have also called to offer their services as volunteers.

The JNF Board of Directors extends its deep appreciation to the hundreds of workers who laboured so hard, sometimes endangering their lives, in fighting the blaze.

JNF wishes all its friends in
Atlantic Canada
a Happy and Healthy New Year

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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.



Hillary Clinton at the Mount:

On the occasion of awarding Hillary Rodham Clinton a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Dr. SHEVA MEDJUCK -AJC Vice-President- was selected to present the

citation for Mrs. Clinton. Pictured left to right, Dr. ELIZABETH PARR-JOHNSTON, President, MSVU, Dr. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, Dr. SHEILA BROWN, Academic Vice President, MSVU and Dr. SHEVA MEDJUCK, Director of Research.

Canadian Jewish War Veterans, Atlantic Post #4

by Gar Meltzer, Post Commander

Saturday, May 6, 1995, was Commemorative Saturday with all synagogues in the Atlantic Provinces holding special services remembering those dying in the Holocaust and World War II.

In Saint John, NB, the Jewish Veterans were given honours. Special readings were read by **Jacqueline Meltzer** and **Joan Smith**. **Gar Meltzer** introduced a terrific speaker, **James A. Stewart, DFC, CA**, who was shot down over Germany. He was captured and spent the last six months in Stalag Luft III - Sagan - Upper Silesia - Stalag IIIA, and Luckenwalde. **L.J. Davis** thanked Mr. Stewart. **Mr. Michelson** led the Congregation in a kadish in memory of those who passed away in the Holocaust and World War II. We will remember them. A kiddish was served in the vestry.

Sunday afternoon, May 7, 1995, Commander Meltzer attended a interdenominational Service of Thanksgiving commending the 50th Anniversary of

V-E Day at the Cathedral in Saint John, NB. Over 1000 people were in attendance. Wearing a yarmulke, Commander Meltzer read a portion of the Old Testament from "Mica." He was well received and thanked by the military, the

Church and the public.

We send get well wishes and a complete recovery to Halifax Post Commander, **Captain Dr. Irving Perlin** and to **Henry Goldberg**.

A heartfelt Thank You! to the AJC

My family would like to thank you and all the people from our community who helped my parents (**Vladimir** and **Dora Glazman**) and my grandmother (**Sonia Fishbeyn**) move into their new home in Canada.

We are also very thankful to the people who donated furniture, needed appliances and helped us with the transportation and unloading of all those things. We also would like to say thank you to the Family Services Fund that helped us through the first few months (which of course were the hardest), and of course our friends

from the Valley community who organized this help.

My father, **Vladimir Glazman**, is a veteran of World War Two, in which he fought against Nazis in the Soviet Army. He wishes all of you the best on the 50th anniversary of the end of the second World War, and prays that the Holocaust will never happen again.

Thank you very much again and remember, whenever you are in the Valley you are always welcome in our homes.

Yours truly,
Isabella and Eugene Eberbach
Wolfville, NS

T'shanu: you shall change-- the year of Jewish education

By Rabbi David Ellis, Moncton

As we enter upon the Jewish New Year of 5756, we note that it is written in Hebrew letters -- *Tav Shin Nun Vav*. Interestingly enough, the letters form the word "*T'shanu*," which means "you (pl.) shall change." It is the same verb root as "*Mah Nishtanah*." But the root can also mean to repeat (*shnayim*--2; *shanah*--year). Since classic Jewish learning engages the mind in continual repetition, *t'shanu* could also be translated "you shall learn."

Whichever way you translate it, *t'shanu* is without any question the message for our Maritime communities for this year. It is time that a community wide concern for Jewish education be put at the top of our list of Jewish concerns. Doing so will require some changes in our ways of thinking, our communal activities, and our prioritizing of resources.

The famed Israeli talmudic scholar, *Adin Steinsaltz*, tells a thought-provoking story about his father's concern for Jewish education. Apparently, his father was a thorough non-believer; he never even bothered to observe the High Holidays. And yet when his son was ten years old, he hired a tutor to teach his son the Talmud, that collection of the Jewish oral tradition which is the backbone of traditional Orthodox learning. Why did his father do something so unusual? His answer to his son was that he did not care if his son became an atheist, a communist, whatever, the only thing was that his son should never be an *am-haaretz*.

An *am haaretz* (literally, a person of the land) is a Jew who is ignorant of the Jewish tradition. But, Steinsaltz notes, there are two types of Jewish ignorance. A *bor* is a person who simply has not learned; his deficiency can be corrected by applying himself to study. An *am haaretz* is a person who is aggressively proud and self-confident about his lack of knowledge and sees no reason why he (or anyone else) should be different. Jewish tradition considers being an *am haaretz* as one of the worst things any Jew can be, short of being cruel or violent. This was the insight which Steinsaltz's father had, even if in a wayward manner.

We must acknowledge that our Maritime communities have, at this time of year many *Al Chets* to say regarding the status of Jewish education in this region, both presently and historically. As I have traveled through and gotten to know our communities, I have sadly noted that there are virtually no fond stories people tell me about an inspiring Hebrew teacher. Or a woman who nurtured the *kinderlach* with Bible stories, interspersed between milk and cookies. Or an elder who would come in a few minutes before time for davening to learn a page or two, perhaps sharing his time with a grandson. Such persons play a small yet vibrant role in passing on Jewish tradition to a new generation.

In our communities, any Jewish education has been virtually synonymous with the Bar-Mitzvah, which means a plethora of mistakes have been committed and perpetuated. Hebrew is not learned properly, only in a rote manner, without understanding. For years, since they did not have a Bar-Mitzvah, Jewish girls were second-class citizens, often not expected to know much of anything at all. When later on the Bat-Mitzvah came along for girls, it was usually a half-baked version of the Bar Mitzvah, something not specifically informative to the growth of the young Jewish woman. And of course, despite whatever our tradition said, about the Bar-Mitzvah being a time of accepting the obligations and responsibilities of the commandments, everyone knows that it is the time of opting-out of Judaism. The Bar-Mitzvah is over, the money and presents are rolling in. Why learn any more? One student several years ago in my community broke all precedents by remaining in Hebrew school till the end of the school year, even though he was "done" with his Bar-Mitzvah in January.

Understandably, in a secular age, it is difficult to convey to our students an interest in the prayerbook, the Chumash and other traditional subjects. Noting this, many of our educators have noted one thing you can get students interested in is the Holocaust. Yet learning about the Holocaust is also not without its drawbacks. It has created the odd phenomenon which *Dr. Jonathan Sacks*, the chief rabbi of Great Britain, has noted: that our students learn, let us say, how the Greeks and Romans lived and how the Jews died. One of our more informed students can probably tell you a good deal about what sadistic Nazis did at Auschwitz but very little of what

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Jews did in Vilna, even though it was for centuries a centre of Jewish life.

A Jewish community which does not educate its members in our heritage is one, it can be shown, which is sooner or later doomed to extinction. Ethnic loyalty and fighting anti-Semitism, traditional rallying points for Jews, cannot sustain Jewish loyalty over the long run.

These problems are by no means unique to our region; every Jewish community in the world grapples, in one way or another, with issues of education. What has been the response elsewhere to the issue? For years the Jewish Federation conventions in North America were run by various "machers," loyal and energetic but often Jewishly uninformed individuals. Then a few years ago, Federation leadership realized that years of token concern for Jewish education had contributed to a host of problems--assimilation, inter-marriage, waning support for Israel. One of its programs at its annual meeting was one where everyone attended an actual learning session, led by various rabbis and other qualified teachers, on some aspect of Jewish tradition.

It is time for our leadership to put issues of Jewish education to the forefront of concern in Atlantic Canada. At an AJC executive meeting I was privileged to attend last March, a number of persons, I was delighted to find, agreed with me.

In response, I sent to the AJC office a tentative proposal for the AJC's upcoming annual meeting to be on the theme of Jewish education. It would bring together all of our communities' resources--rabbis, educators, parents, our leadership, students' education, education in isolated communities, available materials, the role of Camp Kadimah, the Jewish Museum in Saint John, the possibility of using computers and the Internet for education, and many other issues.

There is a growing consensus world-wide that, in the words of our sages, *talmud Torah k'neged culam*, that the knowledge of our tradition and historical record is the key to all other issues on agenda--fund-raising, Israel, the Holocaust, caring for our members. If you are part of this group, write to the AJC in support of community-wide discussion of Jewish education.

If you do so, you will contribute to *Tav Shin Nun Beit* being a year of change and a year of learning for Atlantic Jewry.

Shanah Tovah!

Note: I and all of the other rabbis in the region are always available to advise and help with anyone interested in improving their Jewish knowledge.

Jewish Bible study for youth

by Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein,
Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

There is a great opportunity for children between the ages of ten and thirteen to study for the National Jewish Bible quiz. This year with Jerusalem 3000, there is a strong emphasis on the Book of Genesis. I will make myself available to have sessions with any youth who want to enter this quiz. The Regional testing will take place February 11, 1996; however, we must start to review the Biblical material starting September.

Following are seven verses from Chapter 12 in Genesis from the Book Judaism's Bible--a new and expanded translation. This sheds light on Jewish culture and the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel. Any youth can contact me if they want to participate and receive additional materials.

"(1) God said to Abram, 'Leave your land, your birthplace and your father's house for your benefit and your own gain, and go to the land that I will show you. (2) In that land to which you will come, I will make of you a great nation, for here you are not worthy to have children. I will also bless you with

wealth and I will make your name great so that your special qualities will become known in the world. Until now, all blessing came directly from ME. I blessed Adam and Noah; henceforth, the power to bless others is entrusted to you and thus you may bless whomever you wish. As you bless, so I will confirm your blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless themselves using your name.' (4) Abram went, without hesitation as GOD had Commanded him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy (years and) five years old when he left Charan. (5) Abram took Sarai his wife, (and) Lot, his brother's son and all their belongings that they had amassed. He also took the servants whom he had acquired and the people whom he and Sarai had 'made' in Charan--the souls which they had brought into the service of The Sh'chinah (The Divine Presence). Out of sheer love of humanity, Abram had converted these men, and Sarai had converted these women, to the knowledge of The One GOD as the Ruler of the world, and to the path of Virtue. They went forth to go to the Land of Canaan, and they came into the Land of Canaan. (6) Abram entered The Land, reaching the locality

of Sh'chem, as far as the Plain of Moreh. There he prayed for the safety of his future great-grandchildren, the Children of Jacob, who-he envisioned-would come there to fight Sh'chem. There The ALMIGHTY showed him Mount Gerizim and Mount Eval, where his descendants, all The Nation of Israel, would take an oath to observe The Torah. Then the Jewish people accepted the duty to be responsible for each other both spiritually and physically. The Canaanites were then in The Land, Conquering and seizing it from the descendants of Shem to whom it had originally been allocated when Noah divided the earth among his sons. (7) Then GOD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this Land to your descendants even though you see the Canaanites in possession of it." Abram built an altar there to GOD, who had revealed Himself to him. This worship was in gratitude for the good news of the twofold promise that he would have descendants, and that these descendants would take possession of The Land.

See another article by Rabbi
Grafstein in page 11

Liebe's lament

by Rabbi Liebe Hoffman
Shaar Shalom Congregation

I love being the Chief Conservative Rabbi of the Maritimes. Truly I do. But truth be told, since coming here, I have considerably enlarged my sphere of worries. Being an insular American, I used to only worry about the state of American Jewry. Now I have the future of Maritime Jewry to add to the arsenal of worries that make me toss and turn at night.

In its December 1992 issue, *Moment: The Magazine of Jewish Culture and Opinion*, a bottom-line kind of question was asked of nine different individuals who have made thoughtful and informed decisions about the role and nature of Judaism in their lives. The writer of the article ended her introductory remarks with the following chilling statement:

In the years ahead, if our answers fail to connect with our hearts or -most foreboding of all- if silence is the response, then our children and grandchildren may never ask "Why be Jewish?"

I bring four short excerpts from their writings to you now for your consideration, during this time of renewal and recommitment:

SAMUEL HELLMAN (professor and anthropologist)

Being Jewish is... a trust. It is to safeguard a heritage that I have received for my predecessors and which I must hand on intact to my children and heirs. In this sense I consider myself a traditional Jew, for tradition means literally the handing over of something from one generation to another. I have been handed something very precious. All sorts of forces would take it away from me. And if I let them, or I walk away on my own, I betray that trust. But if I protect what I have been given so that my heirs receive it intact, I can leave this world with a sense of personal and historical integrity -- no small matter when, as I come closer to the end than to the beginning of my life, I begin to reflect on

the meaning and purpose of my existence.

HERSHEL SHANKS (editor of *Moment Magazine*, former lawyer and editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*):

Whether I have good reasons for wanting Judaism to be here in 500 years is irrelevant. It is enough that I want my children and grandchildren to share in the richness and the struggle and the angst that being a Jew is.

I have noticed that many people begin to answer the question "Why be Jewish?" by giving reasons they think are not sufficient, reasons they reject -- they like Jewish food or Jewish jokes or Jewish culture or Jewish history; or because of the State of Israel; or because of the Holocaust (to prove Hitler wrong and to triumph over evil incarnate). These reasons, they say, are inadequate. I disagree. They are all reasons to be Jewish. They are significant parts of being Jewish.

Continuation of a line that has existed for 3,000 years is itself a reason to be Jewish.

RUTH CALDERON BEN-SHACHAR (founder of Elul, a unique Yeshiva in Jerusalem where men and women, "religious" and "secular" study together):

Consider me a peculiar bird. I am not halachically observant. I am neither Reform, Conservative or Reconstructionist... I am a secular Jew, but I study Talmud...

For me, study... is a way to connect to the never-ending Jewish conversation with rabbis and scholars across all ages.

The themes of our conversations vary: God and the human condition in God's world, justice, creativity, love, jealousy, idol worship, truth, time, food, humor and much more. Where else does one get the chance to be part of a conference call with Moses Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva and the self-probing early

20th century Hebrew writer, Yosef Chaim Brenner?

When I open the talmud, I see Rabbi Yochanan quarreling with Resh Lakish, Rashi smiling at his side, the Tosafot groaning in their corner. It is like the Nutcracker ballet, when at night all the toys come to life and dance. The real surprise and joy is the chance to join in the arguments... in a vibrant dialogue.

HILLEL HALKIN (American born, prolific translator of contemporary Hebrew literature and Yiddish classics. Living in Israel since 1970):

Even by the standards of a bizarre world, we are a bizarre people, and wanting to be one of us if you aren't is perhaps a mad idea. Since I have always been one of us, it has never occurred to me to be anything else.

This may indicate a lack of imagination. I have known Jews who wanted to be Tibetan Buddhists, Indian Hindus, English Episcopalians. They may even have succeeded in the end, but to me it's as odd as wanting to be a scarlet teenager or a Tasmanian anteater.

Or maybe I'm stingy. I hate throwing things out. Becoming a Tibetan is wasteful. Tibetans make better Tibetans than Jews do. Jews make better Jews than Tibetans do. And I believe in being the best you can at what you are.

I believe that's some sort of reason for being Jewish after all.

Sometime during Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, try writing a paragraph of your own in answer to the question "Why be Jewish?". Take a look at your lifestyle and ask yourself if you are leading the kind of Jewish life that will enable you to realize what you have written. What can you do differently that will strengthen the transmission of Jewish values, practices and history that are important to you? But please, don't let your response be silence.

May we all be signed and sealed for a good year.

A whirlwind tour of Jewish experience

By Rabbi Mendel Feldmen, Director, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

The Jewish month of Tishrei contains within it more than any other month of the Jewish calendar. It starts with Rosh Hashanah, the anniversary of the creation of man and day on which we acknowledge G-D as our King. It is a time for reflection upon the past year and a time of hope for the future; a time of awe and yet, of joy. Rosh Hashanah gives way to the "Ten days of repentance", days in which we are to review our actions and resolve to improve, to ask our friends' forgiveness if we have wronged them. These days culminate in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The next four days of the month are likewise marked in Jewish mystical writings as G-Dly, for they are the first days after we have been forgiven from our wrongdoing, and we enter them pure and without blemish. In order to start afresh by expressing our devotion to G-D, these days are traditionally spent preparing for the upcoming holiday of Sukkot on the fifteenth of the month, and many preparations there are, from the building of the Sukka, the little hut that reminds us of G-D's protection of the Jewish people in the desert, to the selecting of a Lulav and Etrog, the special holiday fruit foliage.

Extra days called Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are appended to the end of Sukkot days upon which we rejoice in our completion of another cycle of Torah readings and begin again from Beraishit. The last few days of the month are still coloured

with the festive mood of the preceding days, and traditionally, no communal mourning or public fasts were instituted on those days.

The pace sometimes seems a little too fast, a little too hectic, for everything to be fully absorbed and maybe that is how it should be. It is unlike other holidays, which can be individually prepared for, celebrated relaxedly, and looked upon with leisure, before moving on to the next season.

Perhaps it helps to think of a whirlwind tour of Europe. There isn't much time to sit back and think, for the tourist is trying to see as much as possible in a few too-short weeks, but in every new country, at every major site, snapshots will be taken, souvenirs bought, and then, once the traveler returns home, there will be more than enough time to go through the mementos and relive the experience. The trip will be an inspiration for an entire year.

So too, the month of Tishrei is a source of spiritual strength for a new year ahead. Admittedly, there may not be enough time to explore all its nuances while one is busy with the actual celebrations, but the reflection and return to G-D of the high Holy Days, the divine protection that marks Sukkot, the rejoicing that is Simchat Torah-these are the legacies for an entire year-, and when the month is past and we return to day-to-day life, they will offer much inspiration and many treasured memories in the long winter ahead.

On behalf of Chabad of the Maritimes, Bassie, Zevi and myself we wish the entire Jewish community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, a year of growth, physically, materially and spiritually.

To Remain the Same is Death

By Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein, Beth Israel Synagogue

One of the hardest things in life is to grow. I am not talking about physical expansion which reaches maximum growth at age twenty. I am talking about the spirit, the very essence of our being. You can also call it our Neshamah; it is the portion of The Divine which is the major part of our very existence. Just as we believe in a G*d which we cannot see, so we believe in this spiritual component which we possess. We all know that we have something inside us that makes us special.

When one thinks that one is only what one is, and not a being that is becoming, this is death, the end. We bless the dead at a funeral "Tzaischem B'Shalom," go in peace. However, when guests leave your house and you escort them, you say "Tzaischem L'Shalom," go to (or toward) peace. The two different expressions reflect the reality that death is ultimate. The deceased person is limited by the virtue that they personally cannot do any more good deeds in this world. On the other hand, the living person (e.g. your guest) goes on and can further accomplish goodness.

I have noticed that there are people who are very much 'alive' who can inspire others to become 'beings that are becoming.' Such positive outreach is necessary for our future existence. The fuel of Halachic Jewish observance, which has kept our Jewish life going, was mainly supplied by our forebears. It needs replenishing to keep us and our families spiri-

tually alive. The world is becoming more confused and we need the anchor of Halachah to keep our balance.

Only blessings emanate from Torah study and practice. As we approach The Holidays of the New Year 5756, let us receive our precious heritage with joy and an open mind and heart. Let us all declare, "We will do and hear." We are not afraid of changes that will bring ourselves closer to the Divine Tradition. We will try to bend our lower will to the Higher Will of Hashem. We can put aside our egos and not only accept changes, but by our thoughts and actions, cause a positive transformation in our lives.

With our love for G*d, and the Torah, and greater caring one for another, we can have a Heavenly Life on this earth.

Have a happy and healthy New Year.

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Goldbloom named chancellor of Technical University of NS

By Joel Jacobson

Several months ago, Ruth Goldbloom was invited to be Chancellor of Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) at Halifax. She took some time deciding whether to accept.

"I am a low-tech woman and this was a hi-tech university," she laughed, adding she agonized about what she could contribute to Nova Scotia's only engineering school.

She accepted the post last December, however, and was installed on May 10.

Born in New Waterford, N.S., educated at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., and at McGill University, Goldbloom has been a mainstay of the Halifax and Atlantic communities since returning to her native province a couple of decades ago.

When she was installed as TUNS' fourth chancellor she added to a resume that includes three other university board appointments, an honorary degree and service in countless community organizations.

"I accepted the TUNS' position when I looked back at the opportunities my mother never had," Goldbloom said. "She left the Soviet Union and came to Glace Bay when she was



12. She had been eligible for high academic achievement in the Soviet Union but Jews were not allowed to pursue them. To her, education was always important and I feel the same way. We must make it available to everyone."

Goldbloom, who served on the boards of Mount Allison University and Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax and chaired fundraising drives at Dalhousie University (from which she holds an Honourary degree), said she has several goals as chancellor at TUNS. A former chairman of the board at Mount St. Vincent, which members mostly women among its students, she wants to increase the female registration in TUNS' engineering, architecture and computer science programs, by speaking to alumni groups and high school counselors and developing programs to bring high school students to visit the TUNS' campus.

"I also want to develop a commitment from undergraduates and alumni to their university. We know government money is drying up and we'll look more and more to our own people for support."

She said it's important to let undergrads know the cost of educating them, "which, I hope, will increase their commitment to the university."

Goldbloom said there is no job description for a chancellor, which in some cases, is strictly a ceremonial role.

"I can't do that. I don't get my kicks from that," said the woman who chaired the Metro Halifax United Way, headed a Mount St. Vincent fund drive and was national chair for Dalhousie's annual fund.

When asked the length of the term, Goldbloom said, "It's for three years. At my age, I don't even buy green bananas."



Building on Diversity

"In our efforts so far at CIBC, we have found interest rates are easier to adjust than attitudes. The different perspectives of diverse team members broaden their collective experience, add to their wisdom and enrich their view. As we learn to value diversity across the organization, the organization itself benefits. It becomes a better place to work. It finds better ways to meet the needs of its customers. And customers notice."

CIBC Chairman Al Flood
from his statement on diversity

The Three Cantors Concert

By Leo Weniger

An exciting evening of Jewish music in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut took place at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax on Thursday, May 4, 1995. The Three Cantors Concert, starring Cantors **Stuart Friedman** (Beth Israel, Halifax), **Arie Subar** (Beth Ora, Montreal), and **Yair Subar** (Beth Tikvah, Montreal) with piano accompaniment by **Dean Bradshaw**, attracted approximately 300 appreciative spectators and was taped by CBC Stereo for radio broadcast at a later date. The concert, which was co-sponsored by the Jewish Men's Club of Halifax and the Atlantic Jewish Council, was a fundraiser for the Metro Jewish Family Services Fund, established to help Jewish individuals and families in need. After expenses, over \$3500 was raised for the fund with revenues coming from ticket sales, program ads and generous donations from Patrons, Sponsors, Donors and Friends.

The Concert was very capably emceed by **Jayson Greenblatt**. The Cantors introduced their own songs and

Cantor Arie Subar occasionally lightened up the proceedings with a joke or story. In the first half of the evening the Cantors concentrated on songs from the prayer books and psalms which gave them an opportunity to show their Cantorial skills. The Subars sang two duets and they each sang one solo as did Cantor Friedman. These were all sung in Hebrew. The first half concluded with all three Cantors giving a rousing rendition of the Yiddish song *Zol Shoy'n Kumen die Geule*, in which audience participation was encouraged.

After intermission, the concert concentrated on Israel and Jerusalem. The songs tended to be more modern and more in the folk song style with two of the songs being sung in English and Hebrew. One notable exception was *Rachel, Quand du Seigneur*, a French aria from the opera *La Juive* by J.F. Halévy, a very moving, sad song beautifully sung by Cantor Friedman. This was followed by a medley of Hebrew and Yiddish favourites which brought the concert to a lively, upbeat conclusion.

The evening was not over yet, how-

ever, because the audience was invited to a reception in celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut, which was sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council. Sweets, beverages and a birthday cake were enjoyed by all, who also had the opportunity to socialize and to meet the Cantors. All in all this was an enjoyable and successful evening.

Thank you to the Concert Committee: **David Brock**, Cantor **Stuart Friedman**, **Jayson Greenblatt**, **Peter Herschorn**, **Terry Israel**, **Bill Mosher**, **Seymour Prince**, and **Leo Weniger**, Chairman and the ticket sellers for all their hard work and to **Angela Geoffrey** and **Christina MacNeil** at the AJC for administrative support. Special thanks to Beth Israel Synagogue, Air Nova, CBC, Lord Nelson Hotel and Goldberg Thompson Barristers for providing premises and/or services which helped make this concert a great success.

The Concert Committee also thanks the Atlantic Jewish Council and **Jon Goldberg** for their support and encouragement in this project. Hopefully we'll do something similar next year!

Saint John update

by **Isadore J. Davis, President, Congregation Shaarei Zedek**

The New Year of 5756 is sneaking up on us and with the wonderful summer weather we have had this year it may be difficult for some of us to sit down and consider the resolution we must make for the coming year.

Be that as it may, we in Saint John have a great deal for which to be thankful. We have been able to maintain our magnificent synagogue as well as our community centre. We have regular Sabbath Services every Friday evening and Saturday morning under the able direction of **Lou Michelson**. Our Hebrew school functions with **Moishe Granik** as principal and we have the internationally acclaimed Saint John Jewish museum. We are all proud of the work **Marcia Koven** has done in developing this museum and the many awards she has received.

My wish for the New Year is that we

in Saint John may continue to thrive and to be able to maintain an active community, and on behalf of our congregation

I extend best wishes for a year of good health and contentment to all in every community in the Atlantic Provinces.



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Synagogue donated by Corner Brook filled with Ethiopian Jews

By Reuven Rosenfelder

Neve Amiel youth village, Israel -- A generation ago, when the Jewish community of Corner Brook, Newfoundland donated a synagogue building to Neve Amiel Youth Village in Israel, it could not foresee that the synagogue would one day be filled with young Jews from Ethiopia.

But this is exactly what has happened. Neve Amiel, located in the Jezra'el Valley, not far from the city of Haifa, houses more than 300 teenagers, aged 14 to 20. The great majority are immigrants from Ethiopia. Most of them came to Israel with the dramatic rescue drive known as Operation Solomon in May 1991.

Records in the Israel office of the United Israel Appeal of Canada show that the synagogue in Neve Amiel was built in 1971, thanks to a contribution from Corner Brook of \$20,000.

Neve Amiel is one in a network of Youth Aliyah villages throughout Israel which have had a vital role for 50 years in educating teenagers, most of whom came to this country as immigrants. Originally it took in children rescued from Nazi-occupied Europe. Over time its population changed to include Is-

raeli-born youngsters from deprived backgrounds.

In recent years, Youth Aliyah institutions have reflected the influx of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union and particularly from Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian population has special needs. It requires special attention. They must adjust to a modern society for which their own background in Ethiopia's rural area did not prepare them. Youth Aliyah has taken on this challenge. It has provided several thousand Ethiopian youngsters with a home and supportive environment, and a program of learning which is enabling their integration into Israeli society.

Ethiopian Jews are religiously observant. They follow a traditional way of life. "The synagogue is the most important centre of our Youth Village," says Zvi Stanislavsky, director of Neve Amiel. "A vivid congregation of more than 300 students - 200 boys and 100 girls - and a faculty of fifty staff members and their families, use our synagogue three times a day throughout the year. Here we gather for our daily prayer and for services on the Chagim."

In fact, the place is overcrowded and urgently needs expansion. The Ezrat Nashim (women's section) cannot hold the number of young Ethiopian women



The Torah is taken out of the Ark.

who come to services. Plans call for expansion of the Ezrat Nashim and the construction of a small Beit Hamidrash (adjacent study hall), whose absence is very much felt now. New seats and furniture are also needed.

Total cost of the expansion and renovation project is estimated at \$100,000. With substantial start-up contribution, Neve Amiel could proceed to seek additional funding from other sources.

"I do feel that the expansion of our 'Canadian' synagogue should be adopted by Canadian donors," says Stanislavsky. He is currently serving as a senior Israeli emissary on a two-year mission in Toronto. He is national representative for Canada of the Torah Education and Culture Department of the World Zionist Organization.

Under his educational leadership, Neve Amiel has expanded and developed a remedial and guidance activities designed to help the weak population. A number of vocational tracks (some in association with the Israel Air Force) are available to the students. The rate of success is high. In Israel, the test for young people is acceptance by the IDF (Israel Defense Force). In Neve Amiel today, they are proud of the record of their graduates in army service.



Mordechai Ohana, Deputy Director of the Neve Amiel Youth Village, with an Ethiopian student at the entrance to the Synagogue.

Jewish Community together again

Reprint by Tina Comeau,
The Yarmouth Vanguard

It was a scene reminiscent of an earlier era in Yarmouth. Eighty-five Jewish family members gathered together, sharing stories and reliving past experiences.

Organizers called it a once in a lifetime event. Those who traveled both short and long distance to be here agreed it was a truly unique and joyous occasion.

The event was a Jewish reunion held in Yarmouth the weekend of July 28-30. For many, it clearly marked a homecoming.

The idea for the reunion came about following a visitor's day at Camp Kadi-mah. The camp, located near New Germany, Nova Scotia, is where Jewish children from throughout the Maritimes, as well as elsewhere in Canada and the United States, gather for the summer.

"Every year a visitor's day is held," explains **Rosalie (Star) Indig**. "Last year a small group of parents decided it would be nice to have a reunion. That's what got the ball rolling."

She says a committee of herself and two former Yarmouth residents - **Roz (Star) Agulnik** and **Ruth (Gillis) Noel** - contacted community elders in an effort to track down families who once lived in Yarmouth. Letters were sent out across North America and the result was last month's three day reunion.

Activities during the reunion including a visit to the Jewish Burial site located in the Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery, a tour of the Yarmouth area, banquets at the Austrian Inn and Wagner's Restaurant, and of course, a visit to the Jewish Synagogue on William Street.

At one time, there were nearly 50 Jewish families living in Yarmouth.

That number has now decreased to less than 10 families representing about 26 local citizens. But, points out Indig, despite the small number of families left in the area, the Jewish community still thrives. Not surprisingly in light of this, it was a mixture of the past and present that occupied most of the discussion during the reunion.

"A lot of these people I haven't seen in about 30 years," explained **Dr. Aubrey Shane** of Halifax who grew up as a child on Seminary Street. "We probably won't see one another again, but it certainly was worthwhile coming down."

Shane spoke of changes to Yarmouth which included what he calls improvements to Main Street and the community as a whole. His wife **Gertrude**, on the other hand, spoke of the impact the country of Canada has had on the Jewish people.

"It means a sense of freedom," she explained. "My parents were never able to vote or anything like that but we have every right as a citizen here and we can stand up and be counted like everywhere else. Canada gave us freedom and a sense of mobility and we were all very grateful to be Canadians."

During the banquet held at Wagner's Restaurant Saturday, July 29, many stepped up to the microphone to reflect on Yarmouth's Jewish history.

"This is a weekend of memories," said Yarmouth resident **Ruth Pink**. "If you asked each one of us what our memories are, it would be different. Each one of us could write our own book."

Pink spoke about a donation of a Torah (scroll) the Yarmouth community made to Israel last November. She called this an example of how active the local community still is.

"We may be small in numbers but we're mighty in memories and good deeds," she said.

"It's amazing how, when we compare experiences, our loves have overlapped in many ways," said **Margie (Schwartz) Golick** who was born in Yarmouth but only lived here from the ages of eight to 15.

"What I have to say about Yarmouth in the late 30s and early 40s is Yarmouth filtered through the eyes of a child and a young teenager, and also one who left reluctantly," said the Montreal resident who explained not only did she make lifelong friendships while in Yarmouth, but also gained a sense of Jewish community life.

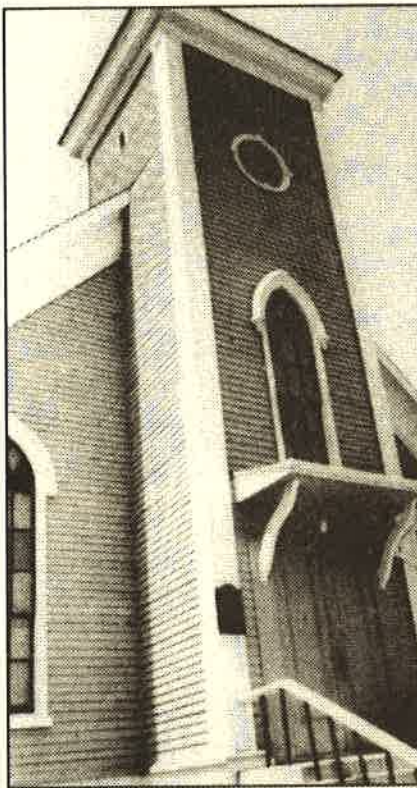
"Moving to Yarmouth meant instant community," she said remembering how a lot of life, back then, revolved around the synagogue. "The Jewish were a close knit group, just like they are today."

"I've only been back a couple of times in my adult life," she added. "But thoughts of Yarmouth are always with me."

A history of Yarmouth's Jewish community was provided by **Lester Pink**. It had been prepared after the Jewish community's 50th Jubilee held in 1956.

"We Jewish people in the Town of Yarmouth are proud of the fact we have existed as an orthodox Jewish community for half a century," Pink read reminding the audience, "Now that, of course, is extending to 90 years next year."

Pink highlighted on what had prompted the community to seek its own burial site; about the community's first place of worship held over the Whitehouse store on the corner of Main



The Synagogue on William Street in Yarmouth

Continued on page 16

Fredericton news

by Miriam Cohen,
AJC Representative from Fredericton

In May a very well attended Yom Hashoah program was held at the Forestry Complex with **Andy Scott** as guest speaker. Mr. Scott is Fredericton's MP in Ottawa. The event was organized by **Rabbi David Spiro**, our spiritual leader.

Congratulations to **Daniel Chouinard** and his family on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah in early May. Daniel did a wonderful job.

Hadassah-WIZO held their annual Youth Aliyah brunch in June, with special guest speaker, **Carol Lou Spiegel**, National Chairman for Youth Aliyah in Canada. The Campaign was chaired by **Miriam Cohen** and **Lillian Freeman** convened the brunch with her ladies. **Mrs. Jennie Brown** was honoured with a scholarship in her name for her many years of dedicated service to Hadassah-WIZO in Fredericton.

There were numerous graduates from both high school and universities this year and we wish all of them much success in the year to come.

Mazel Tov to **Robert Levine**, son of **Ivan** and **Lois**, on his high school graduation. Robert will be attending Western University in London in the fall.

Mazel Tov to **Joanna Kaufman**, daughter of **Marilyn** and **Seymour**, on her high school graduation. Joanna will be attending Carlton University in Ottawa this fall.

Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Pinsler**, son of **Sharon** and **Peter**, on his graduation from Babson College in Massachusetts with

Honours. Jonathan has now settled in Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Jackie Pinsler**, daughter of **Sharon** and **Peter**, on obtaining her Masters in Psychology from New York University, and on her engagement. The wedding will take place next September.

Mazel Tov to **Amy Budovitch**, daughter of **Mitchell** and **Carolyn**, on her graduation from Concordia University. Amy will be attending Humber college in Etobicoke for one year in the fall.

Jason Budovitch was home from Hong Kong for a visit with his family and friends in July. He has returned to Hong Kong where he is involved in production and management of material goods for export around the world. Jason will be moving to Shanghai to be closer to his factory.

Mazel Tov to **Eric Budovitch**, son of **Judy** and **Arnold**, on his completion of Junior College. Eric will be entering York University in Toronto in the fall.

Congratulations to **Nicola Linton**, daughter of **Sandra Houston** and **Colin Linton**, on her graduation from the University of Toronto Law School. Nicola is articling in London, Ontario.

Mazel Tov to **Sharon Rauch**, daughter of **Doris** and **Steven**, on her graduation from McGill University in Engineering. Sharon is now employed in Montreal by Northern Telecom.

Congratulations to **Simone Vigod**, a former resident of Fredericton, who has completed high school in Vancouver. Simone is the daughter of **Zena Simces Katz** and the late **Bernie Vigod**. Simone will be entering McGill University in the fall.

The Fredericton community held their annual Israel Bond drive, under the direction of **Arnold Chippin** in July. This event proved to be successful for those in attendance.

At this time I would like to wish all our friends and colleagues a healthy and prosperous New Year from Fredericton. Shana Tova to each of you in Atlantic Canada.

Jewish Community together

Continued from page 15

and Brown Streets; and about purchase of the synagogue in 1910.

"The thing I want to point out to the young people is the fact that we, as a Jewish community here in Yarmouth, are very proud, and were very proud, to have been a member of the Jewish community," Pink said.

During the reunion, there was both sadness and happiness expressed over the small number of Jewish families still living in Yarmouth. Sadness, because of the decrease in numbers, and happiness because the community is still very active.

"Sixty-one years ago there were 42 Jewish families living in Yarmouth. There are eight families now," said **Harold Nelson** who grew up in the area. "We all enjoyed being here. There's only a handful of families now and we'd like to make a toast for you," he added. "You're carrying on for all of us, and for that we are indeed grateful."

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Kadimah - Israel experience

By Zena Haberman

On June 29, 1995, myself, along with fourteen others, anxiously began what was later to become one of the most amazing journeys of our lives - the first ever Camp Kadimah-Israel trip. For many of us this would be our first trip to Israel and to be able to go through this experience with Camp Kadimah was very comforting and reassuring. Each of us was filled with a different emotion as the plane landed in Eretz Israel, but together we were ready for just about anything.

We arrived on a Friday afternoon, and our first stop was a trip to the Kotel - the Western Wall to light the Shabbat candles and recite the Kabbalat Shabbat. This for me was one of the most memorable and moving experiences. Prior to that night I had only dreamed of celebrating my own Judaism, not only in Israel, but specifically at the Kotel.

The next week or so was spent in Jerusalem. We had a variety of unique hadracha or learning sessions, all of which were hands-on and really served as a veritable orientation to the country. We also toured the new and old cities playing various team games, scavenger hunts, walking tours and museum tours. Jerusalem really is a golden city, the landscape, the people and the ever present sense of Judaism and of belonging made it the perfect place to begin our journey.

From Jerusalem, we moved south and here began a series of hikes like no other tour experience. Every morning it was reserves, ancient fortresses, and look out spots. Our first hike was in Ein Gedi Nature Reserve; this was, as well, our first encounter with one of Israel's many stunning and refreshing waterfalls.

We continued to tour the southern part of the country on a sea-to-sea hike, traveling from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean Sea and continuing north to the Sea of Galilee - the Kineret. We stopped in each area to tour, learn the history, relax and take in all that we could.

Our next stop was the Golan Heights. Here we discussed the politics of the area with the youth of a Golani Kibbutz. We Kayaked in the Jordan river and on our way south we biked in the Carmel Mountains. The Golan Heights for me was one of the highlights of the trip, in addition to the area being simply breathtaking, I learned a great deal about the history of the area and I began to understand in greater detail the political issues



At Kibbutz Nachson: STEPHANIE LEVITZ, REBECCA CASH, ALLISON KAUFMAN and SUSAN GOLDBERG.



Hike to the Arbes north near Tiberias.

surrounding these Heights.

The next step was Kibbutz Nachson, a large kibbutz between Jerusalem and Be'er Sheva. Our introduction to kibbutz life was brief but very informative, and very fun. We spent the first day at the beach and the armored corps memorial with other kibbutz youth; the second day doing various work projects from turkey sorting to lifeguarding at the kibbutz pool. The next two days, which were Shabbat, were spent talking with kibbutz families, enjoying Oneg Shabbat with another Canadian tour, a panel discussion with the kibbutz youth, a disco, as well as an interview with two kibbutz soldiers. The kibbutz experience is one none of us will ever forget.

The desert of Mitzpe Ramon is the home of the Bedouin of the area and we even spent a night sleeping outside with them! By the end of our four day stop over in the desert I think it became apparent that there really is more to be seen in the desert than one can even imagine.

When we left the Mitzpe Ramon we headed further south to Eilat. When I first saw the white of the sand and the deep blues and greens of the water in Eilat I could hardly believe it was real. Although we only stayed in Eilat for two days and one night, Eilat was one of my favorite places. While in Eilat we visited an underwater observatory that was amazing and then we got the opportunity to snorkel through the coral reef and swim with some of the most remarkable fish I have ever seen.

The following night was spent learning about the Bedouin lifestyle as we were welcomed into a Bedouin tent. It was here as well that we learned to ride camels and donkeys. The next morning we were up at 4:00 am and off to watch the sun rise over Massada. We climbed Massada in just under 12 minutes - a new record! And sat in the synagogue atop the fortresses for a program led by a few of the participants.

As the trip was coming to a close there were still two major steps: Tel Aviv and then coming full circle back to Jerusalem to wrap up the entire trip.

It's amazing to think that after 17 years of dreaming, Kadimah finally made my dream of going to Israel a reality. Nothing I was taught in school, at camp or at home could ever have done Israel justice. The time I spent there was irreplaceable and it was all thanks to Kadimah-Israel. I wish the program much success in the future.

Am Israel Chai.

CJC National Plenary attracts large crowd

By Mike Cohen, National Director of Communications, Canadian Jewish Congress

Goldie Hershon of Montreal is the new national president of Canadian Jewish Congress. She was elected to the position May 15 at the organization's 24th triennial National Plenary Assembly in Montreal. Attended by more than 1,400 delegates and observers including a delegation from the Atlantic Jewish Council. She succeeded Professor Irving Abella.

Ms. Hershon defeated her opponent **Thomas O. Hecht** in a hard-fought contest to become the 14th president in CJC's 76 year history. Among the issues included among Ms. Hershon's top priorities are the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada, combating anti-Semitism and racism, national unity, Jewish continuity and world Jewry. "The pursuit of Nazi war criminals," she remarked, "is central, not only to the Canadian Jewish community, but to Jews everywhere. Under my presidency I will enjoin new partners to ensure that those responsible for such monstrous acts are finally brought to justice. The future of CJC belongs to us all by building on what CJC does so well and changing what needs to be changed. That is the job of my new leadership team."

In other elections at the Plenary, voters turned to Montrealers **Zave Climan** and **Frank Schlesinger** and Toronto student **Robbie Diamond** as treasurer, secretary and associate chair of the National Executive respectively. National Executive Chair **Renee Switzer Bellas** of Vancouver and Honourary Counsel **Keith Landy** of Toronto were previously acclaimed. AJC President **Larry Freeman** served as credentials chair at the Plenary. His wife **Myra** has been appointed co-chair of the Congress National Small Communities Committee.

Professor Abella said in his closing speech that Canada is unique not only because it has freedom of speech, but we have freedom from speech. "We do not allow hatemongers to publicly peddle their poison," he said. "We protect our minorities because we respect both their

Sessions dealt with new directions in public advocacy, Jewish issues and the media, the changing economic realities and their impact on the Jewish community, Jewish survival: the impact of intermarriage and assimilation, the world Jewish condition, the Holocaust: fifty

years after liberation the changing face of anti-Semitism, high-tech hate in the age of cyberspace, advocacy for social justice, Jewish community dynamics, national unity and Israel-Diaspora relations.

A large reception took place celebrating Jerusalem 3000 and saluting outgoing Israel Ambassador to Canada **Itzhak Shelef**.

A total of 17 resolutions were passed, with 12 others tabled for a future National Council meeting. A number of awards were also handed out at the Plenary.

Appointments: Soon after the Plenary, President Hershon appointed Quebec Superior Court Judge **Herbert Marx** to head a committee to review the CJC bylaws. Other appointments as chairs of national standing committees are: **Pearl Grubert** of Montreal, Archives; **Hal Joffe** of Calgary, Community Relations; **Gerald Gall** of Edmonton, Constitution and Charter Review with Judge **Maxwell Cohen** as Chair Emeritus; **Nathan Leipziger** of Toronto and **Myra Giberovitch** of Montreal, co-chairs, National Holocaust Remembrance Committee; **Sheva Medjuck** of Halifax, Law and Social Action; **Max Bernard** of Montreal, National Unity; **Rabbi David Levy** of Kitchener, Religious and Interreligious Affairs; **Myra Freeman** of Halifax and **Ellen Freedman** of Vancouver, National Small Communities; Immediate Past President **Irving Abella** of Toronto, War Crimes; **Les Scheininger** of Toronto, International Affairs; and **Rosa Finestone** of Montreal, Education and Jewish Continuity.



New CJC President Goldie Hershon and grandson Joshua at the Plenary.

contributions and their sensitivities. It is vital that we never lose hold of this fragile but essential quality, this quintessence of human rights: that everyone is permitted to live and let live; to criticize our leaders while loving the land and to debate endlessly the meaning of our national existence while living it today."

Among the speakers at the Plenary were Israel Deputy Foreign Minister **Yossi Beilin**, Israel MK and former Foreign Minister **David Levy**, television star **Shirley Solomon**, American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Executive Director **Neal Sher**, Federal Minister Responsible for the Quebec Referendum **Lucienne Roibillard**, Treasury Board President **Art Eggleton**, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism **Sheila Finestone**, **Hana Gartner** of CBC's *The Fifth Estate*, World Jewish Congress President **Edgar Bronfman**, former Progressive Conservative government civil servant **Stanley Hartt** and former External Affairs Minister **Barbara McDougall**.

Scenes from the CJC's 24th Plenary Assembly Montreal, May 14-15, 1995.



CJC National Officer IVAN LEVINE of
Fredericton shown here
congratulating incoming president
GOLDIE HERSHON



ARTHUR SAFFRON,
Atlantic Region delegate
from Springhill, N.S.,
shown with a friend.



National Community Relations personalities (L-R) HAL JOFFE,
Calgary; LARRY RITEMAN, Halifax, and BERNIE FARBAR of Toronto.

From Around



AJC Areva GALI BROCK shown checking the cards at the Shavoot Party held in Moncton.



Kabbalat Shabbat service in Prince Edward Island, June, 1995



APJSF Student Summer Trip to Upper Clements Theme Park, Wolfville, July 23, 1995.



Model Seder, Shaar Shalom Hebrew School, Halifax, Passover 1995.



Participants in the 1994 March of the Living program, shown at Yom Hashoah commemorations, Halifax, 1995.



AJC Executive Member LARRY RITEMAN shown with survivor Mrs. HELENA JOCKEL, lighting up a memorial candle, Yom Hashoah 1995.

the Region



From Purim 1995 in Halifax.



From Purim 1995 in St. John's



At the 50th Anniversary gathering of ZIM held in Montreal: July 12, 1995, (L-R) Mr. ELI STEINBUCH, President of ZIM; Mr. MORRIS GOLDBERG -who received a special award from ZIM, and Mrs. JUDITH SCHLESINGER, President of ZIM Canada.



TERRY ISRAEL entertains friends at community picnic in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, June 1995.



At the Cantors Concert held in Halifax, May 1995. Pianist DEAN BRADSHAW, Cantor ARIE SUBAR, MC JASON GREENBLAT, Cantor YAIR SUBAR and Cantor STUART FRIEDMAN.



Cantors ARIE & YAIR SUBAR with AJC president LARRY FREEMAN, cutting the birthday cake at Yom Ha' Atzmaut reception following the concert.

AJC reaches out to the needy



By Seymour Prince,
AJC Executive Member
Jewish Welfare

Although the Atlantic Jewish Council has provided financial assistance to needy Jewish families in the Atlantic provinces over the years and continues

to do so, it has only been able to do so in a modest way and on a one-time basis. A little over a year ago the AJC decided, given the increasing number of needy Jewish families in Halifax metro, that it was time to establish an independent committee to provide assistance, both financial and non-financial, to our Jewish brethren and sisters who are less fortunate.

Regretfully, there are a number of Jewish families in the metro area of very modest means and receiving government assistance. This is often the result of unemployment, marriage breakdown, mental and/or physical disabilities, being elderly and chronically ill, or a recently arrived Russian immigrant. Quite often these people require other forms of assistance such as help in finding a job or a rental accommodation, legal advice on an immigration or tenancy matter, psychological counseling, or simply receiving moral support.

Thanks to the initiative and leadership of the Halifax Jewish Men's Club

and support of the AJC, the cantorial concert held last Yom Ha'atzmaut was not only a great success as a social event, but it raised more than \$3500 for the Halifax Metro Jewish Family Services Fund.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to this fund may do so by sending your cheque, payable to Atlantic Jewish Council Charities, to the AJC office at 1515 South Park Street, Suite 305, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2L2. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations. If you would like to volunteer your services for this very worthy cause, kindly contact one of the Co-chairpersons, Nancy Cieplinski (477-7144) or Seymour Prince (445-3620).

If any Jewish individual or family in the Atlantic region genuinely requires assistance, or if someone knows of an individual or family that does, please don't hesitate to call Nancy or Seymour at the above number. Rest assured that all cases are kept strictly confidential.

CONGRATULATIONS

On the 20th Anniversary of the
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Raymond W. Ferguson



Haligonians were active participants at the recently held 31st Annual Leadership Convention of Emunah Women of Canada. Haligonians (from left) RABANIT DEVORAH GRAFSTEIN and BEATRICE ZEMEL enjoy a moment with RENA SCHONDORF, newly elected President of Emunah Women of Canada and CAROLE GOLDING, President of World Emunah.

*"How wonderful
it is that nobody
need wait a single minute
before starting to improve
the world."*

Anne Frank



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

A Division of UJA of Canada Inc.

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CAMPAIGN 1995

FOR OURSELVES. FOR OUR CHILDREN. FOR ISRAEL. FOREVER.

"The following men and women in Atlantic Canada have volunteered their time to chair UJA campaigns in your community. Please join with them in our common cause." Jim Spatz, Regional Chair, UJA

Community Chairs

Halifax, N.S.

Victor Goldberg
Mark Rosen

Sydney, N.S.

Dr. Robert Cohen
Curdis Karrel

Glace Bay, N.S.

David Ein

Annapolis Valley, N.S.

Naomi Honey

Yarmouth, N.S.

Irving Pink

Fredericton, N.B.

Harry Levine
Martin Payne

Moncton, N.B.

Dr. Barrie Carnat

Saint John, N.B.

Dr. Joseph Arditti

St. John's, Nfld.

Claire Frankel-Salama
Ruth Noel

Prince Edward Island

Sherrie DaYidson

Staff

Jon M. Goldberg

AJC Executive Director

Doron Fleisher

Israeli Emisary, Atlantic Region

Marie Herschorn

UJA Administrative Assistant



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

A Division of UJA of Canada Inc.

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

Message from the UJA President Dr. Gerald Halbert

Each year since the establishment of Israel has been a momentous one for the Jewish people. Look what you have helped accomplish! Together with the Jewish Agency of Israel, your outstanding support of United Israel Appeal Campaigns over the years has helped:

- bring 2.3 million new immigrants to Israel and facilitate their integration into Israeli society
- establish more than 800 Moshavim and Kibbutzim
- transform 90 disadvantaged neighbourhoods and development towns through Project Renewal
- improve the quality of life in the Negev and the Galil through Special Projects
- care for 300,000 youngsters through Youth Aliyah
- provide 300,000 Diaspora Jewish youth with Israel Experience Programs
- ensure Jewish/Zionist education for millions of Jewish children all over the world

These activities have not run their course nor lost their urgency. 60,000-70,000 Jews, just from the Republics of the former Soviet Union (FSU), still flock to Israel annually while

thousands (primarily from FSU) remain in life-threatening situations. It is the joint responsibility of both Israel and world Jewry to ensure their reaching a safe haven in Israel. Your UJA contribution constitutes the major source of funding for these rescue and absorption operations. Your contribution "makes all the difference."

Recently, a new urgency has taken hold of the Jewish World - the necessity of raising Jewish consciousness and strengthening Jewish identity in Atlantic Canada and all the Unfederated communities throughout the country. As an organization long identified as the central address for the rescue of Jewish communities at risk, the Atlantic Jewish Council, with the UJA's approval, has decided to reflect this new reality by changing the name of its campaign to the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada.

To ensure meeting all these challenges and to maintain the all-encompassing mandate to sustain the welfare of Israel and the Jewish people, the UJA and the UJA of Atlantic Canada again ask you to open your hearts as you have done in the past and support the 1995 campaign to the limits of your ability. In the final analysis, the Jewish future you are securing is your own.

The United Israel Appeal of Canada Inc. wishes to extend to all members of Atlantic Canada a happy, successful and healthy Shana Tova - a year which will see Israel and Atlantic Canada grow and prosper.

ISRAEL - VITAL STATISTICS

- The State of Israel has 5.44 million citizens, including 4.4 million Jews and 770,000 Arabs.
- 633,200 new immigrants came to Israel between January 1989 and December 1994. This means that olim now make up nearly 12% of the population.
- 86% of the new immigrants have come from the former Soviet Union.
- During the first half of 1995, 33,343 olim came to Israel - 28,589 from the former Soviet Union.
- The current rate of aliyah is the highest it has been, with the exception of the years 1990-91, since the 1950s.
- Israel's largest ethnic group, numbering about 712,000. The next largest group are those of Moroccan origin, approximately 500,000.
- 31,237 olim have come from Ethiopia since 1989, today Israel has over 50,000 citizens of Ethiopian origin.
- 1,389 olim have come from Syria since 1992, including 543 last year. About 250 Jews remain in Syria.
- 429 Jews have come from Yemen in the past two years.
- Today half of Israel's doctors, and nearly two-thirds of its engineers are new immigrants.
- The State of Israel has spent US\$22,295,000,000 on the absorption of aliyah since 1990. This is the equivalent of \$18,359 for each Israeli family.
- Of Israel's 1995 budget of \$49 billion, \$3.8 billion, or 7.76%, is related to immigrant absorption.



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

A Division of UIA of Canada Inc.

A living legacy

By Barney Harris

The United Israel Appeal of Canada and the Atlantic Jewish Council are pleased to announce that an Endowment Fund is being established to provide an enduring legacy for our community both here and in Israel.

A number of principle decisions have been taken:

Only the interest on the gift will be used for programs and projects.

The contributor may designate the gift to benefit a program or project in Israel, a local undertaking by the AJC or

a combination of the two. Another course may be adopted: To let the Trustees of the Endowment Fund use the gift in the area of greatest need.

In most cases, the contributor may establish a fund in his/her name or the family name.

Tax receipts for gifts to the Endowment Fund will be provided.

Contributions may be made in a variety of ways:

Outright gift of cash. Outright gift of securities. Bequests in a will. Outright gift of real estate. Outright gift of certified cultural property. Outright gift of

tangible property. Life insurance (Charity named as owner). Charitable gift annuity (self-insured) (reinsured). Gift of residual interest in real estate or artworks. Charitable remainder trust. Life insurance (charity named as beneficiary but not owner). Interest free loan.

Before making a gift advice should be sought from legal and accounting professionals to discuss tax and financial benefits. We will be pleased to tell you more about these funding opportunities. Call UIA of Canada Inc. at (416) 636-7655 or UJA Atlantic Canada at (902) 422-7491.

JEWISH IDENTITY

- Ensuring Jewish identity, both in the Diaspora and in Israel, is now a Jewish Agency priority.
- In 1995, the Jewish Agency is spending US\$42.7 million on the activities of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education.
- The Joint Authority operates Israel Experience programmes, trains teachers for Jewish schools in the Diaspora, and develops curricula and materials for those schools,
- Over 14,000 young people from the Diaspora participate in Israel

Experience programmes each year.

- Last summer, 6,270 young Jews in 196 groups from around the world spent 5,565 days of activity in Israel as part of Israel Experience programmes.
- Some 6,000 Jewish educators attend seminars at the Joint Authority's Kiryat Moriah educational centre in Jerusalem each year.
- In addition to its own programmes, the Jewish Agency supports the activities of other agencies promoting Jewish identity

through its allocations and programme grants.

- In 1995, the Jewish Agency has allocated a total of some \$4 million to institutions and programmes promoting Jewish identity among both Israelis and Diaspora Jews.
- The Jewish Agency is committed to Jewish pluralism, in the belief that diversity promotes Jewish identity. All streams of Judaism benefit from Jewish Agency activities.

To the Jewish Communities in Atlantic Canada
A sincere wish for a

HAPPY NEW YEAR 5756

from



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1996

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- FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE,
PLEASE CALL HINDY FRIEDMAN AT OUR MISSION 3000 HOTLINE**

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*Add-on fares apply to departures west of Toronto and east of Montreal

APPLICATION FORM (one per applicant)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

(please print)

Family Name _____ First Name _____ Nickname _____
(as per passport) (as per passport)

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone # _____ Business Phone # _____ Fax # _____
(area code) (area code) (area code)

Citizenship _____ Passport # _____ Birthdate _____

Previous visits to Israel: ☐ First time ☐ Last visit was _____

Prior UJA/UJA Mission: ☐ No ☐ Yes, When? _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name _____ Phone (H) _____ (B) _____ Relationship _____

TRAVEL INFORMATION

- ☐ Single Room (limited number available at an additional cost of \$475) ☐ Double - I would like to find a roommate
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- ☐ I want to extend my trip in Israel until _____ (El Al flights on Monday & Wednesday only)
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Role in Community / Campaign _____

COST: \$1996 / Cdn (includes all applicable taxes)

Please enclose your deposit: (minimum \$250 per person)

☐ Enclosed is my cheque in the amount of \$ _____ made out to United Israel Appeal.

☐ VISA Card # _____ Expiry date _____

I understand that, as is customary with all UJA/UJA missions, each participant will have the opportunity to make his/her pledge to the 1996 campaign on this mission. Minimum contribution per person is \$250. I undertake to pay UJA/UJA the full cost of participation in this program by December 31/95. I release UJA/UJA, its officers, directors, and employees from any liability, of any nature whatsoever arising from or in connection with Mission 3000.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please forward this completed application form to:

Mission 3000
United Israel Appeal
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Halifax, NS B3J 2L2

Mission 3000 Hotline
JON GOLDBERG
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Rescuing the imperiled

Wherever there is a crisis or

war; wherever racism
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gifts save Jewish lives. Since 1989, you have helped bring over
850,000 Jews to new lives of freedom. Every five minutes another
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Across North America, throughout eastern Europe and in Israel, far too many Jews live
below the poverty line. The frail elderly and single parent families are amongst our
fastest-growing population segments. The scourges of child
abuse, spousal abuse, AIDS and Alzheimer's do
not pass over Jewish homes. Your gifts to the Annual Cam-
paign provide desperately needed care and
counseling and make a real difference in peoples' lives.



Revitalizing Jewish life

Some call it Jewish continuity and some, Jewish renewal. Your commitment
to the UJA Campaign in Atlantic Canada is also your commitment to the strength of our
people, wherever they live, because it allows the AJC here and Keren Hayesod, in Israel and 58
countries around the world to undertake cultural, educational
and recreational programs which connect us to our
heritage, to our future and to each other.



No gift touches more lives.



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

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SUMMER/FALL 1995

SHALOM

Ninth annual Hadassah International Congress

Montreal-April 30-May 4, 1995

The Congress, hosted this year by Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, was attended by more than two hundred delegates representing twenty-five countries on four continents who met to learn from distinguished guests and from each other to develop and plan the future direction for Hadassah International. Hadassah-WIZO members from across Canada attended, including Hadassah-WIZO President **Ann Gregory** of St. John's, Newfoundland, National Honourary Vice-President **Sheila Zive** and National Executive Members, **Barbara Paton** and **Myrna Yazer**, all from Halifax.

The events that took place included plenary sessions that addressed world issues. "Prospects for a New Middle East" was the keynote address of **Yossi Gal**, Deputy Director of the Public Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Israel.

Issues of human rights were discussed by a panel and moderated by **Thomas Hecht**, Chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee.

"Medicine Without Borders" enable Hadassah doctors and nurses to relate their experiences as they responded to medical emergencies in many places throughout the world, such as Rwanda, Sarajevo and Argentina.

An outstanding group of medical experts discussed the "Slippery Slope" - medicine, economics and ethics - which prompted challenging issues and aroused great group participation.

Also held were forums for learning techniques in fundraising, membership, image building and for sharing each other's ideas and events.

The Scientific Committee was addressed by **Dr. Angel Werch** of Baylor Medical Center in Houston, Texas, whose topic was "Medical Outreach".

At the final Gala Banquet dignitaries from many of the embassies represented their countries and were addressed by His Excellency, **Yitzhak Shalef**, Ambassador of Israel to Canada. Greetings were forthcoming as well from the **Hon. Herb Gray**, Solicitor General, Government of Canada. The delegates returned home to their respective countries to implement much of what they learned at this Congress and to plan the 10th Annual Congress which will take place in Jerusalem.

AT PRESS TIME!!!

Senator **ERMINIE COHEN** of Saint John departed on August 25 for an exciting two weeks in China, as a member of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations Women's Conference.

Senator Cohen has indicated her willingness to speak to various communities in the Atlantic Region upon her return.

The Atlantic Jewish Council wishes Senator Cohen a productive stay in China, and a safe return home.



At the ninth annual Hadassah International Congress in Montreal were: (from left) **Pierre Bourque**, mayor of Montreal; **Judy Mandleman**, President, Hadassah-WIZO of Canada; **Deborah Kaplan**, President, Hadassah World Zionist Organization of America; **Bernice Tannenbaum**, Coordinator, Hadassah International.



Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia

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a very enlightened and prosperous*

New Year 5756

and a

Happy 20th Anniversary
to the Atlantic Jewish Council.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Kulvinder Dhillon
President

Barbara Campbell
Executive Director

Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia

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Fax (902) 422-0881

Community mourns passing of Alan Rose

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) is mourning the passing of its former Executive vice-president Alan Rose, who died July 18, 1995 at the age of 74 after a brief illness.

"I had the honour and privilege to work closely with Alan for nine years," stated CJC National Executive Director and General Counsel Jack Silverstone. "He was a man of vast knowledge and experience, a great humanitarian and a friend to Jewish communities the world over."

Alan gained universal respect in a various sectors of Canadian society, from the top level of government and the civil service to interfaith communities and the diplomatic corps. He was a committed Zionist, with a tremendous desire to see peace in the Middle East. His good deeds and accomplishments are too long to list. The Jewish community, and Canada, have suffered an enormous loss.

Last August, Mr. Rose retired from CJC after being appointed to the Convention Refugee Determination Division of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB).

Born in Dundee, Scotland in 1921, Mr. Rose was educated at Mill Hill School in London. During World War II he served as a tank commander in North Africa (8th Army), Italy and North West Europe (D-Day) and was among the liberators of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. He volunteered in Israel during the War of Independence.

Mr. Rose emigrated to Canada in 1957 and worked for the Jewish Agency and the forerunner of the Canada-Israel Committee until coming to CJC in 1970, first as assistant director. In 1973 he was named associate executive director, becoming national executive director in 1974 and, finally in 1977, executive vice-president.

During his years at CJC Mr. Rose traveled around the world, including Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. Last year Mr. Rose reflected how the greatest achievement in his communal career was gaining freedom for Soviet Jews, thanks to pressure from the Canadian government and the Jewish community.

"We were one of the best organized communities around the world," he said. "We had a parliamentary committee for Soviet Jewry that included virtually every MP."

Mr. Rose visited Ethiopia's Jewish community three times.

Upon his retirement from CJC last year Mr. Rose stated: "I knew that my

departure from Congress would evoke strong feelings of emotion, particularly when I look back on those momentous events in which I was privileged to participate. My generation was born in the worst and best of times. We were committed to fight fascism in battle and struggle for the right of the Soviet Jews during the Cold War. We witnessed the rescue of Ethiopian Jews in which CJC played a major part in concert with the Israeli government. These and countless other issues have enriched my life as they were events of great purpose for our people. There can be no doubt that the Canadian Jewish Congress played a pivotal role in Jewish life at home and abroad - far beyond the weight of our numbers."

A recipient of the Order of Canada, Mr. Rose was a member of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, the International Council for Russian Jewry, the boards of the Jewish Material Claims against Germany Inc. and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He was also a member of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Jewish Council and a founding member of the Canadian Christian Jewish Consultation, where he served as first secretary. In 1980 Mr. Rose was awarded the United States Presidential Citation of Honour as a liberator of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and in 1987 he was awarded the Terezin anti-Fascist Fighters Medal by the government of Czechoslovakia. In June 1994 the French government bestowed on him la Medaille Militaire de la Liberation. Just recently, he was honoured at the CJC National Plenary Assembly at Montreal with the Samuel Bronfman Medal. In June the World Zionist Organization awarded him the Jerusalem Prize.

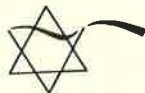
Mr. Rose served on the board of directors of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and the Canadian Multiculturalism Advisory Committee.



ALAN ROSE

HOW TO LEAVE HOME WITH YOUR PARENTS' BLESSING.

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Anguish to Hope '95

by Erin Sperling

As we watched the sun set over Birkenau and felt the warmth of its last rays of the day, a sigh seemed to rise up from our group. Did they witness a sunset as beautiful as this? Could anything have been as beautiful in a time of such pain and despair?

The dawn of May 8th, 1945, marked the end of a terrible war that equated the word "Jew" with death. Exactly fifty years later to the day, eighty Jewish college and university students from across Canada embarked on a journey of remembrance, as a testimony to the continuation of life. From coast to coast, we all gathered together to experience a memorial to the Holocaust and to participate in the efforts to ensure it would never happen again.

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation representative consisted of Dalhousie students **Brian Indig** of Yarmouth, **Erin Sperling** of Barrie, Ontario; **Amanda Kellman** of Toronto, and UPEI student **Donovan Thorkelson** of Charlottetown.

Our journey began in Prague, the Czech Republic, where we visited the old Jewish Quarter, which has a history dating back some nine hundred years. Prague is a beautiful city, of rivers and classical architecture that may be found nowhere else in the world. The Jewish community is bringing itself back to life with present "registration" of 1500 where once lived a thriving population of 56,000 during pre-Shoah times. Prague housed the legendary Golem of **Rabbi Loew** and was the home to **Franz Kafka**. Although a week could have been well-spent, we merely toured hastily through a day and a half in Prague. We passed through Theresienstadt, a holding camp where many were sent to spend time before being sent on the train to Auschwitz. It was now time to face the grim reality of what Poland had been.

In some ways Poland was a scary experience, in other ways it was very uplifting. We had heard stories from past March of the Living participants about how horribly the Polish people treated Jews even today. We worried over which t-shirt would bring us negative attention and when the boys would feel safe to wear their kippahs. Despite these worries it happened that there was a feeling of welcome in the country after all. We had the wonderful opportunity of meeting Jewish students in Warsaw who helped to explain to us some of the realities of being Jewish in Poland today. We met a group of people who form part of a committee known as The Polish Council of Christians and Jews, who strive to eliminate intolerance and even have a youth section. Events such as this gave new hope for the future of Jewry in Eastern Europe.

In Poland we spent time in the cities of Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow. In these cities we saw synagogues, Jewish Quarters and Ghettos, and many cemeteries, but one of the main objectives of the trip was to see the camps and hold memorial services. We visited the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Majdanek and Treblinka. Auschwitz remains nearly intact as it had been left fifty years ago. It is now home to a museum of artifacts which are found in the building that were

formerly the barracks of prisoners. Majdanek is less of a museum and much more of a monument. An enormous stone sculpture found at the entrance to the camp leads the eye to a dome some two kilometers off in the distance. Upon closer inspection, the dome is equally enormous, housing a pile of ashes and debris that was found in the crematoria and scattered around the camp after it had been liberated. Treblinka had been thoroughly destroyed from the death camp it had been. Today it is a field of rocks of various sizes and shapes, the larger ones often having the names of cities and countries where the Jewish population was obliterated, the smaller stones simply standing in memory of those without names. Needless to say, visiting these sites was neither a pleasant nor uplifting experience, but it does say something for the old adage of "seeing with your own eyes".

After the long and grueling days and nights in Poland, Israel was like a dream-come-true, a paradise. The food was delicious, the beds were like clouds, each day was clear and warm and bright. Not to say that Poland was such a terrible place, but to me there is no place in the world like Israel, especially after what we had just seen. I am sure many people will agree. In Israel, the days were hardly any less packed than they had been in Eastern Europe. We travelled from top to bottom, side to side, all in the span of six short days. From Metulla and ice hockey (!!) in the north to Eilat and amazing snorkeling in the south; from the long wait at the Jordanian border in the east to the thriving culture of the Tel Aviv *Shook* in the west, it was an incredible trip. We also spent two days in Jordan, where we met university students who did not seem to be all that different from us. And several hours were spent in the ancient city of Petra, which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was absolutely stunning right out of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, with a little historical value as well.

Overall, I wouldn't have missed the Anguish to Hope Mission for anything. I met Jewish students from across the country and across the ocean. I have made ties with my roots that I did not know were there. Hopefully I will be able to take something of what I have learned and contribute back to my own Jewish community. Now that I am home, I can reflect on my feelings toward the trip. I am Jewish, as were the Jews of Eastern Europe. And so today I breathe the fresh air, I feel the warmth of the sun on my face, I bask in the beauty of the world around me and I remember those who cannot. I have made lasting friendships. I have grown as a person and as a Jew. I am proud of my heritage, and pride is hope.

The AJC would like to congratulate Mr. **LLOYD NEWMAN** of Halifax on his new appointment as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of London, ON.

Mr. Newman, long time lay leader with many Jewish organizations including UJA, AJC, Shaar Shalom Congregation and others, will be missed in our region and we at the AJC wish him well in his new position.

CAMP KADIMAH



From the Camp Director's chair

By Sheldon Cohen

Kadimah '95 hosted the largest enrollment in the camp's history. This summer, we had 248 campers (including C.I.T's). As well, Kadimah was proud to welcome back 15 participants in our Kadimah Israel Program. After 5 weeks in Israel, these post-C.I.T.'s returned for ten days.

The Judaic and Israeli programming is and always has been one of the most important components of our program. Camp Kadimah's primary function is to provide a Jewish environment for youth from all across Canada, especially the Atlantic Provinces. Matt Cohen, our program director, and Mike Soberman, assistant director, have been responsible for these programs. Our weekly Onegs highlight our cultural themes. As well, we had Six Faces of Israel, Israel Day, Yom HaShoah, Tisha B'Av and weekly discussions on anti-Semitism, intermarriage and the current state of affairs in Israel.

Our regular program was very exciting and enjoyable. Hityashvut at Keji, Maccabia, water slides, Rizzer's Beach, and Indian Falls were most memorable.

The Rubin Cultural Center was erected this year and is a most beautiful, much needed indoor facility. As well, a new Arts and Crafts area was readied in the new Rubin Center.

All head staff and specialists ran excellent programs. Our bunk counselors were exceptional and were a big part of our summer's success.

I want to personally thank Yakov Feig, our new AJC programmer, for his assistance with our program. The Atlantic Community is very fortunate to have him working with its youth.

To Mark Rosen, Andrew Wolfson, Hank Webber and all the committee members thank you on behalf of all campers and staff for your support and devotion to Camp Kadimah. A special thank you to Jon Goldberg and Christina MacNeil for all your efforts with our program and administrative matter.

The summer of '95 will rank with the best in Kadimah's 52 years. L'Shana Tova to all campers, staff and parents. Wishing all a happy and prosperous new year. Have a great year.



Born in the U.S.S.R.

This Soviet Jew Dreamed of Freedom. UIA Delivered.

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

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



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Now skating for Israel...Misha Shmerkin!

Skate Canada 1995, Saint John, NB - MISHA WILL BE THERE!

Free at Last

Reprint. *Managment Magazine*

Irwin Simon is building an empire out of sauces, oils, and side dishes. Originally from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, he learned the marketing trade at George Weston Ltd., Pillsbury, Haagen-Dazs, and SlimFast Foods Co. Before escaping corporate life to found the Hain Food Group, which markets several well-known brands while contracting out the cooking. Putting together his savings, a bridge loan, and the results of two public offerings, Simon acquired Farm Foods, makers of soy-based ice cream (Ice Bean) and pizza (Pizsoy); Kineret, a kosher food maker; Hain, makers of Hollywood Oil; and assorted other companies in the kosher, low-fat, health, and natural food businesses.

The potential of these businesses is not, pardon the expression, small potatoes. For instance, the low-fat market is \$18 billion. Kosher is \$30 billion and growing. Simon's share of this world is a profitable \$60 million-plus in 1995, with more acquisitions to come for this mere 35-year-old.

What made you start this company?

I'd spent a long time as a corporate brand manager. When my contract with SlimFast expired, I couldn't take the idea of working at another corporation. I wanted to run my own company, and I needed to start while I was still willing to get out of my comfort zone. I put up all my savings and borrowed and begged the rest.

What was your plan?

To buy specialty food companies that were mismanaged or not reaching their potential - natural, low-fat, kosher, and ethnic.

Why specialty?

The traditional food business is flat, but specialty foods are growing in double digits. And the categories are still too small for the big guys like CanAgra, Kraft, and Pillsbury, so we don't have to compete against them. My strategy was to buy a few companies with recognized brands. I didn't want to invest in brick and mortar, so we get contract manufacturing and focus on management and marketing.

Why are these categories growing?

People are spending more today to

take care of themselves. They spend more on hair care, skin care, and more on good food and healthy food. When I was at Haagen-Dazs, I noticed people would eat ice cream on the week-end and binge on low-fat products during the week.

How is Hain's work environment different from the corporate world?

This year, we came up with 24 new products. We didn't have to get budget, legal, and marketing to sign off. It was not a territorial project that everyone wanted to have his stamp on and worried about who gets the credit.

How is Hain different for you, personally?

Before, I had deep pockets to protect me if I screwed up. Worst case, I'd get fired and have to find another job. Now, what I do affects the whole company; people's lives and mortgages are at stake. I look around at the wall for the final decision.

What are you doing now?

Working on a list of 10 food companies I'm looking to buy - in the \$20 million to \$40 million range.

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The Halifax metro State of Israel Bond Campaign is planned to take place in the latter part of November. However, anyone who is not going to be in town at this time and wishes to purchase a bond and/or rollover a bond coming due, please call Jayson Greenblatt at 425-3233 or Seymour Prince at 446-3620, or at the AJC office at 422-7491 and they will be glad to assist you.

First of its kind contest:

Best Judaica designs for the next millennium

As part of the Jerusalem to 3000 commemoration, an international Judaica design competition will be held, awarding dollar 25,000 the winner. The competition will challenge international artists to be inspired by and reflect the theme of Jerusalem and King David. Already 600 inquiries, many from world-renowned international designers, have been received from around the globe.

The three objects may be -- the Torah Crown, the Kiddush Cup, and the Passover Sedar Plate constructed from any material, as long as they can actually be used for their respective purposes. The competition is being held under the auspices of the mayor of Jerusalem **Ehud Olmert**, M.K.

The contest is open to all. Due to the great international interest, the deadline for registration has been extended to September 15, 1995; deadline for submission of preliminary

proposals is November 1, 1995. All prizes will be awarded in a special ceremony during the sixth International Judaica Fair. The fair will convene at the May 5-9, 1996, International Convention center, Jerusalem. The International Judaica Fair itself constitutes an important venue for contemporary creators of Judaica -- artists, curators, collectors, buyers, and gallery owners' ideas -- to interact, exchange and do business. Many are well-known internationally and outside of the Judaica genre. Attending since the fair's inception, the prominent Sotheby's auction house will again be a participant. Contestants may apply to the Jerusalem Fairs and Conventions Bureau in order to receive a copy of the competition regulations and registration forms - Rehov Shlomzion Hamalka 8, Jerusalem, Tel 011-02-245-142, 254-088, Fax 011-02-243-144 or write P.O.B. 775, Jerusalem, 91007

Synagogue partnership sought

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are seeking a partnership between your readers and ourselves to build a synagogue here in Ra'anana Israel to serve as their spiritual base in Israel.

We are a modern community of some 90 (mostly) English-speaking families, living in Ra'anana, 12 miles north of Tel Aviv. Our full schedule includes, shiurim, daily minyanim and social activities, which attracts an English-speakers attendance, from the length and breadth of this city.

Together with our enthusiastic spiritual leader, **Rabbi Kalman Gross**, a native New Yorker, and his talented and wonderful wife **Mindy**, we have developed an outstanding "out-reach program" designed to interest the uninterested, in Judaism and Zionism and as such we are in the forefront of integrating the less-committed or less-fortunate Jews.

We have been holding our services in small makeshift premises. Our success, however, has brought about an intolerable situation, where today we are bursting at the seams, with people being forced to stand during the Shabbat morning services.

Therefore, a year ago we embarked on a modest building project. The Municipality kindly granted us a plot of land and each family has paid a considerable amount of money towards the building costs-a difficult burden for immigrants of rela-

tively modest income. Lack of funds, however, has caused us to stop work on the almost completed first stage of building. We therefore appeal to your readers, who might be willing to help participate in this Mitzvah and help us finish our new home. Every donation, large or small, is gratefully appreciated. For substantial donations, we would be more than willing to name the Synagogue or its various halls/rooms, according to the request of the donor-a unique opportunity to honour or memorialize a loved one. All contributions are tax deductible, since we are a registered charity. We would be delighted to host any potential donor or their representatives. Please contact **Larry Ladenheim**, CPA, Building Fund Committee, Kehilat Shivtei Yisrael, 5, Yehuda HaLevi Street, Ra'anana 43555 ISRAEL. Fax: 011-972-9-904423.

The Atlantic Jewish Council requires a **SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAMMER**

As of October 1995, located in Halifax, NS. This part-time position includes some travel throughout the Atlantic region. The successful applicant will report to the Executive Director.

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ANTHONY (TONY) JOY

Travels to Germany:

by Sheva Medjuck

Although there are no figures available, most likely thousands and thousands of Jews have visited Germany in the last decade. Particularly, with the fall of the Wall, Jews like everyone else, will be attracted to visit the new unified Germany. After all, we are experiencing history in the making.

But it is the beginnings of this history that became problematic for me as I anticipated my first trip to Germany last summer. While I have travelled extensively throughout Europe, I have previously only passed through Germany on my way elsewhere in Europe. I have simply never been able to bring myself to come to terms with the idea of being a "tourist" in Germany.

Last summer, however, the World Congress of Sociology met in Bielefeld, Germany and I was invited to present a paper. Although flattered by this invitation, I did not immediately accept it, as I grappled with my resistance to going to Germany. In the end, I rationalized that this would not be a touristy visit, but rather one necessitated by career considerations.

With a mixture of apprehension and a nagging sense of guilt, I approached this visit to Germany. For months before, I talked to everyone I knew who had been to Germany, Jew and non-Jew

alike. Surprisingly, few of my Jewish friends expressed any of the uneasiness that I felt. I dutifully listened to advice on where to eat and stay, places to see, museums to visit and so on. No one seemed to articulate my concern - how could I spend two weeks in Germany when all I could visualize were images of the Holocaust?

During the 13 days that I spent in Germany, I did, in fact, do many of the same things all tourists do. I visited the requisite number of castles, palaces, cathedrals, and museums. But I was continuously haunted by the past. During the short time I was in Germany, I had many reminders that the past is being forgotten, or indeed, denied, and that the prospects for the future are problematic as well. One cannot help but be struck by the invisibility of Jews in Germany both in the past and in the present. While one can understand their current invisibility in that they number only about 40,000, there are shockingly few reminders of the five and a half million Jews who once lived here. In Munich there is a small Jewish museum. There seems to be little else in the city itself to indicate the former Jewish presence here. Just outside of Munich, however, is Dachau. To get to Dachau by car one must pass by the site of the 1972 Munich Olympics. On one side of the road is the

imposing architecture of the Olympic village, on the other the simple road sign that reads "Dachau". For a Jew, both are tragic. While our tour guide told us of the success of the Munich Olympics, I remembered the television pictures of the bodies of Israeli athletes being lifted onto an El Al plane, young Israelis who were killed during the hostage taking by the Arab Black September group. Our tour guide apparently saw little merit in sullyng the memory of the 1972 Olympics by recounting this event to us.

Similarly one tour book describes Dachau as "a picturesque provincial town". As Germany's first concentration camp, even the word "Dachau" conjures up monstrous horror for most Jews. To conceive of Dachau as quaint and pleasant, is unimaginable.

Neither are there many reminders of the former Jewish community in Berlin. There were only faint echoes that Berlin had once been a vibrant Jewish community of over 180,000 Jews. The oldest Jewish cemetery was virtually demolished by the Gestapo in 1943. The remains of 12,000 people were dug up and tossed away while the gravestones were used to shore up newly dug battle trenches. Twenty surviving headstones are set into the surrounding wall of the cemetery. Erected on his former burial spot is a memorial to Moses Mendelssohn, the great eighteenth century philosopher and Jewish leader. A few pebbles on the memorial suggest that at least a few still remember. Beside this cemetery is a tiny park. Here, on the site of a former Jewish home for the aged, stands a small memorial to 55,000 Berlin Jews who were deported from this very spot. On the day that I visited this place, an elderly German woman was walking her dog, and two men were sitting on a bench in the park sharing pleasantries. Even this small little park, one of the few reminders of the plight of Berlin Jews, has become a pleasant oasis for casual strolls and meeting friends.

Not far away from the former Jewish cemetery, reconstruction of the "New Synagogue" of Berlin is underway. Undertaken by Konstantin Munz through a foundation called Centrum Judaicum,



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a Jewish perspective

it is anticipated that the synagogue will open in the spring of 1995. A synagogue that once boasted over 3500 congregants, it too was severely damaged when the Nazis set fire to it during Kristallnacht. This project, begun under the former East Germany, has had numerous financial problems. While it is architecturally fascinating, with its ornate gold and blue cupolas, it is difficult to admire it for its beauty. All I could see was a massive synagogue with its congregation long since murdered. Since April 20, 1994 it has been placed under heavy security when German authorities received bomb threats from an Islamic terrorist group.

Current events that occurred during my short stay in Germany left me further dispirited. On the world stage, bombings in Argentina of the Jewish community centre, and in London of the Israeli Embassy, confirmed that Jew hating not only exists but also puts the very lives of Jews at risk. The aftermath of these attacks put the entire international community, including Germany, on alert. Thus, in the last days of my visit to Germany, every Jewish place had police guarding it. Visits to a Jewish bookstore, the Jewish Community Centre of Berlin, and even a small kosher cafe in the former East Berlin, meant passing through a police guard and the New Synagogue had barricades surrounding it as well, thus making it a veritable fortress. As I sat in the tiny kosher cafe, guarded in the front by a police van, and three police in bullet proof vests and machine guns, and in the back by two additional police, I could not help but be struck by the irony of being guarded by German police. As I watched these young police, with their guns and guard dogs protecting Jews, I wondered if their grandparents might have used similar guns and dogs to shoot our grandparents. Perhaps, it is unfair to conjure up these haunting images when these police were there to protect Jews. But it is hard to see German police with machine guns and guard dogs and not remember the Holocaust. The New Synagogue is being rebuilt with the Centrum Judaicum, in the words of Konstantin Munz, to provide: "a communication forum, a place to confront Judaism. We want to make the encounter possible. People have to be able to talk before they can decide if they want to live with one another."

Yet, it is difficult to know how Germans will be able to confront Judaism, how the encounter will happen if Judaism needs to be protected behind barricades and guarded by police in bullet-proof vests with machine guns.

There is one recurrent question that Jews living in Germany are constantly being asked. "How can a Jew live in Germany? How did Jews return to their towns and cities in Germany after the War? How could they face neighbours who wished them dead?" I never asked this question as I felt it too personal to ask of strangers that I had just met. It is clearly a deeply emotional issue. And in a country of over 80 million people with only 40,000 Jews (many of them recent Russian immigrants) it, perhaps, is not even a very important question. When compared to the former grandeur, the attempts of Jews in Germany to keep Jewish life alive saddens one. Nevertheless, like Jews everywhere, their struggle for Jewish cultural

survival must be commended.

It is, however, not just the past, but also the present that is increasingly problematic in Germany. There is little doubt that there is a rising tide of anti-Semitism in Germany since the fall of the Wall. In 1993 there were 656 incidents of anti-Semitic crimes. In March a synagogue in Lubeck was fire-bombed invoking memories of Kristallnacht. While I was in Germany several reports of anti-Semitic incidents occurred in Germany. A group of skinheads vandalized the former concentration camp at Buchenwald. The police were summoned but released all but one of the skinheads after a brief discussion with them. Everyday, one reads in the newspapers of yet another incident of anti-Semitism and racism. Whether it be an attack on Jews or on so called "guest workers", it is all part of a new wave of xenophobia in Germany.

Certainly, Germany does not hold the monopoly on racism and anti-Semitism as events around the world remind us. Yet, somehow we expect that the lessons of history should have some impact. And yet, for this Jew, the images of the Holocaust that this trip to Germany stirred up in me, were sadly reinforced by present day events.

It would be dishonest to leave the impression that I spent the entire two weeks in Germany in a cloud of gloom, as there were many positive moments as well. At the Conference itself, there was a panel discussion on Palestinian-Israeli relationships. It was my first experience of sitting in a room packed with Jews and Arabs and using our analytic abilities and considerable knowledge to inform our dialogue with each other. And yet, I came home with a sense of great concern about the prognosis for the future. During the High Holy Days that followed, my Yiskor for the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust took on a new poignancy. I now more intensively understand the words written by an eighteenth century rabbi and inscribed on a panel at the exit of Yad Vashem, "The secret of redemption is remembrance".

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A Liberator's reflections

Editor's Note: The following is a speech given by F/L James Stewart, in its entirety, to the members of the Saint John Community, May 6, 1995.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades...

I am indeed privileged to be with you this morning. My favorite quotation from the Bible is Ecclesiastes IX - 11: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill, but time and change happeneth to them all."

Time, chance and downright luck followed me throughout my young adult career from being a wee boy of 17 in the Royal Artillery on 1 September 1939 till my release from the R.A.F. in May 1946. I grew up a lot in 6 1/2 years.

Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor, Chelmno, Majdenek, Bezec, Mauthausen, Dachau, Flossenber, Bel-sen, Ravensbruck, Buchenwald...all such infamous names.

There were other camps of extermination and death as well as Auschwitz-Birkenau, but as we look back over these 50 years the symbolism of over one and a quarter million Jews, murdered in that hell hole in the last two years alone of the war, should never be allowed to diminish, or be forgotten.

Fate placed 168 of us allied airmen in Buchenwald to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the incarceration of a third of the Danish Police force by the occupying Nazis in 19 September 1944.

How can I express the emotion I felt on touring the site of the camp? Even though most of the buildings had been demolished, with the Tent Lager and our Block 58 in the infamous "Little Camp", now lost in the undergrowth, so many memories flooded back...the squalor, the degradation, the hunger, the dying, the ridiculous "Appelles" by the SS; the bombing of 24 August, the reprisal on 9 September, when the 16 SOE Agents were strung up on butcher hooks with piano wire, in the room just below the ovens of the crematorium. Block 50, hosting the Wehrmacht physicians who carried out their experiments on human beings in Block 46. Block 53&54 the so-called infirmaries. The Jewish Block 22, now a poignant and most impressive memorial site. As Dr. Gustav Hertzog, former Jewish prisoner, said "Being a Jew in Buchenwald was equal to being the last scum of the earth, to being a pariah. The Jewish Star was a death sentence in itself, according to the mood of the respective SS man."

May I read from my diary, written as a 22 year old, back in 1944? "And some people still ask what we are fighting for. Perhaps some of the following jottings will answer the question: Gypsy boys from 6 to 15, sterilized, eventually sent to Auschwitz, where millions of Jews have been killed by mass

gassing, where twenty crematoria are kept going; old men and cripples walking around with no future but slow death in a Concentration Camp. What was their crime? A Russian chained to a gallows all day (with his rations), then hauled up to death in front of appelle. A research station with human guinea pigs. Jews arriving from Hungary, mostly walking dead, eventually sent to Auschwitz. An exhibit in the museum of a lamp shade of human tattooed skins. Englishmen, convicted of espionage nine months previously, hung after being beaten and kicked by S.S. for shouting 'God save the King'. Workers shot by S.S. for leaving the factories during the bombing.

"God have mercy on their souls; no one else will!"

Well-known Jewish artists, politicians, teachers, scientists and lawyers slaved in the transport squad of the quarry and made up the squads in charge of latrine cleaning and stretcher-bearers who carried dead bodies. Thousands passed through in transit to extermination camps. A total of 11,000 lost their lives right in Buchenwald.

A pox, I say, on the Malcolm Rosses, the Zundels and the Zeegstras.

Who could have summarized it all better than Primo Levi (1919-1987), Italian author and chemist, survivor of Auschwitz?

What is a human being?

*You who live in your safe houses
So secure that when you return home
In the evening you find
Hot dinners and friendly faces:
Think, o think, about these things:
Could this really be a man
Who has to graft in mud
Who has no peace
Who has to fight for half a loaf
Who receives a death sentence
With a mere yes or a mere no
Could this really be a woman
Who no longer has hair nor even a name
Who has expressionless eyes and whose womb
Is as cold as a cold toad in winter
Think, o think, about these things
Which really happened.
These words should be inscribed in your heart
Think, o think, of these words when you are sitting
And when you lie down to rest or arise to go
Brand them, o brand them, onto your children
Or else your safe house will fall down
And disease will visit you
And your children will turn their faces from
your own.*



F/L JAMES STEWART

Or Yehuda



The Or Yehuda Crew and Roselyn Allen (Chaperone): (L-R) NWIT VANTSHOUSKI, SHIRI SHALOM, YIGAL PINCHASI, KAREN ZAKAI, KAREN SALAMON, OREN PINCHASI, ROSELYN ALLEN.



Some of the audience at Or Yehuda performance in Little York, Prince Edward Island

A Liberator's reflections *(continued from page 38)*

In closing, excerpts from a prayer, delivered by Rabbi L Ginsberg of Beth Israel Synagogue in Calgary, some years ago, at an RCAF POW Convention, which I attended.

"Almighty God, we thank Thee for the gift of memory which unites generation unto generation. In this solemn hour when we consider the swift flight of the years, our thoughts turn to those whom Thou has taken from our midst. Our days on earth vanish like shadows. But the speedy flight of life, and the gloom of the grave should not dismay us, but should teach us wisdom. It should prompt us to put our trust in Thee, who wilt not suffer thy Children to seen destruction. For only the dust returns to the dust; the spirit which Thou hast breathed into us, returns to Thee, its ever-living source. Human achievements are transitory and human strivings vain; but Thy word endureth forever, and Thy purposes are fulfilled. O Lord of life, our times are in Thy hands."

Those who have been summoned from our side shall not be forgotten. We take them into our hearts and give them

a place beside the cherished memories of our own beloved. They now are ours. May their memory be an enduring blessing to all Thy children.

We name in our hearts all our beloved... and, in recalling them, we sanctify Thy name.

Amen!



Newfie Memories: Shown here on top of Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland on May, 1976 are (L-R): GABY STRASSMAN, NARDY NATHANSON and MICHAEL MARCUS.

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