



Happy Chanukah!

INSIDE

**Seniors
Programs
Highlights**

**APJSF has
a busy year**

Pages 6-7

**Around the
Region &
much more**



The Atlantic Jewish
Council Quarterly

CHANUKAH 1995
KISLEV-TEVET 5756

VOL. 21, No. 1

Supervising Editor:

Jon M. Goldberg

Copy Editor:

Christina MacNeil

Assistant Editor:

Yakov Feig

Features:

Joel Jacobson

Chairman of the Board:

Ivan Levine

Copy Supervisor:

Roselyn Allen

Design & Layout

J.C. Canales-Leyton

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

Address all correspondence to:

Editor, c/o Shalom
Lord Nelson Hotel

1515 South Park St. Suite 305

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L2

Tel. (902) 422-7491

Fax (902) 425-3722

e-mail: ai993@ccn.cs.dal.ca

(must be typed in lower case)

Published by

KALEIDOSCOPE
PUBLISHING

P.O. Box 36, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3Y2

Phone (902) 459-2920

Fax (902) 457-4427

Mailed as a supplement to

*Kaleidoscope - A multicultural
newspaper for all times, all peoples.*

to a list of members supplied by the
ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

November has always been a somber month. The realization that winter is settling in over the North Atlantic - the temperature falling, the darker days, have always brought out the harsh reality of life on



by JON GOLDBERG

the Atlantic Coast in the winter. Remembrance Day, standing on Barrington Street watching the Veterans march by year after year, their ranks growing thinner, I sometimes see my own life going by, the years beating away with the marching cadence as the Vets turn in to the Cenotaph for the ceremony. I guess all of us have dates that are indelible in our lives. The birth or death of a loved one of course, but events of significance either to ourselves or mankind in general.

I shall always remember where I was in November 1963, when as a teenager in high-school I heard JFK was shot, and unfortunately the day November 4th, 1995, the day Yitzhak Rabin was killed, will become an indelible signpost on my memory. Not only did we lose a great leader, but the Jewish people, in my mind, lost a piece of ourselves, our innocence, our belief that one Jew couldn't, wouldn't and shouldn't kill another has been forever shattered.

It's been a month since that bleak Saturday, the tears have flowed, the eulogies have been spoken, the articles written and yet, there on Mt. Herzl lies the earthly remains of a Jewish General and Prime Minister shot down in Tel Aviv, Israel by a fellow Jew for "the sake of survival of the Jewish State." For me this is unsettling and will be difficult to reconcile for many years to come. My hope is that Rabin did not die in vain and that Israel will find a just and lasting peace with its neighbours

some time in the near future.

As we approach the Chanukah Season when we celebrate the Festival of Freedom, there is an ominous force of reactionary, almost evangelical, religious fervor rising from a small segment

of the Christian population here in Nova Scotia arguing for the right to provide religious instruction in public schools, this of course being Christian religious education. Such organizations as the Christian Education Organization want the right to have public schools offer religious and moral instruction. Now I realize this is a very ticklish situation as Christianity is by far the religion of the majority of our neighbours. For years the AJC has maintained the position that religion should not be taught in the public schools but in the homes and places of worship. However, should a school want to hold religious education before or after regular hours, well then what? Are we against Christmas carols and concerts? White Christmas and The Christmas Song were written by Jews. What's wrong with the message 'Peace on Earth, Good Will Towards Men?'

Our AJC Community Affairs Committee is monitoring the situation and I ask any of our readers who have opinions or feel pressured by their local school districts or whose children are made uncomfortable to contact me immediately, no matter where in Atlantic Canada.

So my friends, as we light the candles on December 18, may you and your families be blessed with a Happy Chanukah. May 1996 bring peace, good health, and prosperity to the Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada and Kol Israel.

President's Message



by LARRY FREEMAN

The death of Yitzhak Rabin will stand as one of the great tragedies of modern Jewish history. Throughout the world, leaders sang praises of this great warrior. This was a man most comfortable in the company of soldiers - a man who had the foresight to see the value of peace. He wanted his children and grandchildren to have a different Israel, an Israel without bloodshed. Yitzhak Rabin had the determination to try and make peace a reality.

The head of a state, or the head of an organization, sometimes has a distinct advantage in being able to see both sides of the issues. Decisions are not made in a vacuum and decisions are not always reflective of a leader's own views; I believe most leaders try and weigh each side of an issue and make decisions based on the good and welfare of the larger politic. Yitzhak Rabin knew that the value of peace outweighed the consequences of war. It is a fitting tribute to him that we not only continue to support his goal of peace in Israel, but we also try and emulate his leadership by looking at the large picture and not let the micro process govern our actions.

May you and your family have a Happy Chanukah.



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

It is with great pleasure that I offer you my warmest greetings of the season.

This is a time to be thankful for the blessings we share as citizens of this great country. As we look forward to new challenges in 1996, we should also take the opportunity to look back on the achievements that have marked the past months. Canada has once again been named by the United Nations as the best country in the world in which to live, reiterating what, in our hearts, we have always known. Recently, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and I know that all Canadians join with me in hoping that every year will carry with it a renewed faith in the future of our nation and the blessing of global peace.

Our families and friends give added meaning to the holidays, enriching us by their presence in our lives. My family and I would like to extend to you and yours our best wishes for health and happiness, now and always.

OTTAWA
1995

From The Programmer's Desk...

by Yakok Feig

Chanukah is coming!!! From a Programmer's perspective, there are so many lessons that one can learn from this holiday. After all, look at the situation that the Jewish people had been in prior to the events that occurred during Chanukah. The Greeks (Seleucids) were in control, had conquered the land and destroyed the temple. There was no organized opposition to the Greeks except for a small group called the Maccabees (Hasmoneans). Led by Judah the Maccabee and his brothers, they successfully revolted against the Greeks, reconquered the land, restored the temple, and reunited the Jewish people. On top of this, there was a little miracle from above to help a situation that looked impossible (not enough oil to last for eight days) work out for the best. Similar situations occur when trying to do programming. Sometimes situations are not entirely conducive to programming. There may be conflicting events or schedules. Youth, teens, or students may be involved in extra-curricular activities or may not wish to attend for other reasons. Natural forces such as bad weather may be at work. There may be no organized group to actually carry out programming. However, Judah and the Maccabees realized that it is not necessarily the quantity of people that started the revolt that mattered. What mattered was that there were a small group of people that fought alongside each other who were dedicated to fight for a good cause. We also have a great cause here in Atlantic Canada. We want everyone to be proud and identify as part of the Atlantic Jewish Community. We want to be able to do programming for youth, teens, and students in all of Atlantic Canada. Like the Maccabees, we have a territory to conquer which is geographically large and diverse. Unlike the Maccabees, I don't consider myself to be a Judah. However, I have had a wonderful array of Maccabees fighting with me.

On campus, we have had a spectacular first semester. Please see the article by Erin Sperling and pictures about all the activities that the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation have planned and implemented. However, I would be remiss if I did not say a special thank you to Jonathan Mendleson for all his help in organizing the A.P.J.S.F./Network Shabbaton and many other events. Special thanks as well to our executive of Mitch Abrams, Perry Chippin, Rob

GET WELL!

To GAR MELTZER, Post Commander, Canadian Jewish War Veterans, who is recovering from a recent illness, in Saint John.

Gar once again co-ordinated the Remembrance Day Activities throughout the region. His regular column will return in our next edition.



Chanukah Casino Night, November 25, 1995. From left to right: Matthew McKnight, Nathan Zilbert, Sara Barkow, Sara Beth Morrison.

Cohen, Mike Hollinger, Viva Press, Jane Shkolnik, and Erin Sperling. As well, thanks must go out to Roselyn Allen, Brian Indig, Jackie Morrison, Lee Lamdan, Joey Lang, David Price, Shawn Sable, Steve Waldman, and the many others that have been involved in helping with programming and its implementation.

As for programming with Canadian Young Judaea and the Metro Youth Programming Committee, things began with Rosh Hashanah Apple Picking in the Annapolis Valley on September 17th with a turnout of 25 grades 3-6 from Halifax and the valley. Many thanks to Larry Honey, David Harrison, and Beth Kwavnick for helping organize and implement the event. It was followed by Murder Mystery nights in Halifax for grades 10-12 and grades 7-9, drawing turnouts of 10 and 21 teens respectively. Much thanks to Roselyn Allen, Perry Chippin, Brian Indig, Anne Israeli, Jody Lassner, Jonathan Mendleson, Anne Raskin and Erin Sperling for being wonderful characters for the event. Halifax's annual Youth March to Israel took place on October 8th with a turnout of over 60. A special thank you to Rabbi Grafstein and the children of the Beth Israel Hebrew School and Bracha Koren and the children of the Shaar Shalom Hebrew School for organizing wonderful presentations as well as to Jonathan Mendleson for taking care of the audio portion of the program. On October 14th, Grades 10-12 were invited to Boomerangs in Dartmouth for Laser Tag. Unfortunately only 6 teenagers showed up to this event, partly due to a Toronto Raptors N.B.A. Exhibition game scheduled in Halifax the same evening. On October 21st ages 10 and up in Moncton were invited to a Falafel/Israeli night. 12 teens showed up to partake in Israeli trivia, enjoy Israeli food and an Israeli atmosphere while winning fun door prizes. Thanks again to Rabbi and Mrs. Ellis and their family for helping organize and participating in the event as well as to the Moncton Jewish Community for showing warmth and hospitality. Special thanks to Simcha Attis for both frying up the falafel, and for all his help afterwards. On October 28th, 21 youth in grades 3-6 came

down to the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax for a movie night and to enjoy some of their favorite munchies. Once again a good time was had by all. On October 29th, the Metro Youth Program Committee together with the Atlantic Jewish Council put together their first program of the year. This was a Hay Ride/BBQ that attracted 27 youth in grades 3 - 6. Once again, thanks to Chaperones Roselyn Allen and Jon Mendleson for their help as well as to **Kathy Zilbert, Art Zilbert, Karen Conter, Leo Weniger and Boris Tsinman** for whipping up and serving a mighty mean Barbeque. On November 17th - 19th, programs took place for the Jewish community in Prince Edward Island. On Friday November 17th, 10 Islanders braved freezing rain and sleet to come down to Shabbat Services and Dinner followed by a presentation and a program on Jewish Identity at the Dunstapenage Inn Bed & Breakfast (near Charlottetown). On Sunday November 19th, parents joined in with their children in Hebrew School to enjoy some Jewish Trivia, songs, Israeli dances and partake in a Sunday Brunch. Once again, I would like to thank **Rosalie Simeone** for initially making arrangements as well as wishing her, **Don, Daniel, and Minara Simeone** a happy and healthy year on Baffin Island. I would especially like to thank **Joe and Jane Naylor** for all their efforts in coordinating the weekend as well as for their warm hospitality along with the Prince Edward Island Community. On Friday November 26th, there was a Chanukah Casino Night for grades 10 - 12 in Halifax. This

sure that everything ran smoothly. Once again, I would like to say thank you to anyone that I may have inadvertently left out including **Jon Goldberg** who has been involved in helping plan and organize all of the above events and is always there to provide expertise or advice.



ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND it Goes!
Chanukah Casino Night, November 25, 1995.
Carmi Rubin and Jeremy Pass.

In other news, quite a few young adults have been heading off to Israel for different reasons lately. **Jen Burger, Anne Raskin and Miles Rubin** have gone to Kibbutz this fall to be volunteers. Jonathan Mendleson, however, is taking it one step further and is making Aliyah. Needless to say, Jon is going to be missed. I have only known him for a few months. However, it became clear immediately how involved Jon has been in both the Atlantic Jewish Council and with the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation. He is a very giving individual and Atlantic Canada's loss is going to be Israel's gain.



WINNING BIG at Chanukah Casino Night, November 25, 1995. From left to right: Jonathan Mendleson, Matthew McKnight, Tom Jockel, Dave Tax, Dan Jockel.

event attracted 38 teenagers as they enjoyed playing Chanukah games and eating latkes while trying to win the many prizes donated by local merchants. Once again thanks to all those involved including **Janet Casey, Marilyn Gergely, Ray Ginsberg, Roselyn Allen, Rob Cohen, Brian Indig, Steven Waldman, Jonathan Mendleson, David Price, Heidi Lipkus, Carmi Rubin, and Steven Indig.** The last event that occurred was Laser Tag at Boomerangs in Dartmouth for grades 3 and up. This attracted over 43 youth and teens and was a fun afternoon for all involved. Special thanks to Brian Indig, Jonathan Mendleson and the parents that stayed behind to help supervise as well as to **Howard Budovitch** and his staff for going above and beyond the call of duty in making

Finally, we are looking forward to many great events in the near future. Just a few of the upcoming events include a Chanukah Party in the Annapolis Valley (December 10th), a joint shabbaton between the teenagers of Moncton and Halifax (date to be determined), a program for the community in St. John's (early in the new year), and a program in Cape Breton (date to be determined). We also have other programs coming up in Halifax. At the student level, one of the events that the A.P.J.S.F. is planning is our 2nd annual ski trip on February 1st - 4th. Please watch upcoming mailings on these and many more events. Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!!

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APJSF Update

by Erin Sperling

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation has been very active this term. Even before the academic year began, we were busy on a camping trip, a visit to Wolfville and Upper Clements Theme Park. Once again, we are centered in Halifax, but have a membership mailing list that extends throughout the Maritimes and includes some 195 young people. Slate of officers include **Mitch Abrams**, President; **Brian Indig**, Past President; **Michael Hollinger**, Treasurer; **Viva Press**, Newsletter Editor; **Jane Shkolnik**, Network Rep.; **Erin Sperling** (that's me!), Secretary; **Perry Chippin**, Young Professionals Rep.; **Rob Cohen**, Grad Student Rep; and **Yakov Feig**, Campus Coordinator.

sion about Jewish life and continuity in university with **Rabbi Hoffman** of the Shaar Shalom.

Another dinner took place at the Beth Israel and was attended by **Rabbi Grafstein** who was able to teach us all a little about some Shabbat traditions.

During the first few weeks of the term we had information tables set up on the university campuses of Mount Allison, University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent and Saint Mary's. These tables proved to be fairly successful as several new students were added to our mailing list. We were also distributing some Rosh Hashanah kits from the tables at that time, which contained apples, honey, nuts, and pens, generously donated by Atlantic Superstores. Throughout the term we have had

dents with families for High Holiday meals. In no particular order, the other activities we have organized and participated in have been a lot of fun. We helped promote a "Sukkah-mobile" in conjunction with Chabad Lubavitch, which spent several days on campus at Dal. We have been chaperones and organizers for Young Judea programs and enjoyed every minute of it. Hebrew school was never like this! We had a fabulous conference/retreat weekend in November in conjunction with Network in Wolfville. The theme for the weekend was "Back to Our Roots" and there were three wonderful guest speakers: **Lee Lamdan** of Israel via St. John's, is a WUJS Areva who spoke about Jewish Identity; **Dan Wolfish** of Ottawa spoke on Judaism and the Environment; **Rabbi Benji Jacoby** of Toronto spoke to us about assimilation and intermarriage. All proved to be very interesting and informative. We also had a good time getting to know the local scene in Wolfville and each other. It was a great conference and most students seemed to be quite satisfied overall.

The one downfall was the tragic assassination of Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**. Once we returned from the conference we began making calls to ensure that everyone knew about the memorial service which was held at the Beth Israel on November 6.

We were also involved in and in attendance at the Dignity Day ceremony on November 9, in commemoration of Kristallnacht. There was a bagel brunch which was attended by several students with guest speaker **Lee Cohen**, who spoke on the present state of Israeli politics. Again bagels and information!

To close off the term before exams and winter break (Chanukah is fast approaching!), there will be a bon voyage party for **Jonathan Mendleson**, who is soon leaving us to travel to Israel as he makes Aliyah. We shall miss him greatly, as he has been a driving force behind the APJSF for many years. We all wish him the best of luck as he follows his dreams.

In the coming year, we have many things in the works. First and foremost, we are looking forward to the Second



Having fun at the Old Orchard Inn APJSF/Network Convention November 3 to 5, 1995.

Front (L-R): **YAKOV FEIG**, **HILA URALEVITCH**, **JONATHAN MENDLESON**, **TAMARA KLEIN**.
Back: **Rabbi BENJI JACOBY**.

Our first official event of the year was a "Shmooze and Booze," a party designed to bring old friends back together and new friends into the family. It was held at the Dal SUB with a DJ, a bar, and some cotton candy. It appeared that a good time was had by all.

In the past four months we have participated in two Shabbat dinners, one of which was sponsored by Koach, the Conservative campus movement. This dinner involved an interesting discus-

sion about Jewish life and continuity in university with **Rabbi Hoffman** of the Shaar Shalom. Another dinner took place at the Beth Israel and was attended by **Rabbi Grafstein** who was able to teach us all a little about some Shabbat traditions. During the first few weeks of the term we had information tables set up on the university campuses of Mount Allison, University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent and Saint Mary's. These tables proved to be fairly successful as several new students were added to our mailing list. We were also distributing some Rosh Hashanah kits from the tables at that time, which contained apples, honey, nuts, and pens, generously donated by Atlantic Superstores. Throughout the term we have had

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Guest speakers at APJSF/Network Shabbaton at the Old Orchard Inn, near Wolfville, November 4, 1995. From left to right: Lee Lamdan, St. John's; Dan Wolfish, Ottawa; Rabbi Benji Jacoby, Toronto.

Annual APJSF Ski Trip to Crabbe Mountain, NB. Good friends, good skiing. And Jewish content too!

There will be more Shabbat dinners, bagel brunches, maybe a movie night or two, info tables... and the list goes on.

This year we have been, and continue to be an important part in the life of young Jewish people in the Maritimes. I hope everyone has great holidays and looks forward to the new year as much as I do! See you all Later!

If anyone has any questions, comments or ideas for next term, please don't hesitate to contact the executive through Yakov at the AJC, 422-7491, or ai993@ccn.cs.dal.ca. Any personal comments can be directed to esperlin@is.dal.ca.

Canadian Jewish Congress Report

by Mike Cohen, National Director of Communications

Canadian Jewish Congress President **Goldie Hershon** and CJC National Executive Director and General Counsel **Jack Silverstone** met with **Krzysztof Sliwinski**, Poland's new ambassador at large for Polish-Jewish relations recently. Discussions revolved around the March of the Living, the preservation of Jewish cemeteries, the planned establishment of a Jewish museum in Warsaw, requests for restitution of communal and private Jewish properties, the situation at the Auschwitz museum and the teaching of Jewish and Polish history, including the Holocaust, in Jewish and Polish schools and the general state of Polish-Jewish relations following the recent Presidential election.

Ms. Hershon has been extraordinarily busy these past few months, traveling to Israel for the funeral of Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**. She and four other Jewish community leaders were the guests aboard the plane of Prime Minister **Jean Chretien**. In the wake of Prime Minister Rabin's assassination, the national officers adopted a resolution in which it called upon Jewish leadership in Israel, Canada and throughout the Diaspora to make every effort to enhance the quality of discussion on all issues of concern to the Jewish community and Israel, however contentious, and debate be conducted in an atmosphere of civility, mutual respect, tolerance and dignity. Immediately upon her return from Israel, Ms. Hershon flew to Fredericton to address a community memorial for the slain Prime Minister.

Elsewhere on the CJC agenda, the National Unity Committee will be working with its regional members to pursue some activity in light of the Quebec referendum results. Representatives from the Atlantic Jewish Council were part of the discussions on the issue at the last meeting of the CJC National Executive in Toronto.

In the diplomatic circles Ms. Hershon has held meetings with ambassadors to Kuwait, Mauritania, Cuba, Morocco, Egypt, Germany and Poland.

Notes: CJC is awaiting the Supreme Court decision on the **Malcolm Ross** case ... CJC has been participating actively in the Somalia Inquiry in Ottawa, dealing with the racist activity of Canada's military ... Ms. Hershon and Mr. Silverstone will represent CJC at the World Jewish Congress Global Conference in Israel in January.



NEWSY NOTES from AJC SENIORS

Thanks to all who have taken part in our "Senior Programs" that got underway in late September. If you have not become involved as yet, it's not too late! Join us and help us create viable, active and interesting programs. Your input will be most welcome.

Line Dancing is in "full swing" and the 12-14 participants are dancing up a storm in the Beth Israel Auditorium every Thursday morning at 10:30 under the direction of **Diane Freeman**. Registration for winter session will be in January. If you want to join us call the AJC or Shirley B. We would be delighted to have you dancing with us.

Tai Chi, under the direction of **Kim Pee**, is beautiful to watch and most enjoyable to do. The class is made up of 12 students (seniors) who are finding this relaxing and indeed an easy way to do an exercise program. You should try this and can do so by calling or come to the Shaar Shalom on Tuesday at 1:00 P.M. New classes will begin in January.

Dinner and Theatre: Our first venture as a large group (70) was our buffet dinner at the Beth Israel and on to the Rebecca Cohn to see *The Wizard of Oz* with **Heidi Lipkus**

starring as Dorothy. (Congrats on a super job, Heidi!! We were all so proud of you.) It was a special night - good company, good food, good show. Thanks to the Men's Club, **Bill Mosher** and **Terri Israel**, for their help transporting those who needed drives. This is indeed a worthwhile service enabling more seniors to attend. Thanks to **Ray Ginsberg** who is always ready to assist in all ways.

Club Massada: We thank **Bessie Rinzler** and her executive for pulling together and wanting Massada to continue doing "good things." I attended and registered as a member - as did 36 others - some new members who were warmly welcomed. The afternoon's program was presented by **Edith Schneiderman**, **Bessie Rinzler**, **Marianne Ferguson** and **Lawrence Ferguson** - (who surprised us with his dramatic reading of **Robbie Burns**). Deep-rooted talent was uncovered that day.

Beatrice Zemel has knit and donated a beautiful



by Shirley Burnstein,
AJC Seniors Coordinator



Country line dancing. (Photo by Jen Henderson)

afghan to be raffled off - with the proceeds going to help Massada continue to bring programs and outings to their members. Thank you Bea for this beautiful gesture. I'm sure we'll all work hard and sell many tickets. (Won't we!!!)

Plans for the December 20th "Latka Luncheon," being held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue at 12:30 were discussed. Seniors from other senior centres have been invited and **Cantor Stuart Friedman** will present a program of Chanukah songs. Mark down the date, the time, the place - and if you need a drive call me, Shirley

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We want to thank the Presidents and Boards of both synagogues in Halifax for providing us with facilities to carry on our programs. Without their support our existence would be very difficult. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated. Remember the expression "It's not how old you are - It's how you are old!" **Happy Chanukah.**

Editor's Note: *The AJC is pleased to welcome Mrs. Burnstein as a part-time addition to our team.*



Seniors' Tai Chi. (Photo by Jan Mandleson)

Club Massada Update

by **Doreen Gordon**

Thirty-seven members were present for the opening meeting of Club Massada on November 20th at the Beth Israel Synagogue. Chairperson **Bessie Rinzler** welcomed a number of newcomers and announced the following slate of officers:

Chairperson:

Bessie Rinzler

Co-chairperson:

Edith Schneiderman

Treasurer:

Jean Zlatin

Recording Secretary:

Ella Morris

Corresponding Secretary:

Sara Yablon

Hospitality:

Marianne and

Lawrence Ferguson

Sick and Visiting:

Rose Argand

Telephone Convener:

Molly Whitzman

Liaison:

Doreen Gordon and Edith Schneiderman.

Shirley Burnstein has graciously offered her services as Program

Consultant. **Shirley** has worked diligently to bring Club Massada, Atlantic Jewish Council and the Men's Club under the same umbrella. Her efforts to sustain and to reinvigorate our club is greatly appreciated by all our members.

Two valued members, **Bessie Rinzler** and **Molly Whitzman**, will be representing us each month at the Halifax Senior Council.

Two amusing poetry readings, in English and in Yiddish, were presented and greatly enjoyed by our members: "All I Got was Words" rendered by **Marianne Ferguson** and

Edith Schneiderman and "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" written by **Robbie Burns** and presented by **Bessie Rinzler** and **Lawrence Ferguson**.

Refreshments were served and much enjoyed, thanks to **Marianne** and **Lawrence Ferguson**.

Our next meeting will be our Chanukah meeting to be held at the Shaar Shalom Congregation on December 20th at 12:30 lunchtime. Come eat latkes and enjoy our special guests! Out-of-towners are welcome at our meetings.



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Letters to the Editor

Update on Moncton War Memorial

by Maurice Jake

Thank you. With your help 90% of the War Memorial is complete.

- Officials of Tiferes Israel Synagogue including Rabbi Ellis, Mendel Greenblatt, official photographer for Moncton Jewish War Vets, Dr. Saul Green, Leonard Fineberg, Lawrence Ferguson - Halifax. Morris Attis, Danny Star - Yarmouth, Elliott Marshall - Glace Bay.
- Double extra thanks to the spark plug of the show who started an avalanche, Joan Sichel - Moncton.
- Halifax & area Vets check list at your local synagogue. Photo War Memorial.
- Glace Bay area Vets check list with Elliott Marshall. Photo War Memorial.
- VERY IMPORTANT: Saint John list of Active personnel incomplete.
- VERY IMPORTANT: Sydney list of Active personnel incomplete.

- If possible, number, rank, name, branch of service.
- Making every effort no vet is left off memorial.
- Eligible: Personnel who lived in Maritimes and Newfoundland prior to 1939.
- Born in Maritimes & Newfoundland.
- Vets will be listed where they were born - not where they lived.
- Group picture all Moncton Vets permanently displayed in Synagogue.
- Being placed in Jewish cemetery Moncton: flagpole.
- Marker: Cpl Joe Attis KIA Sicily. Army.
- Marker: F/O Gideon Davidson KIA RCAF Rhur Valley.
- Attention: On request marker & flagpole placed in any Jewish cemetery. Maritimes or Newfoundland.
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- Information urgently required: E. Barry Dartmouth; 2Chen Bros Bridgewater, NS; 2 Holdengrabber Bros Bathurst, NB

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The Halifax Metro State of Israel Bond Campaign is currently underway. If you wish to purchase a bond and/or rollover a bond coming due, please call Jayson Greenblatt at 425-3233 or Seymour Prince at 445-3620, or at the AJC office at 422-7491 and they will be glad to assist you.

Ben Medjuck remembered as 'pillar of community'

Reprint - *Telegraph Journal*

Ben Medjuck would want to be remembered as a man who gave something back to his community, his son said yesterday.

"He loved the community and wanted to give as much back to it as he could," Joe Medjuck said about his father who died Sunday at the age of 84.

"The things he was most proud of were things he did in Fredericton."

Mr. Medjuck operated several businesses including Medjuck's department store, once a fixture on Queen Street, until his retirement in 1970. But it was his involvement in community affairs for which he will be best remembered.

"I couldn't say enough good about the man," remarked Fredericton businessman Richard Tingley.

"He was just one of those people that you look up to and have tremendous respect for, a pillar of the community."

Mr. Medjuck helped found the Capital Y's Men's Club and the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce.

He served 10 years on the district school board as chairman of the building committee. He was a former chairman of the annual United Appeal, president of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue and chairman of the Israeli Bond Drive.

He was honoured in 1977 with the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award.

Born in Glubokie, Poland, Mr. Medjuck emigrated to Canada as a 10-year-



Ben Medjuck

old boy in 1921 and settled in New Waterford, N.S.

In 1936 he married Faye Claener and moved to Fredericton where he

lived the rest of his life.

"He was an immigrant who came here and was very aware of what it was like in other countries and how few places there were as good as this, if any," said Joe Medjuck, a Hollywood movie producer who now lives in Los Angeles.

"He loved Fredericton. I will remember him as a wonderful father and a wonderful man."

Ben Medjuck was a Shriner and member of the Luxor Temple as well as a member of the Fredericton Chapter No. 2 Royal Arch Masons and Hiram Lodge No. 6 F and AM. He was a member of the Fredericton Golf Club and Maritime Seniors Golf Association.

He is survived by his wife, Faye; one son, Joseph; two daughters, Gertrude Cohos of Calgary and Marilyn Medjuck of Oakville, Ont.; two brothers, Morris Medjuck of Johannesburg, South Africa and Isaac Medjuck of Brooklyn, N.Y.; five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, a sister, Nettie Saskins, and a brother, Bernard Medjuck.

Editor's Note: Mr. Medjuck was one of the original recipients of AJC Community Service Awards, in 1992.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, who has kept us in life and enabled us to reach this day

by Ben Medjuck

For the last twelve years Faye and I have celebrated two Thanksgivings, October in Canada and November in the United States. But today is my real Thanksgiving.

A Thanksgiving to a kindly fate that has allowed me to reach so close to the mystical or mythical four score years.

A Thanksgiving for a wife who has been by my side for over half a century, who has supported me, encouraged me, put up with my crazy idiosyncrasies, nursed me when I was sick, always good natured and no complaints.

A Thanksgiving for three of the most devoted children any person ever had. For a son-in-law I was proud to call a friend, for a sweet daughter-in-law who always made sure we had pictures often enough to see our grandchildren growing up.

A Thanksgiving for five wonderful grandchildren who love me, and I hope, respect me. And for a grand-daughter-in-law whom I love dearly, and two great-grandsons I brag about

to anyone who will listen.

A Thanksgiving for a business associate of forty-seven years. For forty two years we worked as one. Seldom do two people spend so many years with such rapport.

A Thanksgiving for the original Jewish settlers of Fredericton who took us in, two strangers, and made us part of their extended families, and whose children and grand-children we cherish among our closest friends today.

A Thanksgiving for a Christian minister and for my other Christian friends, for their efforts in fighting prejudice and anti-semitism.

A Thanksgiving for the city of Fredericton and its people among whom we have spent so many happy hours.

A Thanksgiving for a Rabbi who has almost half a century been my teacher, my mentor, my critic, but above all my friend.

For all these wonderful things, and for the many others that have happened to me and mine, I am truly thankful!

From Around

the Region



Hay Ride BBQ, Metro Youth Program, October 29, 1995, Halifax.



Getting ready for MOVIE NIGHT in Halifax, October 28, 1995.



ROSELYN ALLEN, Cape Breton native, at her new position as AJC Administrative Assistant.



CAROL GINSBERG, the newly appointed Camp Kadimah and JNF Administrator.



BETH ISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL students perform a holiday song at March for Israel, October 8, 1995 in Halifax.



SHAAR SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL students delivering their Fruits of the Season presentation at the March for Israel.



The Yarmouth Chapter of Hadassah held a party in mid May to celebrate RUTH PINK's 80th birthday. Some of those in attendance were (L-R): MAISIE SHAPIRO, SHIRLEY THROP, ROSALIE INDIG, GERT STAR, RUTH PINK and HILDA GILIS.



Moncton Youth enjoying food at FALAFEL ISRAEL NIGHT, October 21, 1995.



DINNER for FOUR: Shown here, enjoying the UJA Women's Award Dinner are: (L-R) Mrs. INA KOHLER, Mrs. ANITA CHERNIN, Mrs. RIVA SPATZ (recipient of the Lion of Judah Award), and Mrs. BINA FUNT, all of Halifax.



HEIDI LIPKUS as Dorothy with her dog Toto in Nova Scotia Drama League's production of The Wizard of Oz, November 18-19, 1995.



Some of the interested participants attending a parlor meeting for UJA at the home of MARK and Dr. ETHEL COOPER-ROSEN, Fall 1995.



Consul General DANIEL GAL addressing a breakfast meeting of Jewish Community Leaders in Halifax during an official visit to Nova Scotia.

Memorial services for Rabin held in Fredericton

from *The Daily Gleaner*

Canadian Jewish Congress President **Goldie Hershon** didn't have to go into detail when talking about the sorrow experienced in Israel during the funeral for assassinated prime minister **Yitzhak Rabin**.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the house," Mrs. Hershon recalled.

Mrs. Hershon was the guest speaker at a public memorial service for the late prime minister at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Center attended by approximately 200 people.

Among them were members of the Jewish community, politicians, members of The Royal Canadian Legion and Lt.-Gov. **Margaret McCain**.

Prime Minister Rabin was fatally shot at a peace rally Nov. 4. **Yigal Amir**, a right-wing Jewish student, has confessed to the killing and several other suspects are being held in connection with the slaying.

Even though Mrs. Hershon was thankful to mourn with fellow Jews in the homeland, her visit was emotionally draining.

With the High Holidays coming up, some leadership and direction had to be in place, so I would remain as Immediate Past President, **David Ein**, vice-president, **Len Schelew**, Treasurer; we would act as a "three man team" with equal authority, to take care of the business of running the congregation, till after the holidays and then we'll take it from there. All agreed and currently that's the way it stands; and oh, I will remain spokesperson for the community with the title VP David Ein bestowed on me, "Speaker of the House of Worship."

Will the AJC please ask their legal council to send by Fax; what are my options? Somebody suggested - Get Dershowitz!

Sylvia Allen, the AJC liaison for Cape Breton, asked me to give an update on the Glace Bay Community.

(Continued on page 15)



At Rabin's Memorial Service in Fredericton (L-R): Rabbi **DAVID SPIRO**, **ALAA MOHAMED**, Senator **NOEL KINSELLA**, **GOLDIE HERSHON**, CJC President, Fredericton-York-Sunbury MP **ANDY SCOTT** and **IVAN LEVINE**.

"I don't know if it has sunk in yet," she said. "I still don't refer to him as the late Prime Minister Rabin. I'm not ready for that quite yet."

One of some 5,000 people to attend the former prime minister's funeral, Mrs. Hershon traveled with a small Jewish delegation on a private flight with Prime Minister **Jean Chretien**.

The prime minister only hours before had barely avoided a knife-wielding intruder at his official residence in Ottawa.

Mrs. Hershon, who marveled at this irony, was impressed with Prime Minister **Chretien's** spirit during his time of personal distress.

Despite the sadness associated with such an event, it was amazing to witness the massive representation at the funeral as dignitaries from around the globe paid their respect, she said.

"Before the funeral started, I was in awe. Here was **President Clinton**, **President Bush**... here was **President Carter**, **Prince Charles**, **Prime Minister Major**, **Helmut Kohl**. I was sitting right there with all of them. I thought to myself, when would I ever be able to be in such an assembly sitting with these people?" Mrs. Hershon said.

This degree of support was evidence of Prime Minister Rabin's widespread influence and popularity, said Mrs. Hershon.

"I think it was an absolute tribute to a great statesman... these people came from 85 countries - some countries we haven't even heard of - and all their heads of state were there. It was really unbelievable," stated Mrs. Hershon, who also emphasized Israel's current state of unrest.

"The people are outraged. Even people who didn't believe in the peace process felt this (killing) is not the answer," added Mrs. Hershon.

News from Glace Bay

by **Elliot Marshall**

Hot Scoop! President **Ellie Marshall** announced at the annual spring congregation meeting, that after six years as President, since 1989, when then President **Dr. Phil Simon** moved to Toronto, he is stepping down, and not re-offering for the office of President - but it seems that the congregation would not accept his resignation and consequently he was impeached to stay in office, but with no punishment or penalty.

As of the present time, everybody thinks or knows that **Ellie Marshall** is still President of Congregation Sons of Israel, except I, **Ellie Marshall**.

When nobody else offered to take on the post, months went by and with the **Yomim Tovim** approaching - some thing had to be done, so I called a short meeting and made the following suggestion:

News from Glace Bay Continued from page 14

Shul Activities: Thank G*d, while we still have a good "hard-core" of shul goers, we have "Shabbat services" every week.

We're fine from May till November, till the Snowbirds go South; then we get more determined than ever to keep the Shul doors open, and with G*d's help, onward and forward.

With help and direction from our Ladies Aid Society, we renovated, carpeted and painted the foyer of the synagogue; had the walls washed and the seats steam-cleaned in the sanctuary for the High Holidays.

Rosh Hashanah: with guests, sons and daughter and grandchildren home, and with Cantor **Sam Fogel** with us for the 8th consecutive year, we enjoyed a frelacher New Year, and a solemn and observant Yom Kippur.

During the Summer Months: As happens every year during July and August, we had some interesting Jewish visitors who, while touring the province of course came up to Cape Breton. The religious ones hear about us and like to come to our shul. Call before had to arrange to spend Shabbas with us.

We had one particular visitor, a rabbi from Brooklyn, who spent a Shabbas week-end with us. He was a delightful fellow, read the Torah for us, gave us a commentary on the Sedra of the week, also

stopped the services from time to time, to give us an explanation of what that particular segment of the prayers signified, and relevant stories as examples to make a point - it was very enlightening and appreciated by all.

As I refer to this particular Shabbas, it occurred to me, why couldn't this be done at least once a month, during the year, for those communities like ours, who are without a rabbi or spiritual leader; is that asking a lot? Something for the hierarchy to consider!

We also had nice visits from **Rabbi and Mrs. Ellis** of Moncton **Rabbi Grafstein** and two sons from the Beth Israel synagogue in Halifax; also the Chabad Lubavitch **Rabbi Feldman** and **Rebetzin** from Halifax.

We had, over the summer and fall, two nice visits from **Nardy and Helen Nathanson**; the first one, Nardy recited a fine Haftarah on Shabbas - a Yasha Roach to him.

The second was with his sister, **Doreen Gordon**; they spent a Shabbas with us. Having spent their youth and formative years in this community, Nardy and Doreen enjoyed reminiscing and relating the fond memories they hold and cherish from their time residing here.

All kidding aside, I wouldn't trade my congregation and community with Clinton, Chretien or Yeltzen.

Sincere greetings to the AJC and communities across the Atlantic Provinces

President-in-waiting, **Elliot Marshall**, Impeached, but not sentenced..



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ELTVALTX



What is Chanukah?

by Rabbi Shlomo Grafstein

The great philosopher-Rabbi, the Maharal of Prague raised some very strong questions concerning the Chanukah celebrations. He asked: From history it appears that the main accomplishment at the time of Chanukah was the successful battles of the Maccabees against the Greek invaders of the Jewish homeland, Israel: the weak were pitted against the strong, and G*D delivered the many into the hands of the few, the pure fighters subdued the impure and the arrogant fell before the students of the Torah. The Jewish victories and physical survival should be celebrated. So why is the main celebration of Chanukah carried out simply with the lighting of the oil lamp (the candles and menorah)? Also what is the significance of specifically eight days of Chanukah?

During the time of the Greek Wars of oppression of the Jewish people and their Homeland Israel 2200 years ago, the Greeks chose four special items of the Jewish religion to prohibit. Upon pain of death, the Jewish people were forbidden to:

Keep the Shabbat day Holy (distinct), study Torah, perform Circumcision, and celebrate the New Moon Festivals. Why did the cruel Greeks specifically choose these items from all the Torah duties which a Jew performed?

The purpose of the Greek conquest was to transform the entire world into their philosophy of living. This is called Hellenization. There are some Torah duties which stand up by their very essence and are no tin line with Greek philosophy and non-Jewish appreciation of life. These particular Mitzvoths, the Greeks tried to eradicate.

1) The Greeks followed the natural world. The Greeks said that essentially every day is similar. The sun rises and sets the same every day in the week. The Greeks felt that there is no time that is Holy and special in its very essence. The Jewish people were saying and proclaiming with their actions that the Shabbat is a unique period of time. It is different from other days. Shabbat is blessed and holy and the Jewish people accomplish special things on Shabbat ---

very different from the wee day. It is innately imbued with holiness. Jews get dressed up with their "Shabbat best," have special high quality food in honour of Shabbat, and abstain from creative work with the material world. Through this time of holiness, they feel The Divine. (Derech Ha Shem - Luzatto) The Greek festival-time for their major gods were not innately holy time.

2) The study of Torah is a Mitzvah for every Jew. If one knows something, why learn it again; why study the material? It is redundant! However, we see that even if one know the particular Biblical thought which they are presently learning, still, one must study it. [Of course if one studies again, one will hopefully see new and creative ideas, because Torah is infinite and like a precious jewel, it is multi-dimensional.] The Greek approach was to follow the natural approach: If one knows the material then one should not bother to study it again. In addition, the Torah is so Divinely connected that if one studies it and does not remember what one studied, it still remains a Mitzvah, and one has also accomplished a great thing, for Torah study is reading Divine Thoughts and is a connection to holiness. The Greek approach was that if you do not remember, then you have accomplished nothing because you are lacking clear knowledge of the material. In addition, the study of Torah for its own sake will complete the very essence of a person's soul. (Nefesh HaChaim)

3) The Greeks said that a naturally physically born person is physically complete. Do not tamper with the body. The Jews say that the same as we say that the body is incomplete, so is the personality (soul) of a person incomplete. The Mitzvah of circumcision completes the body, even though it is contra naturally-formed man. Plato only dealt with the apprehension of the good, whereas the Jewish religion says that humans are "beings that are becoming" and improving according to Divinely revealed values (G*D's Revelation of Mount Sinai). This, the Jew chooses and lives by, and thereby elevates him/herself to a higher level.

4) Speciality of natural time for the Greeks is not within man's domain to alter. A human can not change the reality of living with the cosmos as they are. However, The Almighty says that the Jewish approach to the New Moon Festival (Rosh Chodesh) is based upon the human dimension and decision. Whenever the Beit Din of Jerusalem would declare the New Moon (the New Month), that became the month. This would be effective even if it did not coincide exactly with nature's reality. Such would be the case if there was a cloudy day and the waxing of the moon in Jerusalem was impossible to visualize, and so the New Month was delayed by one day's proclamation because the human High Jewish Court (Beit Din) so declared it. The Jewish Judges knew that the exact day of the New Month commenced the day before, but they declare and kept the next day because of the Torah Rules for New Moon Festivals. This was above and beyond nature. Albeit, Aristotle spoke about overcoming nature, but it was not the Divine Elevation of the human that he was referring to.

Thus, we see that Jewish spiritual living was indeed opposed to the Greek Hellenic natural world order. The Greeks believed in self evident natural instincts. The Jew's task was to transcend nature and rise above it to Holy levels. That is why circumcision preferably takes place on the eighth day. Eight is one above the seven of the natural world order. That is why the menorah is lit for eight days. Oil was chosen to celebrate the miracle, because it was only because of the separation, the anti-Hellenistic approach of those few courageous Jews, the Maccabees, that we have Chanukah. The same as oil and water do not mix, Jewish living and Hellenism do not mix. G*D said: "And I will separate you from the nations of the world." The Hasmoneans had oil available, but it was plain oil and not holy oil, intact with the seal of the high priest. So they searched and only found one such cruse. Ordinary oil was not

Continued on page 17

UJA kick-off a success

by Joel Jacobson

The 1995 Atlantic Canada United Jewish Appeal goal should be much easier to reach if the enthusiasm generated by the launch translates to dollars.



More than 150 Halifax community members crowded the Lord Nelson Hotel ballroom (September 17) to hear the Dor L'Dor singers of Israel complete their cross-Canada tour with a song and video presentation highlighting life in Israel today.

Alan Pakes, a Canadian working for the Jewish Agency in Israel, assembled the cast of five Israeli professional musicians and one Canadian, Laura Levin of Hamilton, a 17-year-old high school student who spent six months in Israel and narrated the program.

Pakes, who helped write, produce and direct the 45-minute show, "Across The Generations", said, "We wanted to put Israel back into the Jewish community. The show has been presented in South Africa (with a South African acting as narrator) and in six cities across Canada."

The program drew a turn-away crowd at Toronto's Ford Theatre, a sellout house in Hamilton, several hundred in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver and a large, young leadership group in Montreal.

"We have the potential to take it to England and Australia but I'm tired," laughed Pakes, who, with the five musicians, was returning to Israel the day after the Halifax show. Levin,

What is Chanukah?

Continued from page 16

good enough, they needed holy oil. Only with holiness can Jews have authentic and lasting Jewish continuity.

A Jewish person should not be afraid to stand up for their unique Torah Heritage. To say that "I can't attend a staff meeting Friday night because I have to celebrate the Shabbat with my family" is a necessary component for Jewish survival. Our religious school has enthusiastic youngsters who want to explore some of those differences. As I was taught: "The difference to be a difference must make a difference." Do you want to have some of these unique Mitzvah Blessings in your life?!

who spent her six months in Israel on a Camp Ramah program, will finish high school in Hamilton this year and then pursue a university education.

"The message I want to convey in my narration (which is done as a letter to her grandmother who assisted her Israeli trip) is how important it is for teens to go to Israel and experience it first hand, rather than hear about the package as we do now. You just don't comprehend what Israel is all about until you're there."

Victor Goldberg, co-chairman (with Mark Rosen) of the Halifax area fund drive, said the 1995 fund goal is about \$270,000, excluding special gifts. "But the important thing for us to do is to maintain meaningful gifts from eligible donors, to enlarge the base of givers. We have a new group of volunteers in our campaign, a women's division for the first time in several years (chaired by Ethel Cooper-Rosen and Annalee Cohen), and will hold a children's march and a series of parlor meetings to generate enthusiasm and funds."

The regional goal is close to \$600,000, said Atlantic regional chair Jim Spatz of Halifax. "We are striving to find new areas of fund-raising other than regional community programs, like missions to Israel, wills and bequests," he said. "We have three goals - to strengthen Israel, to fund the rescue of Jews in peril, and to strengthen our own community youth programs right here in Atlantic Canada to retain our continuity."

During the metro Halifax kickoff, the audience heard from 1994 March of the Living participant Ann Raskin of Halifax, who will spend 1995-96 in Israel. "I come from a small community where our major connection to Jewishness is our annual summer at Camp Kadimah with Jewish friends from the region and across the continent. This year will be important to me for my continuity as a Jewish person and to retain my Jewish identity.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Your Gift must be received by December 31st in order to qualify for a 1995 Tax Receipt



Shalom and Bon Voyage to JON MENDLESON of Halifax who is making Aliyah to Israel at year end.

Report from Newfoundland

by Claire Frankel-Salama

There she stood, clothed in the scarlet robes of a Ph.D., a pillar of strength despite her diminutive stature and advanced age. We held our breaths; **Grunya Movschovitch Ferman** knelt before the Chancellor of Memorial University, **Mr. John Crosbie**, and became Dr. Ferman, Honoris Causa. How distant in time, space and mood from those days of living in the forest as a partisan where "snow, many times" was her blanket. There she met her husband, the late **Lewis Ferman**, an electrician. Lewis, who had lost his first wife and child, became an expert at demolition work. I still remember the strength of his handshake when he was 80 years of age; it took me several minutes to regain the feeling in my fingers.

Several minutes later, **Moshe Kantorowitz** took Mrs. Ferman's place before the Chancellor. He, also, became Doctor, Honoris Causa, for his work in educating Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about the Holocaust. As a teenager, he had been deported to Auschwitz. Although the other 51 members of his family lost their lives, Mr. Kantorowitz survived long enough to be liberated by the Americans.

After the war, both the Fermans and the Kantorowitzes found their way to Newfoundland. Both families still speak warmly of the many years they spent in their Atlantic refuge.

Both Mrs. Ferman and Mr. Kantorowitz had been nominated by **Mr. Ern Condon**, a guidance counselor in a Catholic school in Labrador. Mr. Condon had taken part in the "Holocaust and Hope" tour for educators sponsored by the B'nai B'rith League for Human Rights. This tour took him to Germany, Poland and Israel.

For the members of the Jewish Community in St. John's, the weekend of October 27th is never to be forgotten. It started with Shabbes dinner for 28 at **Judy Wilansky's** and continued



(L-R) Mrs. Patricia O'Reilly, Mr. John Crosbie, Dr. Moshe Kantorowitz, Sharon Kantorowitz, Dr. Grunya Ferman, Mrs. Ruth Kantorowitz, Dr. Michael Paul, Dr. Arthur May, Mr. Alan Ferman

with the convocation and semi-formal dinner at Memorial University on Saturday. On Sunday morning a brunch was held at the Synagogue for the honorees, members and guests, including Mr. and Mrs. John Crosbie and **Dr. and Mrs. Arthur May** (Dr. May is president of M.U.N.), Mr. Condon and **Mrs. Patricia O'Reilly**, representing the B'nai B'rith League for Human Rights. On Monday Mr. Condon and Mrs. O'Reilly held a workshop on the Holocaust that was attended by approximately 600 high school students. On Monday evening the honorees addressed a mixed audience at the "Lewis Ferman Memorial Lecture."

The honorees are back in Toronto, but things will never be quite the same here. In this period of resurgence of anti-Semitism in its many disguises, it is ever more important to be vigilant. For this reason we must thank these very special people for having undertaken the painful but necessary process of sensitizing the youth of Newfoundland.

Saint John Community Report

As in the past, Rabbi Gershon Bacon joined his "out of town family," as he kindly refers to our community, for the High Holidays. It is always a pleasure to welcome him back to our synagogue and we celebrate with a special kiddish in his honor. Once again the ladies of the Sisterhood prepared the annual community break the fast meal at the conclusion of the Yom Kippur service. This seems to be a fitting way to wish everyone a good year and say thank you to the Rabbi before he returns to Israel.

Mr. Gar Meltzer organized a very fitting Jewish War Veterans Shabbat service for the Remembrance Day weekend and Prof. Gary Davis was our guest speaker, his topic being a special remembrance of 50 years. This was fol-

lowed by a special kiddish hosted by the Jewish War Veterans and the Sisterhood.

Saint John had the honor of hosting Sun Life Skate Canada International and we were very pleased to have Michael Shmirkin and Mayor Yossi Goldberg and his wife as guests of the city. Leslie (Isaacs) Ram and her daughter Avigail came from Ottawa for the week and volunteered to act as the Israeli team liaison.

The Director General of the Canadian Figure Skating Association, Mr. David Dore, presented himself before the Men's Long Program and announced to a stunned audience that Yitzhak Rabin had been assassinated earlier in the day and the fact that Israel

is a participating member of the International Skating Union, he asked that the audience stand for a minute of silence. Interestingly, this was broken by a person in the audience yelling "long live Israel." When Michael took to the ice wearing a yarmulke and his team jacket with Israel written across the back, he was visibly shaken and he also asked for a personal moment of silence. Once again the whole audience stood with him. Somehow the Israeli flags that our group was waving seemed to truly fit the moment. I am pleased to say that Michael did go on to become the silver medalist for the second year at Skate Canada. As he was presented his silver medal, the Israeli flag was held at half mast in tribute to Rabin.

Gift of Israel is Launched

by Myra Freeman, Atlantic Region Coordinator

On September 28th, the Gift of Israel was officially launched across Canada in Montreal. It was the inauguration of a number of unique and special partnerships: the ongoing relationship between the Jewish Federations across Canada and the United Israel Appeal of Canada, the beginning of a unique partnership between all Canadian Jewish Federations and the CRB Foundation who had worked closely together for some time in preparation for the introduction of this programme, and the beginning of a special alliance between the CRB Foundation, the Canadian Jewish community and the Bank of Montreal.

These partnerships are significant because of the recognition by all parties that the exposure of our youth to Israel programmes cannot only strengthen their Jewish identity but can make them better people and better citizens. The worldliness which travel experiential programmes impart can make our youth more sensitive to both the proud moments and the tragedies that have impacted our world and continue to affect these challenging times in Israel, Canada, and other parts of the world.

The CRB Foundation conducted a recent survey of individuals who participated in Israel travel programmes over the past eight years. It showed that such travel accomplished an increased level of Jewish identification and feelings towards Israel and significantly improved humanistic values. Participants became much more involved in both the Jewish community and the general community, and while they had increased feelings of Jewish pride and a connection to their religion, they had a stronger appreciation of the high quality of their lives in Canada.

Through the Gift of Israel, our children are stimulated, challenged and taught about the world in which we live, in addition to their Jewish heritage and themselves. An Israel experience is one of the most compelling elements in our identity as a Jew. The Gift of Israel offers an opportunity for many more of our Atlantic Canadian Jewish Youth to experience and sense the centrality of Israel on the Jewishness in their lives.

The Atlantic Jewish Council has worked for many months towards a financial arrangement with the United Israel Appeal of Canada which would encourage our teens to register and participate in the Gift of Israel. Early in November, our efforts were realized when an agreement was reached and the Gift of Israel was ready for launching here in Atlantic Canada.

When a participant joins the Gift of Israel, United Israel Appeal and Atlantic Jewish Council together earmark their funds internally on an annual basis. Once a participant registers for any of the forty approved Israel experiences, UIA/AJC forward the matching amounts to the specific Israel purveyor with a \$200 bonus from UIA at that time. The maximum grant of \$1000 from UIA/AJC is contingent on the participant contributing a dollar for dollar matching amount on an annual basis to their personal Bank of Montreal Gift of Israel Account. The maximum that a student would receive in total is



Bank of Montreal Representative PAM MCCOY presents The Gift of Israel to JOE HERSCHORN as his mother, MARIE, looks on.

\$1200, representing approximately 30% of the trip cost (assuming a cost of an average programme of \$4000). This amount is the same for both the Savings Programme and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registry. The participant's Gift of Israel Account accrues interest annually and may be used until age 23. Should the participant choose not to participate in this programme for any reason, the principal and interest are withdrawn by the participant and the account is closed. All matching funds from UIA/AJC are canceled.

On November 14th, the Gift of Israel Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registry was officially launched in Halifax when **Joseph Herschorn**, a Bar Mitzvah celebrant, became the first Atlantic Jewish youth to officially register with the Atlantic Jewish Council in the Gift of Israel programme and became its first participant. During his Bar Mitzvah ceremony, the President of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue, **Dr. Martin Zelenietz**, presented Joseph with a Gift of Israel Enrollment Certificate and announced that the Shaar Shalom Synagogue was pleased to participate in this worthwhile programme and would contribute to Joseph's Bar Mitzvah Registry. This was an important milestone for it showed the commitment of the local Synagogue to the Gift of Israel and acceptance to make enrollment in the Gift of Israel standard practice for every young person by the time the youth reaches Bar or Bat Mitzvah age.

Although your child may be years away from actually participating in an organized Israel teen trip, your community has created an exciting way to begin the planning process. Anticipation of the trip will add a special excitement to your child's life right now! For more information on the Gift of Israel, contact the Atlantic Jewish Council.

The Gift of Israel Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registry makes it easy for family and friends to find the right Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift. By sending your gift directly to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrant, you can make your Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift a part of a child's exciting plans by noting on your cheque, "For your Gift of Israel Account." It will be the gift of a lifetime!

Registration packages for the Gift of Israel Savings Programme and the Gift of Israel Bar/Bat Mitzvah Registry are available on request by contacting: Gift of Israel information Phone (902) 422-7491, Fax (902) 425-3722.

Holocaust Memorial Stamp unveiled

There were tears in some eyes Thursday, November 9, as a new 45-cent stamp commemorating the Holocaust was inaugurated on Parliament Hill be-

fore an audience that included survivors of Nazi death camps.

The stamp, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World

War Nazi atrocities, is a collage of photos of death-camp inmates and includes a yellow Star of David, which the Nazis forced the Jews to wear.

A survivor of Auschwitz testified to the horrors he endured.

"I lost five brothers, two sisters, father, mother, uncles, aunts and cousins," Philip Riteman of Bedford told the audience in a halting voice.

"What the Nazis did, we can't forget."

As Riteman spoke, his pauses grew longer and he finally faltered:

"I have no words to speak...I thank the government for issuing this stamp."

The Parliament Hill ceremony came 57 years after Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass, when Nazi stormtroopers rampaged through German cities, burning synagogues and smash-

Continued on page 21



Riteman attends stamp unveiling

Reprint from *the Chronicle-Herald*, Bruce Erskine

A Bedford man who survived five Nazi death camps was in Ottawa for the unveiling of a new Canadian stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust.

"I don't know why they picked me," a surprised Philip Riteman said.

"I was shocked when they told me."

Mr. Riteman speculated he was chosen to represent Holocaust victims because he tells his story in schools throughout the region to educate young people about the dark era in 20th-century history.

Mr. Riteman, now in his late 60s, weighed only 75 pounds when he was liberated from his Nazi captors in Bavaria on May 2, 1945 after four years of imprisonment.

Originally from the small Polish town of Shereshev, Mr. Riteman, now a successful businessman, lost his parents, five brothers, two sisters, nine aunts and uncles and a number of cousins to the gas chambers and ovens in the infamous concentration camps.

He still has nightmares about the deaths he saw and the inhumanity he experienced first-hand in places such as Auschwitz, Dachau and Birkenau - names that have become synonymous with evil.

Mr. Riteman said he had few details about the unveiling, which coincided with the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the November 9, 1938 "night of the broken glass" when the Nazis



Philip Riteman, Hon. David Dingwall and Dorothy Riteman.

began the widespread killing of Jews that culminated in the mass murders in the death camps.

"I'll thank them for giving me the honour of representing millions killed by the Nazis and survivors in Canada," he said, adding that Jews were not the only victims of the Holocaust.

Continued on page 21

Stamp unveiled...

ing Jewish-owned shops and homes. The shards of broken windows littering the pavement gave the night its name.

"It was the beginning, the unfortunate beginning of a terrible time for the Jewish people and for the people of the world," said **Rabbi Reuven Bulka**. "It was a time a demon was let loose."

Eleanor Gitzler of the Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre in Toronto, said Canada turned a deaf ear to the plight of European Jews as the clouds of war gathered in the late 1930's. Some refugees were turned away from Canada.

"Canada has learned from the lessons of the Holocaust," she said.

Limited edition **FIRST DAY COVERS** of this stamp, signed by Philip Riteman, are being sold for \$10 by the AJC as a fundraiser for the March of the Living. Call us at (902) 422-7491.

Riteman attends...

"Millions of innocent non-Jews were killed by the Nazis."

The commemorative stamp features a collage of emaciated faces representing millions of people victimized by the Holocaust and includes a tattered yellow Star of David 'Jude' badge used to single out Jews for mistreatment.

Mr. Riteman said the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**, gunned down by a Jewish extremist after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv, shows that the world is still in turmoil.

"It's a tragedy," he said. "I was crying all day."

He was particularly troubled that Mr. Rabin's murderer was a fellow Jew.

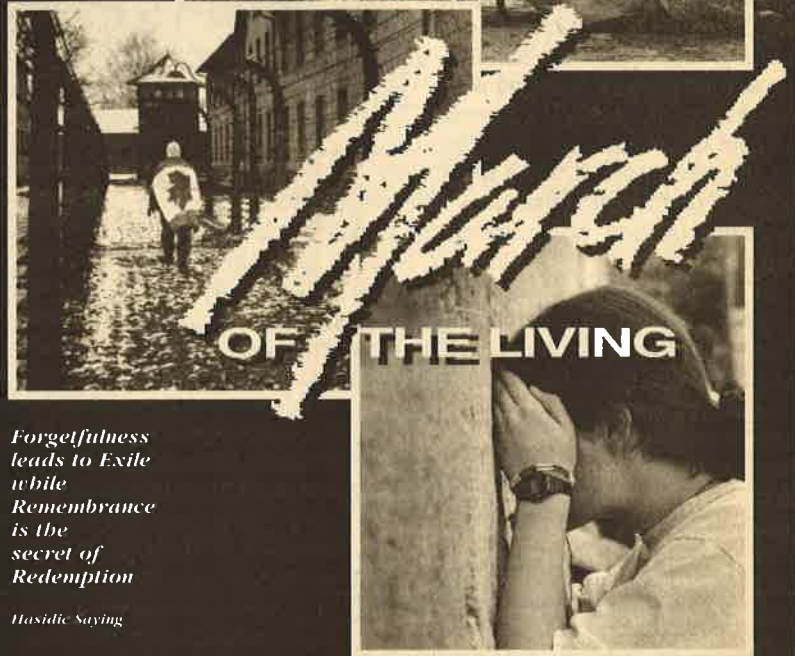
"That's terrible," he said. "It's never happened before in my life."

Mr. Riteman's son **Larry**, chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress's Atlantic Region Holocaust Remembrance Committee, said November 9 also marked the beginning of the 1945 Nuremberg war crimes trials, which opened in the same week that agreement was being reached on organizing the United Nations.

"It's an appropriate time to think about how we measure up," he said.

A ceremony commemorating those who died on Krystallnacht was held Thursday November 9 at Province House.

In the spring of 1996, thousands of Jewish youth from all corners of the world will gather together in Poland and Israel for an experience that will last a lifetime.



*Forgetfulness
leads to Exile
while
Remembrance
is the
secret of
Redemption*

Hasidic Saying



In Poland the group's visit will culminate with the "March of the Living" on Holocaust Remembrance Day, as they march together the 3-kilometre distance separating Auschwitz from Birkenau.

In Israel participants will celebrate the creation of the State of Israel on Independence Day along with thousands of other teenagers from Israel and other parts of the world.

You could be one of the 350 Canadian high school students privileged to take part in this event.

Israeli captures Silver in memory of Rabin

From The Telegraph Journal

Hours after his Prime Minister was killed by an assassin, Israel's **Michael Shmerkin** turned in the performance of a lifetime to capture an unexpected silver medal at Sun Life Skate Canada.

Mr. Shmerkin, ranked eleventh in the world, nearly pulled out of the event upon hearing of **Mr. Rabin's** assassination Saturday.

Upon skating onto ice at Harbour Station, 5,500 fans stood in a silent tribute to the 25-year-old soldier mourning his national leader. Mr. Shmerkin stood with his head lowered as if in prayer before the medal contender began his free skate. It was a spectacular performance that drew fans out of their seats for a standing ovation. Some waved the blue and white flags of Israel.

"I skated well, considering. Now I'm in shock," said Mr. Shmerkin through an interpreter following his routine.

Asked what made him decide to skate rather than pull out of the competition, Mr. Shmerkin paused in thought and then

answered.

"I decided to skate because I knew people came to see me and I was sure there would be a lot of Jewish people in the audience. I decided to skate in memory of the Prime Minister.

"He opened the way to freedom," he said.

Mr. Shmerkin had not yet spoken with anyone from home. He lives in Metulla, a city near the border of Syria and Lebanon.

Mr. Shmerkin, who has been a pioneer for figure skating in Israel, compared himself to Mr. Rabin. Like himself, the skater said, Mr. Rabin was trying to start something new.

"Camel riding in Canada is like skating in Israel," he said.

"[Mr. Rabin] went in the peace street and I went in the figure skating street. I'm always in front of things so I have a responsibility."

And Israelis, waving their country's flag in the stands, said he did the right thing by skating.

"He did a great thing for his country," said Avigail Ram, who now lives in Ottawa. "He showed the whole world that Israel is alive and well."



CAMP KADIMAH

by Sheldon Cohen

As winter sets in, the warm memories of Kadimah '95 still fill the air. Plans are well underway to make the summer of '96 "bigger and better" than before.

A very successful rally was held in Halifax in mid November. A folk singer, busker and magician performed. We took in the new Ace Ventura movie and went bowling. **Michael Soberman** and **Michael Ostroff** attended the rally and special thanks to **Brian Indig** and **Jon Goldberg** for their assistance.

The Toronto rally takes place in mid December. Other rally's are planned for Montreal and Boston.

After Kadimah Israel's successful first summer, we are anticipating over twenty participants for the '96 season. Last summer we had fifteen take part.

All Kochot, Machar and C.I.T. campers for Kadimah '96 are advised to apply early as spaces are limited. Please get your application in by the end of December.

Many staff applications have been sent in and we will have

From the Director's Chair



Kadimah CITs visiting Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, July 1995.

the best counselors ever. Many new and exciting programs will be offered.

We wish everyone a very happy Chanukah and all the best in school and university.

Hope to see you at camp next summer.
Shalom.

Israel Zangwill and his Nova Scotia connection

by Lillian Falk

The year 1995 marks the hundredth anniversary of the publication of a book which holds a special interest for the Jewish community in the Atlantic Region. The book, entitled *The Master*, was written by Israel Zangwill (1864-1926), Jewish writer and passionate activist on behalf of the Jewish people - a personal friend of Theodor Herzl and vigorous supporter of the Zionist movement in its formative stages. In fact, political Zionism is sometimes said to have been born on the foggy evening of November 1895 when Herzl came from Vienna to talk to Zangwill in his cluttered studio in North London.

Zangwill was born and raised in London's poor Jewish district of Whitechapel, and forged a distinguished career for himself as a literary and political figure. When he wrote *The Master*, he had already established a reputation with his earlier book, *Children of the Ghetto*, a highly acclaimed novel about the life of London Jews. This novel, and many of his other works, can be found in most Jewish community libraries in Canada and the US

The Master, however, is not set in London, neither does it deal with Jewish life. It was, for this reason, treated by various critics as a less important work. But for people in Atlantic Canada it has

the special interest of being a story about a boy who grows up in a small Nova Scotia village near Truro, and who, after many hardships, eventually becomes a famous painter in London. The book offers colorful descriptions of Nova Scotia scenery, and many details about life in the village, and in other places, including Economy, Parrsboro, Halifax and even Saint John.

None of this would appear in the least unusual, if Zangwill had paid a visit to Nova Scotia prior to writing the book. But, since he had never visited these parts, the book was thought to be either a product born of Zangwill's imagination, or, according to some historians, a fictionalized account of the life

of Halifax born painter Gilbert Stuart Newton who died in London sixty years earlier. A historic plaque, indicating a connection with Newton, was placed on the site of The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax.

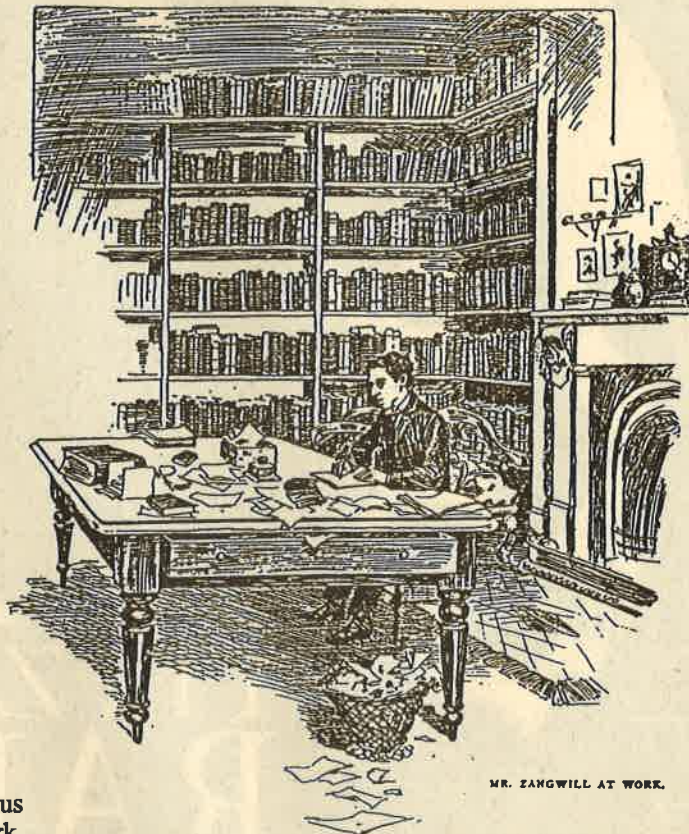
However, my own research has brought to light a connection with another Nova Scotia artist who went to London and became a successful painter and illustrator. This man was George Hutchinson, who grew up in Great Village, Colchester County, and who

was Zangwill's personal friend and an illustrator of many of his most successful books, such as the humorous *King of Schnorrers*, about the rich and the poor among eighteenth-century London Jews, still popular and reissued in New York with Hutchinson's illustrations in 1987.

Thus a collaboration developed between the London writer and the Nova Scotia artist, and resulted in a series of eye-catching illustrations on one hand, and a novel based on the artist's life-story, on the other hand. But somehow the connection between Zangwill and his illustrator became forgotten

over the hundred years separating us from the book's publication, and the story of their friendship faded from memory. Yet it is worth re-discovering the story

now, for it throws a new light on the careers both of Zangwill and Hutchinson. Hutchinson is still remembered in Nova Scotia as a painter who grew up in Great Village and was the great-uncle of Elizabeth Bishop; Zangwill is remembered as an outstanding Jewish writer and thinker. And now, one hundred years after the publication of *The Master*, we have a good opportunity to re-connect in our minds these two talented individuals whose friendship bore fruit that can still be savored by us today.



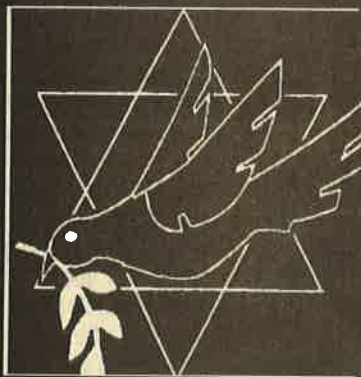
A sketch of "Mr. Zangwill at Work" by George Hutchinson, printed in the *Idler* (1893). Zangwill is shown seated at a large table, with his back to the fireplace, exactly described in Herzl's diary - where Herzl described his first meeting with Zangwill two years later.

במותו ציווה לנו את השלום
IN HIS DEATH HE WILLED TO US PEACE



**YITZHAK
RABIN**

1922 - 1995



**CAMP
HADIMAN**



FOR OURSELVES
FOR OUR CHILDREN
FOR ISRAEL