



חג כשר ושמח
Happy Passover



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Cover Picture taken from The Jewish Calendar 1996 portraying crossing of the Red Sea from a 1728-29 Haggada

President's message

by Larry Freeman

This year was to be a year of celebration in Israel with the Jerusalem 3000 Anniversary events. It was not to be, however, as the ugly forces of terrorism overtook the festivities and dampened the spirit of Jewish people as well as the world community. We in Atlantic

Canada convey our condolences to Israel and the families of all those whose lives were shortened by these terrorist attacks.

As a Jewish community we have suffered many times over and we cannot let the terrorists overtake the peace process. This is a time to stand up and support the government in its valiant efforts to bring peace with Israel and its neighbours. It is not a time to delay your visit to Israel. We cannot give in to terrorist wishes.

Very soon, five of our high school stu-



dents will join 5000 students from around the world in the March of the Living Program. This summer, Kadimah Israel and Biluim Israel will take another 10 students from our region to Israel. We must continue to send our young people on these programs if we are to main-

tain true Jewish identity. We in the Atlantic Jewish Council laud those parents with the foresight to ensure their children take part in these programs. It is the future we all must protect. We will continue our efforts as the Atlantic Jewish Council to make these programs as available as possible.

We are about to begin the Holiday of Passover. It is a time to reflect on our identity. We at the AJC wish you and your family a Happy Passover. ■

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

"A LINK BETWEEN THE JEWISH NATION
AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL"

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

by Jon Goldberg

Just a few days until April. The sun remains longer and there is a touch of spring in the air. As the season passes, albeit slowly in Atlantic Canada, I reflect on winter 1995-96 with mixed emotions. For the Jewish people it began with a tragedy of the Rabin assassination and ended with the suicide bombings in Israel. I know we all mourn our brothers and sisters but we cannot let them die in vain. It is more important than ever that we support the people of Israel by going as Jews to the homeland of the Jewish people. Nervous, careful, yes, but I am pleased to say that there were Maritimers on the Jerusalem 3000 Mega Mission in late February that flew 1,200 Canadian Jews to Eretz. Of the 350 Canadian students scheduled to go on the March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel in April, not one has canceled and our Kadimah Israel Program for summer '96 looks to be filled with 25 teenagers looking forward to seven weeks in Eretz.

Here in Atlantic Canada, I'm pleased to report that the AJC has concluded the busiest winter ever. With the infusion of energy by **Yakov Feig**, our capable Programmer, and **Mrs. Shirley Burnstein**, our Senior Citizen's Coordinator, we held an array of events for kids, teens, campus, seniors, and everyone else in Halifax, Moncton, the Valley, Newfoundland. This spring we will be in Saint John and Fredericton and late in May there will be a major production of *Fiddler on the Roof*

in Sydney.

Camp Kadimah will have a record enrollment this coming summer. Yakov has spoken to hundreds of youngsters in public schools about Judaism and Jewish customs. Just last week two Israeli teenagers



sent by the Consul General of Israel in Montreal met with over 1000 of their peers in six high schools here in Metro and two in Moncton. The Saint John Historical Society, led by **Marcia Koven**, continues to bring a Jewish message to the schools of New Brunswick and a group of concerned volunteers have organized the 50 or so families with a Jewish background in the Valley area of Nova Scotia towards a collective rediscovery of their Judaism. Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut programs are being organized throughout the region. Yes my friends, we are functioning and have taken a first step towards our goal of bringing to the Atlantic Jewish

community the best possible programs and services.

Yet there are shadows on the horizon. Too many of our communities are without rabbis and those that have seem to be in constant flux. Many of our small communities are getting even smaller as the years go by. Assimilation, intermarriage, and lack of interest still rank as major problems for us at the AJC. With the support of our Board of Directors, I will attempt to tackle some of these areas in the spring. In fact I promise to visit Cape Breton, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland by the end of the summer to meet and hear from as many of the Atlantic Jewish community as possible.

On a personal note, this past February 2nd was quite traumatic for me as I turned 50. Oi vai! I must say that I was comforted by forty family and friends who helped me through that day which we celebrated thousands of miles from home. I also wish to thank my many friends throughout the region for your good wishes. Now that it's over, I'll be 49 forever.

This first issue of *Shalom* of 1996 marks a change from the past. We have a printer, a new publisher and the magazine will be mailed as is- not included in another publication. I trust you, the readers, will notice the improvement.

May I take the opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and healthy Passover and may Spring '96 bring peace and fulfillment to kol Y'Israel. ■

CAMP KADIMAH

Summer Address:

Lake William Barss Corner,
Lunenburg Co., NS B0R 1A0
(902) 644-2313

Permanent Address:

1515 South Park St., Ste.305
Halifax, NS B3J 2L2
(902) 422-7491
Fax: (902) 425-3722

With a full complement of Campers and Staff for the Summer of 1996 we are looking forward to a Great Summer at Camp Kadimah!!

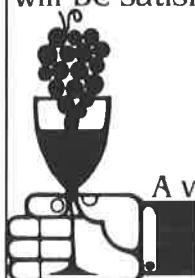
DATES: JULY 1st, 1996 to AUGUST 12, 1996

VISITORS DAY: SUNDAY JULY 28, 1996

Inquiries: call Carol Ginsberg at 422-7491

THANK YOU

My wife Margaret and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our loyal customers over the past decade. It has truly been a pleasure serving all of you with the finest in Kosher wines. We have decided after long discussions to discontinue supplying the community with Kosher wine products. We hope your needs will be satisfied by your local liquor commissions.



A very happy and Kosher Passover.
David and Margaret Attis.

From the Programmer's Desk...

By Yakov Feig

Well, once again, I can't Passover an opportunity to write an article for the *Shalom* Magazine. Anyway, to get down to business, the last few months have been action packed and there is so much to write about and so little time (the deadline for this article was last Friday). In a way, I am like the Israelites, who upon leaving Egypt did not have enough time to allow the bread that they were baking to rise. So please forgive me if this article comes across as being a little flat.



Children playing Dreidel at Chanukah party in Annapolis Valley

On campus, we had an extremely busy second semester with programs ranging from intergenerational Shabbat Dinners, to our annual Ski Trip, to movie nights, to the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students' Federation (A.P.J.S.F.) elections. For a complete report on all the activities of the A.P.J.S.F. please see the article by our new co-president **Erin Sperling** and pictures in this issue of *Shalom*. However, I would be remiss at this time if I did not say a special thank you to all those involved in creating a super year. Thanks goes out to our executive of **Mitch Abrams, Perry Chippin, Rob Cohen, Mike Hollinger, Viva Press, Jane Shkolnik** and last, but certainly not least, **Erin Sperling**. As well, gratitude must be expressed to **Roselyn Allen, Shayna Allen, Ian Epstein, Avi Koren, Dana Newman, Jasmine (Lizzie) Oore, Sherry Pink, David Price, Marcia Urdang, and Steve Waldman** and the many others that have been involved in programming and its implementation. A special congratulations goes out as well to the winners of the elections for the 1996/97 A.P.J.S.F. executive (please see Erin's article for a complete list of the new ex-

ecutive as well).

As for programming with Canadian Young Judeaea and the Metro Youth Programming Committee, things continued with AJC participation in a Chanukah Party put on by the Jewish Community in the Annapolis Valley on December 10th. Over 60 people turned out to eat latkes, sing Chanukah songs, get Chanukah Gelt, play dreidel and of course, to have a wonderful time. As well, many events occurred both inside Halifax and outside during the Chanukah period. (Please see the various community reports in this issue of *Shalom* for details.) In Halifax, there was also a meeting of teen leaders on January 11th. Response to this meeting was phenomenal and led to involvement of many teens in programming during the following months.

On January 21st, grades 6 - 9 met in Halifax for Tobogganing/Beach Party at the Beth Israel. Despite especially warm weather, a play practice, and mid-terms, those that did show up had a great time learning Israeli Beach songs, playing Israeli Trivia and enjoying an Israeli afternoon. On January 28th, over 25 youth in grades 3 - 6 showed up for "Leaving On A Jet Plane". For this program, the youth met at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue and were "kidnapped" and put on a simulated flight to Israel. Once in Israel, they enjoyed an Israel Fair in which they participated in an array of activities depicting life in Israeli society. A special thanks goes out to **Jonathan Freeman, Deborah Garman, Debra Jacobson, Anna Kassner, Simon McKnight, and Shaun Sadofsky** (I hope I am remembering everybody) who helped the event become a major success.

On February 8 - 10th, 32 youth in grades 6 - 10 from Halifax, Fredericton, Moncton, Prince Edward Island and Saint John participated in "Moncton Mania", a fun-filled weekend in the city of Crystal Palace. Youth participated in a traditional Shabbat Meal, services, sessions on Jewish Identity, great meals, games, and most importantly, Saturday night at Crystal Palace!!! It was also an opportunity for old camp

friends to meet and to make new friends as well. Much thanks goes to **Evy Carnat**, and her husband



Barry who helped with the billeting arrangements, food arrangements, and many other small details. Thank you to all the Moncton families that helped with the billeting; and the sisterhood of Congregation Tiferes Israel, who helped with the preparation and serving of the meals. Kudos to **Rabbi Ellis** as well, who led a stimulating discussion on Saturday afternoon. Finally, thanks go to our Chaperones for the weekend, **Lea Adilman, Jonathan Freeman, Allison Kaufman, Simon McKnight, Mitchell Rubin** and **Shaun Sadofsky**, who helped maintain law and order in the proletariat. Once again a hearty thanks to anyone that I might have unintentionally omitted.

On February 24th the Metro Youth Program Committee held skating at the Dalplex arena in Halifax. Over 60 youth, teenagers, and parents showed up to participate in a fun-filled hour of skating and listening to Israeli Music. Israeli Olympic skater **Misha Shmerkin** would have been impressed! Thanks to **Dan Jockel**, who upon deciding that he did not want to skate, lent me his skates (I have small feet). On the same day, a small group of grades 9 -



Shaun Sadofsky is on the ball at pool non-tournament for teens. Halifax, February 1996.

12 assembled at the Captain's Cue in Halifax for a pool non-tournament with refreshments.

Purim of course, came and went, with a touch of sadness, due to the bombings in Israel. However, I would be remiss if I did not congratulate **Joanne Nozick** of the Shaar Shalom Congregation in organizing a community wide Purim Carnival, which was a major success and attracted almost 100 youth. Thank you also to **Debra Freeman**, Jonathan Freeman, and Shaun Sadofsky, who helped out at my request at this event as well. I am also positive that Joanne Nozick is grateful to the many volunteers that she relied upon to make this event such as a success.

On March 7 - 12th, I had the opportunity of doing some programs in Newfoundland. A hearty thank you to **Robin McGrath** and **John Joy** for being gracious hosts during my stay. On Friday March 8th, an event with the Jewish University students attracted 8 students and young professionals. On Saturday night, over 17 showed up at the synagogue for a program on Jewish Identity. Since the synagogue was cold (only literally, not spiritually), **Claire** and **Messod Salama** offered their house (on the spot!) for the



Metro Youth Program Committee Skating at Dalplex, Halifax, March 1996.

activity. When the activity resumed at their house, everyone enjoyed the activity as well as shmoozing and enjoying each other's company. Thank you to the Salama family for hosting us. On Sunday morning, I had the pleasure of meeting with 7 youth and teenagers at the Hebrew School in St. John's and doing an activity with them. Thank you to **Lee Lamdan** for all your help in organizing the activities. Finally, on Sunday March 10th in the evening, I had an opportunity to meet with the Jewish community in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland. A special thank you to **Eric** and **Diana Mintz** for being wonderful hosts for this event. Thank you as well to **Ruth Noel** and **Messod Salama** for your roles in making my stay in Newfoundland a success. Once again, the Jewish community's reputation in Newfoundland as being very warm, and friendly remains

intact.

On March 15 - 21st, two Israeli teenagers, **Dor Danieli** and **Chemda Segui**, joined us to explain to high school students about life in Israel. They went to high schools in the Metro Halifax area as well as in Moncton. A special thanks to **David** and **Gali Brock**, and the Ginsberg family for hosting the teenagers in Halifax as well as to Roselyn Allen for her efforts in making scheduling arrangements. Special thanks to Rabbi Ellis of

Moncton for making speaking arrangements with the Moncton high schools as well as billeting arrangements. Thank you to **Judy** and **Simcha Attis** as well as **David** and **Margaret Attis** and family for being gracious hosts during our stay in Moncton.

Finally, on March 24th over 40 youth and teens showed up for a fun-filled afternoon of Laser Tag at "Boomerangs" in Dartmouth. Thanks again to **Howard Budovitch** at Boomerangs for making the afternoon possible. At this time, I would also like to give my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Director **Jon Goldberg**, who is always involved in helping plan and organize all of the above events and is always there to provide expertise and advice.

Wishing everyone a Happy, and Healthy Passover! ■

The Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get

submitted by Mary Kanner

The Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get (Emanah Women of Canada, Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Canada, Jewish Women International of Canada, Na'amat Canada, National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Status of Women Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, Toronto Jewish Women's Federation, Women's Canadian ORT, Women's Federation CJA) announces a new service: Jewish Divorce Help Lines and Letter Box.

Do you need a GET? We can inform you about the GET process. We can tell you how to obtain a GET. We may be able to help you if you are having difficulty obtaining a GET.

For confidential information and support service in the four Atlantic Provinces, write to us at: GET Help, PO Box 33097, Halifax, NS, B3L 4T6.

Five telephone lines and a post office box have been set up across Canada for Jewish women and men who want a religious divorce, known as a *get*. The service, the first of its kind in Canada,

is up and running in five cities and the four Atlantic Provinces. Trained volunteers, working GET Help and Jewish Divorce Help Lines will provide information about the *get* process and support, including the names of rabbis and lawyers to contact.

The Coalition's mission is to eliminate *get* abuse, which occurs when one partner uses Jewish religious law to gain concessions in civil divorce proceedings or to punish the other partner by prohibiting remarriage. In most cases, it is the woman who is at a disadvantage. It is important that women know that there are people prepared to help them. Under Canadian law, a court can refuse to hear a man's response to his wife's application for custody until the husband can explain why he won't remove religious barriers to remarriage.

When writing to GET Help, be sure to include your name and phone number and an address where you can be reached. All correspondence and calls are confidential. Most major Jewish women's organizations in Canada are members of the Coalition of Jewish Women for the Get. ■

The APJSF seasonal/end of year report

by Erin Sperling

Well, it is now time again to sum up what we crazy student-types have been doing for the last three months. This time it is a little more special because it is also the last report for this school year. Before I get into the specifics, I would just like to say that this past year has been a lot of fun, albeit too fast to breathe sometimes. But I do hope everyone has enjoyed the '95-'96 season of the APJSF as much as I have.

Our first event of the new Julian year was a Welcome Back Shabbat dinner on January 5. It was very successful...must have been the price...and everyone seemed so happy to be back at school too. That must have been the wine.

On January 26 an Intergenerational Shabbat dinner was held, with participation from members of our team and members of the more experienced team. The evening was filled with lively conversation and topped off with a great sing-song, thanks to the work of **Yakov Feig** and **Shirley Burnstein**, who compiled a



"It's not a simple answer." APJSF ski trip. From left to right: Roselyn Allen, Lee Lamdan, Jeff Silverberg, Jacob Fisher.

song book for everyone to enjoy. *Puff the Kosher Dragon* will always be a favourite of mine.

The Main Event of the year took place between February 1 to 4th, when we took over the slopes at Crabbe Mountain, New Brunswick. Imagine, five runs open and 30 Jews. We were the hill!

The trip left us all with new friends, some great stories and most of all, a renewed enthusiasm for the APJSF. And no one was car sick! (Anyone want to buy some chocolates?)

On February 20th there was an informal gathering at the movie theatre. Various people saw various movies and it was nice to get out to see a flick.

The Klezmer/Purim party held on 2 March was a lot of fun! And who did such a good job on those decorations? It was very nice to get out to an event with the community.

On March 4th, we were able to have a representative from Hebrew University, **Michael Litvack**, in the Dal SUB. His display seemed to draw an interested crowd, but we had hamantaschen out as well. He was then in Wolfville at Acadia the following day.

In following our first successful Intergenerational Shabbat

dinner, we had another on March 15. We were honoured with the presence of **Rabbi Benji Jacoby** from Toronto. The dinner was very nice and everyone seemed to have a good time, especially **Adam Block**. Then the following day the Rabbi invited us to participate in a shuir, discussion group, at which we discussed such topics as "why bad things happen to good people" and "freedom of will". The afternoon was very interesting and informative. We thank the Rabbi for his time.

Our last official event of the year took place on March 24. This was a combination Bagel Brunch / election. While everyone indulged in bagels, cream cheese and lox, we all were forced to get down to the business of electing our new executive for the '96-'97 year. Now the moment you've all been waiting



APJSF ski trip at Crabbe Mountain. From left to right: Jasmine Oore, Dana Newman, Charles Rak, Shayna Allen.

for...presenting the new executive: Co-presidents: **Ian Epstein** and **Erin Sperling**; Communications Chair: **Viva Press**; Network Rep: **Shayna Allen**; Grad Rep: **Steve Waldman**; Undergrad Rep: **Jasmine Oore**; Young Professional Rep: **Perry Chippin**; Halifax Rep: **Dana Newman**; Acadia Rep: **Matt Hahn**; UNB Rep: **Mitch Abrams**.

Mount Allison, UPEI, St. FX, UCCB, (anyone we forgot) Rep: ??? (let us know if you're interested!)

So that's all folks! I hope everyone has a good summer and looks forward to next year.

It is going to be **SIMPLY MARVELOUS**.

Special thanks to Yakov for his hard work and devotion. We couldn't have done it without you! ■

On a More Personal Note...

Five

successful educated New Brunswick Jewish men (Moncton-based) in their thirties are seeking life-mates and companions to share the good life of the Maritimes. To find out more, to correspond with, communicate with and/or meet these eligible men, write and introduce yourself to

Tante Jennie, c/o Maurice Jake, PO Box 623, Moncton, NB, E1C 8M7.

We would love to arrange a meeting, individually or in a group depending on circumstances.

You can also call Joan at (506) 854-4216.

Report from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

It has apparently been some time since there was a report on the Moncton Jewish Community, so we have quite a lot of news to share.

In November the Isadore-Esther Fine Inuit Art Collection opened at the University of Moncton. This magnificent, permanent collection was donated to the University by **Isadore** and **Esther Fine**, who have been members of Moncton's Jewish Community for many years. It consists of over 100 pieces collected by the Fines, and has been described as one of the most valuable collections of Inuit art in the country. The collection is beautifully displayed in the entranceway to the Bibliotheque Champlain at the university. Anyone visiting Moncton should take time to see this collection.

It has been a busy winter at Tiferes Israel Synagogue, with the celebration of two Bar Mitzvahs and a wedding. On December 16 there was the Bar Mitzvah of **Jonathan Gorber**, son of **Sam** and **Lorna Gorber**. On February 24 **Aaron Cohen**, son of **Ivan** and **Nancy Cohen** became a Bar Mitzvah. On the first night of Chanukah we celebrated the wedding of **Ken** and **Joan Mayer**. The wedding was followed by a community Chanukah dinner. Entertainment at the dinner was provided by Moncton's newest singing sensation ... "De Yiddishe Maidelach un der Boychik." This group has been getting together regularly to sing Yiddish and Hebrew songs, and most important, to have a good time!

The Moncton Jewish community has continued its tradition of serving Christmas dinner at the Ray of Hope soup kitchen. Several young, and not-so-young members of our community pulled themselves out of bed early on December 25, to make sure those in need would enjoy a good meal. This allowed the soup kitchen's regular volunteers to spend Christmas with their families.

Tiferes Israel Hebrew School has added a new class to its Cheder program. On Sunday morning **Evy Carnat** can be found in the synagogue surrounded by a group of enthusiastic 3-7 year olds, who are learning about Judaism through singing, dancing, stories, drama and crafts. Part of each class is also devoted to introducing Hebrew, and many of the children have started to read simple words.

In addition to the Cheder classes taught by **Rabbi Ellis**, a group of pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah children are now learning with volunteers **Francis Weil**, **Barrie Carnat**, **Evy Carnat** and **Natanya Etienne**. In February the children from this class took part in a Tu B'Shevat Seder. Later in February teens and pre-teens from around the Maritimes descended on Moncton for a Shabbaton. The Shabbaton started with Friday evening services and ended with a brunch on Sunday.

Rabbi Ellis has been very busy lately with visits to schools in Moncton and environs, where he has given presentations on Judaism to students of all ages. Well over 1000 students have now learned something about our tradition, and the interest continues to grow as other teachers hear about these presentations. Several groups from local schools, universities and churches have also been given a tour of the synagogue.

On February 29 of this year **Sarah Gorber** celebrated her "twentieth" birthday. Turning twenty has not slowed Sarah down at all. She recently returned from a trip to Japan and Hawaii. While in Japan Sarah toured the country and visited her granddaughter **Timna** who is teaching there. Sarah gave a very interesting talk on her trip at the last Sisterhood meeting.

Frances Doak also gave a presentation at the last Sisterhood meeting. She showed us some of her glass sculptures and explained how she makes them from broken glass that she finds on the beach. The glass she uses has been worn smooth by sand, waves and time, and the sculptures she makes with them are exquisite. If anyone would like to see her work, she has donated a piece to the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.

Purim was celebrated in Moncton with a lively performance by the "Chutzpah" Klezmer Band. Several children, and even one adult, arrived in costume and had great fun dancing, clapping and munching on Hamantashen. The Jewish community was joined by several members of the community at large, as well as some of our friends from the Saint John Jewish community.

We are pleased to welcome **Lori Forbes** to our community. Lori has recently moved here from the Northwest Territories with her two children **Maysen** and **Elyanna**. Her husband **Dave** is finishing work in the Territories and will be joining her soon. They are expecting their third child in April. ■

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum News

by Marcia Koven

We are pleased to inform the *Shalom* readers of our activities to date and for the future. Although closed to "walk-in" visitors during the winter months, we are happy to report that this has been our busiest winter season to date. With schools/churches/university students (local and Mount Allison) visiting at various times.

Our Holocaust Memorial Program will take place on April 16 with **Mr. Phillip Riteman** as our keynote speaker. At this time we will also be giving prizes to one

student from each High School in the area who is studying the Holocaust in grade XI, and who writes the best essay on "The Holocaust and its significance to world democracy." The prize money was donated by **Mrs. Faye Kaufman** of Victoria, BC in memory of her late husband who was a WWII veteran and who received many awards for bravery.

Our Jewish Educational Outreach Kits are proving to be very popular and have been sent to Miramichi/Fredericton/Sackville, NB/St. John's, NF/Halifax/

Woodstock as well as in Saint John. Many cities requested more than one kit.

I was pleased to be able to show one of our kits at an AJC executive meeting where it received "rave" reviews.

Our main display will be "old weddings" which took place in Saint John. If any one of your readers was married in Saint John and would like to lend (give) photos/announcements etc., we would be happy to receive your treasures by April 15th.

Cont'd on page 17

A Good Announcement for the Mothers!

By Lee Lamdan

I am a living example of the success of Jewish mothers, feeding their kids with the importance of Pesach cleaning.

After 20 years of intensive brainwashing, even though my mother is too far away to inspect my room this year, I put up my sleeves, and together with the whole nation of Israel, take out the broom and mop and... off to work!

Just a second... before I actually get down on my knees and start scrubbing I would like to take this opportunity and share with you the events that have been happening in our congregation in Newfoundland for the last few months.

First things first... Chanukah! Even though Chanukah has long passed, the memory is still well and alive. The younger generation of our Hebrew school kids enjoyed a very happy party, organized and held with a lot of help from the older kids, who also put on a great play for the

entertainment of the entire congregation at a party held later that evening. For their great help, the teens enjoyed their own latke party that will not quickly be forgotten (by them, by me, nor by the whole neighborhood that smelled the smoke...). Also the university students, together with the young professionals joined together for candle lighting.

Between Chanukah and the next big event - Purim - we have been keeping that flame burning...

The young adults have met for a couple of Shabbat dinners and some enjoyable evenings together.

The Hebrew school has been going at full speed, and besides a little bit of Aleph-Beith we found enough time for an enjoyable Saturday night together, a traditional Tu-B'Shvat get together and some Pirkey-Avot.

Purim for the younger kids was enjoyable and colourful as Purim should be... costumes, hamantashen and many prizes

made a great Purim carnival (again, with a lot of help from the teens). The Megillah reading, even though shadowed by the terrible events in Israel, was followed by traditional Shalach-manot handed to all members of the congregation.

We had not quite rested from Purim, and **Yakov Feig** came to visit the island.

During Yakov's visit we enjoyed a lovely evening with our university students, followed by a very enjoyable Jewish identity program Yakov had prepared for the congregation. The following day we enjoyed a learning, yet fun game with the teenagers, and then let Yakov go for some programming in the west coast of Newfoundland.

Ever since, we have been working hard on the Yom Hashoah memorial service and of course... how could I forget?! Cleaning and preparing for Pesach.

So while I get to work and start cleaning (see, Mom...) may you all have a great and kosher Pesach and don't forget... it's only 4 cups of wine! ■

Newfoundland university honors two survivors of the Holocaust

by Joel Jacobson

reprinted from the Canadian Jewish News

It's a long way from a Polish shtetl to the stage of the auditorium at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

And 50 years ago, receiving an honorary degree from a Canadian university was farthest from the minds of two persecuted Jews from a war-torn but liberated Europe.

Recently, **Moishe Kantorowitz** and **Grunia Ferman** were conferred honorary degrees to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and, more importantly, the contribution each had made to Newfoundland and to Canada.

"They are special people who deserve to be honored," said **Ern Condon**, a guidance counselor at J.R. Smallwood Collegiate in Wabush, Western Labrador. Condon, who nominated Kantorowitz and Ferman, was friends with Grunia Ferman and her late husband **Lewis** for many years, watching the two immigrants reshape their lives after their arrival in Newfoundland in 1947.

"They were very caring people," said Condon. "Lewis had multiple languages and volunteered to translate for Russian and Polish sailors when they needed medical, legal and political assistance.

Grunia Ferman, who now lives in Toronto, said humbly that it will be a "happy and sad time. I feel my husband deserves this more than I." Yet she also participated in humanitarian work, helping Lewis tend the sick and injured seamen. "Lewis was the first in Canada to organize a memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising," said Ferman, who, with her husband, survived the war as Polish partisans and underground fighters.

"Every April he brought together clergy, students, university

professors, even [former member of parliament] **John Crosby** and [former Newfoundland premier] **Joey Smallwood**, to speak at these memorials."

Kantorowitz spent more than two years in Auschwitz, Mathausen and Gussin before being liberated in 1945. He is the sole survivor of his family, having lost 51 relatives, as well as friends and neighbors.

Arriving in Canada in 1948, he came to Newfoundland in 1956 and established a drygoods business. "I find this overwhelming," he said recently from Toronto, where he moved in 1989. "I'm just an ordinary fellow who tries to do his best to promote racial acceptance."

His best included 33 years of speech after speech to Newfoundland school and community groups about the Holocaust.

"The last words my mother said to me were, 'Should you survive, make your way to the United States and tell my brothers how we suffered and what we went through.' My mother's inspiration made me survive. I saw my uncles, told them the story and have told it thousands of times since."

He said memories constantly flood back. "The night of a speech at a school I don't feel so great. But it is a mission in life for me." He's also written 800 pages, in Yiddish, of his memoirs, a story his children tell him should be translated to English and printed.

During the convocation weekend, a Holocaust education seminar was held in St. John's co-sponsored by B'nai Brith of Canada and the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Association. Ferman and Kantorowitz spoke at the seminar, as did **Rochelle Wilner**, national education chair for B'nai Brith Canada. ■

News From Newfoundland

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Eat your hearts out, Central Canada! This has been one of the mildest driest winters on record for Newfoundland. Exactly two weeks of snow and lots of above-zero temperatures. Okay, the ski resorts are crying the blues, but our Hebrew teacher from Israel, **Lee Lamdan**, wonders what all the fuss about Newfoundland winters was about. Now she thinks that our previous teachers were exaggerating.

Lee, incidentally, has been very busy with every age group. She organized a Purim carnival for the smaller members of the Hebrew school, and a Purim spiel for the older ones. Unfortunately the play had to be postponed due to the horrible killings in Tel Aviv that day. However, we were overwhelmed by the excellent reading of the Megillah by a former leader of this community. **The Reverend Justin Fromm** and his wife have returned to St. John's for their retirement (remember the balmy weather I told you about). Rev. Fromm is a very learned man with an excellent voice that belies his advanced age. His rendition of the Megillah was so dramatic and exciting that everyone in the congregation burst into spontaneous applause. We look forward to his continued participation in our activities, health permitting. As usual, this service was led by **Ernie Mauskopf**. After the reading we all indulged in home-baked Hamantaschen and rugelach (Thank you, **Robin McGrath** and **Nadine Hoenig**).

On March 7th we welcomed **Yakov Feig**, AJC programmer, to our fair shores. He did programmes with the University students, the Hebrew school kids and the community at large. On Sunday night he flew to Corner Brook, where he met **the Marshalls** and **the Mintzs**. We hope that we will have further contact with the Western branch of the community despite the distance of ten hours [by car] that separates us.

As we feverishly clean, order and prepare for Pesach, you will be pleased to know that one Seder is already over. I was asked to attend a Protestant religious retreat held in St. Catherine's Convent and Renewal Centre in Grand Falls, Nfld. Last Tuesday I flew up with members of the Hindu and Moslem communities in order to give a presentation on the celebrations in our respective faiths. I wish to thank **Marcia Koven** for lending me one of her excellent kits on Life Cycles from the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in New Brunswick. Between bits of Klezmer music, Judeo-Spanish ballads and **Fran Avni's** "Latkes and Hamantaschen", they learned a little more about the meaning and flavour of our celebrations. That afternoon I joined the ladies in the convent kitchen in the preparation of a Seder meal for 35. If you could have seen the ladies making up Matzah balls and carrot kugel, you would have thought yourself in a Shul kitchen somewhere in Toronto or Montreal. By 5:30 everything was ready, from Haggadot to traditional food to Seder plates replete with Aviv matzoth (Thanks,

Mom and Dad). All the men donned Kippot and the Seder began. Unfortunately my pictures have not been developed yet, but the sight of white tablecloths, red wine, matzoth, charoset, matzoth, etc., and all those people earnestly reading the blessing was extremely moving. The resident Sisters and one of the Protestant participants took the leftover Seder plate ingredients for their own Seders in their respective churches.

This past week we had the pleasure of attending a lecture by **Professor Paul Barthrop** from Australia. As a guest of the History Department at Memorial, he was invited to lecture on the comparative immigration policies of Australia and Canada during the Holocaust. On Friday evening, the members of the Jewish community were invited to a reception in his honour at the home of **Professor Gerhard Bassler**, author of *Sanctuary Denied: Refugees from the Third Reich and Newfoundland Immigration Policy* (St. John's: Iser, 1992). We were pleased to welcome Professor Barthrop to Shabbat services the next morning.

Last but not least, **Dr. Messod Salama** will be representing the Jewish community at the opening of the House of Assembly following our recent provincial elections.

Now it is time to get down to the serious business of Passover. All of us here on the Rock wish you a happy and Kosher Pesach surrounded by friends and family. ■

From the Director's Chair

by Sheldon Cohen

In just three months the gates at Camp Kadimah will swing open for the 1996 season. As our enrollment grows, so does the spirit and excitement for a fun filled program, meeting of old and new friendships, and a longing to return to Camp.

Michael Soberman will begin the summer as Assistant Camp Director and coordinator of our CIT program, but will join our Kadimah Israel group two weeks into their program. This year we have 24 participants. Michael will join **Jon Cohen** and **Roz Allen** who will be assisting with Kadimah Israel.

Matthew Cohen will return as Program Director and **Penny Dankner** as Waterfront Director. Assisting Penny again will be **Anne Raskin** and a very capable and experienced waterfront staff. **Rob Matlow** and **Jason Lipkus** will head our tripping and scouting program and **Louis Wolfson** will run our boating and canoeing docks.

Michael Ostroff will return as Rosh Machar ably assisted

by **David Feingold** and **Jacob Medjuck**. **Brian (Boss Man) Indig** will return as Kochot section head. **Michael Rinzler** and **Jennifer Miller** will head our CIT Program and work with Michael Soberman before he leaves for Israel.

We want to welcome **Marty** and **Belarie Zatzman** back to Camp Kadimah. Marty will serve as Administrator and Belarie will coordinate our drama and arts and crafts program. The Zatzmans bring many years of experience and many innovative ideas with them.

Shayna Allen will also return to Camp as Sports Director. We are very fortunate to have Shayna back at Camp. Also returning is the "Truck" **Michael Druckman**. **Adrian Adler** will return as Giborim Section Head.

As you can see we have a dedicated staff who will work hard to ensure a safe, happy, Judaic Program for all.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Happy Passover. ■

Club Massada News

by Doreen Gordon

Despite the snowstorm on December 20th, Massada's Chanukah Luncheon Meeting at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue was a great success! The 45 members who braved the storm were greeted with beautifully decorated tables, the warmth of Chanukah Menorahs and a delicious luncheon.

Special guests included **Rabbi Pamela Hoffman** of the Shaar Shalom Congregation, **Cantor Stuart Friedman** and **President Ray Ginsberg** of the Beth Israel Synagogue, **Ms. Valerie White** of the Senior Citizens' Secretariat and staff of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Rabbi Pam made the blessing over the bread, Cantor Stuart lit candles on the Menorah and delightful musical renditions were presented by Cantor Friedman with solos by **Carol Ann Silverman** and **Shoshana Katz**. Valerie White brought greetings, books and suggestions regarding the needs of Seniors.

Shirley Burnstein had a beautiful pins made specifically for Club Massada members and **Beatrice Zemel** brought a lovely hand-knitted afghan that she generously created for Massada for a raffle-fund-raiser.

Special guests at the January meeting at Beth Israel were **Mr. Jerry Blumenthal**, a councilor for Halifax North End [and after amalgamation for the Halifax Regional Authority] and **Mrs. Mona Guillemette** of the Northwood Players.

Jerry presented a very interesting talk about Senior welfare in Halifax and what is being done to improve services to Seniors. Since there are 33,000 Seniors in Nova Scotia, each with their own concerns, he urged us to communicate our particular concerns via mail to the Seniors Council and he reminded us that we should definitely have a Senior's representative on the new Metro council.

Mona Guillemette, our second guest, read some of her wonderfully humorous poetry. This lady has a marvelous sense of humour and a clever way with words. Laughter rang throughout



Alderman Jerry Blumenthal addressing Club Massada meeting, January 1996. Seated left to right: Ella Morris, Secretary; Bessie Rinzler, President; Sara Yablon, Recording Secretary.

the room during the whole of her presentation!!

On the last Shabbat in January, Seniors and university students came together at Beth Israel Synagogue for a delicious traditional Sabbath meal catered by resident kosher caterer **Janet Casey** and daughter **Cathy**. Rounding out the evening was a joyous sing song led by Shirley Burnstein and **Yakov Feig**. Suffice it to say - an enjoyable time was had by all.

The highlight of the February Massada meeting at Shaar Shalom was the entertainment provided by the Northwood Players. These men and women are a great group: They arrived in great spirits, they filled the stage and more, they sang their hearts out and Club Massada members loved every minute of it! **Becky Schneiderman** was the lucky lady who won the raffle and got to keep the beautiful afghan.

On the third Sabbath in March, university students and Seniors were once again gathered together - this time at the Shaar Shalom, to share another luscious Shabbat meal. As students mixed with Seniors, a feeling of camaraderie developed. Several out of town students spoke of the happy atmosphere and the pleasure of being in Halifax. **Yakov Feig**, who is doing excellent work with the students, had encouraged **Rabbi Benji Jacobi** of Or Samayach in Toronto to make a return trip to Halifax to be guest speaker at this event: a pleasurable end to a lovely evening.

The guest speaker at Massada's March meeting was **Mr. Brian Vandervart**, recently appointed Director of the Senior Citizens' Secretariat for the Province of Nova Scotia. After distributing the most recent issue of "Program for Seniors" (which provides much useful information regarding the many possible necessities and requirements for seniors), Mr. Vandervart explained that, in his new position, he was committed to being a spokesman for the concerns of all Nova Scotia Seniors in addition to conveying to Seniors the views of government. Our guest, originally from Holland, then spoke about homes for special care in Toronto: firstly, about Baycrest Centre, the innovator built by Jewish people and latterly, a beautiful new special care home built by Dutch Canadians. Mr. Vandervart then fielded questions from the floor pertaining mostly to fees for Medicare and high costs of new medications on the market. ■



Line dancing class. Left to right, front row: Marta Marcus, Doreen Gordon, Ella Morris, Bette Ross. Back row: Barb Alberstat, Carol Williams, Ruth Garson, Instructor Diane Freeman, Shoshana Katz.

Senior update

by Shirley Burnstein

It's hard to believe that we are into Spring...

Could it be that we have been so busy that the winter just flew by? I think that's the answer for those of us who became involved in seniors' programs such as Line Dancing, Tai Chi and Club Massada.

The winter is over but our programs are continuing - so if you have just returned from the "Sunny South" or find it easier to get involved now - please do not hesitate to call me at the AJC office - 422-7491 or at home 429-4674 - and put your name on our telephone list. This way you will be informed of our activities and programs. Plans are already underway for a Spring Fashion Show for Seniors, a bus trip, etc. So become involved!

A big "thank you" to all who have attended classes, meetings, programs, helping at the AJC office, for picking-up members, those who have helped with the "treats" at our meetings - and mostly for the interest and support you've displayed.

A special thank you must be given to **Yakov Feig** for arranging intergenerational Shabbat dinners which proved to be most successful and enjoyable. We look forward to continuing this wonderful happening in the fall.

There is so much we can do to help make this time in our lives fuller and more active and doing these programs with friends is "the way to go!!" So come on- Let's go! ■

Passover Message from National President

by Goldie Hershon

As we prepare for Passover and the first seder, it is vital for us to remember that this "Festival of Freedom" is all about one of the paramount events in Jewish history: the Exodus of Jews from Egypt which led to the birth of the Jewish nation.

While the story of Passover dates back more than three thousand years, it is important that we never forget the escape of the Jewish people from treacherous conditions in Egypt. Some might not agree, but I believe that we are fortunate to be living in interesting times. The conditions which existed when King Pharaoh issued

the cruelest of laws towards Jews are fortunately long gone. We have a strong State of Israel and a devoted Diaspora leadership to thank for that. However, we must remember that it was only a few years ago that the gates of the former Soviet Union flew open and Jews there were permitted free emigration to Israel. The same can be said for Ethiopia and Syria.

In Israel, our brothers and sisters face great challenges. It is incumbent upon us in the Diaspora to support them by being a united community in the entire region. If we live as proud Jews today, it is no doubt due in very large part to what Israel has done for us. We owe a tremendous debt.

Domestically, we are working very hard towards the promotion of a united Canada. Incidents of racism and anti-Semitism continue to trouble us while the dossier dealing with the prosecution of Nazi war criminals has not achieved the necessary results at a time when both suspects and witnesses are getting older and even dying.

As you sit down at the seder table on Wednesday April 3, think about the past, concern yourself with the present and help us work toward a strong Jewish presence with its hallmark of justice and morality in Canada and around the world in the days, months and years to come. ■

David Silverberg Artist-in-Residence at Acadia University

reprinted from Acadia University flyer

Acadia University's creative community is enriched by the presence of Artist-in-Residence **David Silverberg**. An acclaimed artist/printmaker, Silverberg brings to his role a lifetime of creative exploration.

Silverberg was born in Montreal in 1936. By the age of seven he was already studying art under the tutelage of Group of Seven master **Dr. Arthur Lismer**, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. In 1957 he graduated Bachelor of Arts from McGill University. That same year, he studied etching and engraving with **William Hayter** at Atelier 17 in Paris, and was influenced by those around him including **Max Ernst**, **Marc Chagall**, and **Matta**. Silverberg soon started to develop a unique, personal style to produce beautiful engravings.

Not content with a single medium any more than a single subject, Silverberg also works in batik, ceramics, Japanese woodcut, and photography. Silverberg's interest and research into his heritage is evident in many individual engravings on Jewish themes including those featured in the folios *The Song of Songs*

and *The Psalms of David*. He has delved into stage design, creating sets for the DancEast production of *Nutcracker*.

Silverberg's passion for art and travel is legendary. He has voyaged around the world, visiting and/or living in almost 80 countries. His critically acclaimed work has been the subject of 175 solo exhibits in North America and abroad. In 1991 and 1992 Silverberg was invited by the Chinese government to travel, work, teach, and exhibit throughout China.

In 1984, Silverberg was appointed a member of the Royal Canadian Academy, and in 1987, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London, England.

Thousands of students have also benefited from Silverberg's expertise. For 32 years, he shared his insight and talents with Mount Allison University faculty and students. Silverberg joined Acadia University in the fall of 1995. He is pleased to offer members of the university community the opportunity to be exposed to the creative process - through public lectures and visits to his studio located on 11 Westwood Ave., Wolfville, Nova Scotia. ■

From Around

the Region



"What a Blast" Eric Goldberg and Andrew LeVine at "Boomerangs" Laser Tag Halifax, March 1996



L-R: Hedda Medjuck, Bassie Feldman, Larry Freeman, Rabbi Feldman shown here with Rabbi Wolf at a lecture on Jewish Mysticism, Halifax, February 1996



"Next Year in Jerusalem" Michael Litvack of Hebrew University of Jerusalem at Dalhousie University March 1996



UIA National Small Communities Coordinator Dov Harris presenting Mrs. Eileen LeVine with a special Operation Exodus Award honoring her father Mr. Joe Simon



"Greetings from the Rock" Community Program in St. John's L-R Ariel Salama, Miriam Noel, Ruffina Litvak, Elliot Noel, Lee Lamdan - WUJS Areva, Daniel Salama, Paulina Litvak



Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo Medical Services Tea Sydney N.S. November 1995. L-R: Inez Schwartz and Mary-Anne Cohen, Convenors, Dr. Andrew Lynk, Guest Speaker, Diana Schwartz, President.



Arthur May, President and Vice-Chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland (left) and Chancellor John Crosbie (right) recently conferred honorary degrees on Holocaust survivors and former Newfoundlanders Grunia Ferman and Moishe Kantorowitz to mark their contributions to Canada.



"Ready to March" 1996 March of the Living participants and chaperone. Ft: Tobi Nathanson, Emily Schroeder, Raie Leith. Bk: Jonathan Freeman, Keri-Lynn Calp, Elaine Zitner



"Educating the Masses" L-R Dor Danieli and Chemda Saghi, Israeli high school Youth Delegation in Moncton March 19, 1996



Mazel Tov! Getting married at Chutzpah Klezmer Party Purim Halifax March 2, 1996



Kids enjoying Magic Show at Purim Carnival, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax March 3, 1996



Mrs. Helen Jochelman and daughter Ann with Legion Party at Jewish Cemetery Moncton. Armistice Day 1995

A Maritimer's Mission 3000 Diary: part I

by Leo Weniger

The following is an abridged diary with impressions of my trip to Israel with 1100 Canadians including four people from the Maritimes, **Perry Chippin** (Halifax), **Bruce Gorber** (Moncton), **Marcia Urdang** (Halifax), and myself.

Monday/Tuesday, February 19-20: 8:55 a.m. flight to Montreal via Toronto. Depart Mirabel at 2:55 p.m. Flight was long which I spent watching movies, eating meals and reading my Tourist Guides of Israel which I got from Halifax Public Library, and talking to my seat mates, a nice couple from Toronto. Didn't sleep at all. Was fascinated by the plane's computer video system which constantly updates our location and flight time schedule. An hour before landing a line of men in t'fillin made its way to the back of the plane for morning services. Arrived at Ben Gurion Airport 7:30 a.m. Israel time (16 hours after leaving Halifax) and after being greeted by UIA representatives and going through customs, and finding our bus, we went directly to Atlit, a recreated detention camp for people who arrived illegally (according to the British) in Israel in the 1940s. I can imagine the feelings of the detainees who escaped Europe and the Holocaust only to be taken to these barracks which resembled what they left. After this visit we got on bus 25 which was our bus for the rest of the trip. Our next stop was the old city of Acco the subterranean city built in the Ottoman Turkish period. On our way there we passed a parade of Arab teens celebrating the end of the fast of Ramadan. Next was the old city of Tzfat, which was the centre for the development of the Kabbalah and mysticism. We walked through town and visited ancient synagogues including the beautiful small synagogue of Rabbi Abyhav where we given a tour and blessed by the caretaker. We drove to Ayelet HaShachar, a kibbutz with guest house accommodation. This is where I met my roommate, **Henry Woolf**, a drama professor from Saskatoon. After supper at the kibbutz it was off to Metulla for the opening ceremony at Canada Centre, a beautiful athletic complex housing the first skating rink in Israel, where we were entertained by local skaters and **Misha Shmerkin**, the first Israeli international

skater. Later, we went back to the kibbutz, and after writing postcards I finally got to bed 37 hours after my last sleep.

Wednesday: Wake-up call at 6:30 a.m., typical of the rest of the trip. We went to the northernmost part of Israel, Lebanon on one side, Syria on another. We saw snow covered Mt. Hermon (they ski there!) and the Golan Heights and visited a former Syrian army position and memorial to a battle. I picked up a spent Syrian rifle shell. We drove by Kiryat Shmona, where the night before a terrorist glider with explosives blew up in mid air. After lunch in Ein Gev on the Sea of Galilee (we had St. Peter's fish) we visited the ruins of Beit Shean, an excavation of a city from the Roman Byzantine Period, including an amphitheatre. We visited a building in the Bikura area, which was funded by one of our tour members from Calgary to serve two Moshavs. Originally built as a day care centre it was being used for Seniors as there was a greater need. As everywhere we visited we were treated royally with food and refreshment. We were now on our way to Jerusalem, our base for three nights, and went immediately to Mount Scopus where we made a Shehecheyanu and had a beautiful view of the city with its white Jerusalem stone buildings. After settling in at the King Solomon Hotel the rest of the evening was free and I went with friends for supper and a visit to the Ben Yehuda Street area.

Thursday: After a beautiful breakfast buffet at 6:30 a.m. we toured Jerusalem. Our first stop was Mevasserot Zion Absorption Centre, where newly arrived Olim first go. We visited a day care centre where the children were learning about Purim and met a lady, originally from the U.S. who spoke about the difficulties in absorbing a lot of people into the country in a short time. She was very eloquent. Next we went to Mount Herzl but weren't allowed near the late **Yitzhak Rabin** z'l' grave since there was construction going on. We did however leave flowers at the gate. We next went to the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery (how young some of the soldiers were). We next went to Yad Vashem and to the Children's Memorial, the Memorial Flame, Polish Sculpture, Memorial Museum, the new Valley of the Jewish Communities and the area honouring the Righteous Gentiles. This

was a very moving day! That evening was at Binyaneh Ha'Umah Convention Centre for dinner and entertainment in the presence of **Prime Minister Peres** and **Mayor Olmert** of Jerusalem. Security was unbelievable. It took two hours of sitting on a bus and standing in line to get through. After a buffet dinner the whole mission group (the event and the one at Metulla were the only ones where we were together) was taken to a theatre to be addressed briefly by the Prime Minister and Mayor and we were entertained by talented young people from all over Israel (classical music, modern Israeli songs, colourful dances). I was especially pleased to see a performance from Or Yehuda, our twin community. Interesting that it was Russian-style dancing in beautiful costumes (not what I expected, but many of their new residents are from Russia). This was a wonderful evening (aside from the security). I picked up some things at a 24 hour Kosher grocery store.

Friday: We left at 8:00 to visit Efrat, a modern community on the West Bank where we met **Bob Lang**, an American who moved to Israel 20 years ago and is an activist for not giving back the West Bank. It was interesting hearing his views. Next we went to Mazkeret Butia, the twin community of Calgary and met town leaders at the Community Centre funded by Calgarians. They treated us to a sumptuous meal (at one point we were wondering what was for dessert, and then the main courses started coming) and informed us that they had citizens from 69 different countries. We next went to Ben Gurion Airport to meet a plane of Olim from Tashkent- over 600 Canadians meeting the plane with joy and music. Many Canadians felt that this was the most uplifting part of their trip, but I felt a little sad for these people who were obviously tired, bewildered and poor, who had just left their homes and lives behind. To me this should have been a more private moment. Back to Jerusalem to prepare for Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel (Western Wall). I left notes in the Wall and was amazed at the number of services going on there simultaneously. I joined a service with Montrealers led by a young Cantor. It turned out that he lived on a kibbutz and was having a tryout for a Montreal synagogue. We had Shabbat dinner at the

Sheraton with the Toronto group (600 people) and were led in song throughout dinner by former members of the IDF (army) choir. This was a beautiful evening.

Saturday: I went to services at the beautiful Great Synagogue. Services started at 8:00 a.m. and finished by 10:30. I was met at the door and when I told the gentleman I was from Halifax he asked if I knew **Rabbi Grafstein** (small world). The service was totally led by the Cantor (their choir was singing in London), there were no page announcements, no sermon, the Haftorah was chanted from a school and the Cohanin gave the Priest Blessing, all things that are different from Canada. I met **Devorah** and **Chana**

Henna Grafstein at my hotel that afternoon and we joined a walking tour of the Old City until we left to have tea at their apartment. After Shabbat 25 people from our bus had dinner at a Mediterranean style kosher restaurant near the Jerusalem market. Devorah and Chana Henna joined us there later for a wonderful meal of various appetizers, salads and skewered meats. We shopped on Ben Yehuda Street in order to get to the hotel in time to pack for next day's early departure south. Devorah sends regards to her friend in Halifax.

I'll continue this diary in the next *Shalom*, but before I leave, I'll give you some impressions so far.

It's amazing how well we were treated.

We had an excellent guide, **Bruce**, and driver **Moshe**. The tour company, Eshet, was very helpful in every way (I have a story in next issue). The people on our bus (mostly from Western Canada - Calgary, Vancouver, Saskatchewan, Victoria- and St. Catherines, Ottawa, Maritimes) were wonderful (friendly, helpful). I was constantly amazed at the variety of landscape and terrain (I took too many landscape pictures) and the amount of history that has been uncovered. Last but not least was the incredible number of different toilet flush mechanisms (technology?).

So far the trip has been great. I'll tell you more next time. ■

JWV of Canada Atlantic Post #4 update

by Post Commander Gar Meltzer

I would like to wish our membership a healthy and happy Passover.

Regrettably I have to report that **Dr. Irving Perlin** had to resign as Commander of Halifax area. May he be well and enjoy his retirement.

I am happy to report that **Dr. Irwin Mendleson** has accepted to be commander of Halifax area of the Jewish War Veterans of

Canada. **Nardy (Bernard) Nathanson** has accepted to be his adjutant.

Please gather behind these two gentlemen as I and our Toronto office will. We are on top of anti-Semitism - active and watchful for you and yours.

Looking forward to Commander of Canada, **Mr. Sam Pasternack's** visit to Halifax this summer. Should be quite an event. All members of Atlantic Canada will be invited. ■

JNF Appointment

The Jewish National Fund is pleased to announce that **Myrna Yazer** has assumed the position of President of the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Myrna, a nurse with almost thirty years of experience, is currently Research assistant and Project Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Cancer Center. Not only is she an accom-

plished and highly regarded professional, but she has established herself in the Jewish Community as one of its outstanding leaders.

Since 1993, Myrna has been Regional Chair of Hadassah-Wizo, has served as president of Halifax Hadassah-Wizo, and has sat on the National Executive of Hadassah-Wizo Canada since 1984. She has chaired the Trade Show of the Grace Maternity Hospital, been a member of the Camp Kadimah General Committee and has chaired a committee for Camp's 50th reunion. As well, Myrna has been an active member holding key leadership positions with the Sisterhood of Beth Israel Synagogue.

With her abundant energy and devotion, Myrna along with her husband, **Dr. Harold Yazer**, have brought up four special children, **Murray, Joanne, Joseph, and Erika**.

In addition, we are most pleased to welcome back as the JNF Coordinator of the Atlantic Provinces region, **Christina MacNeil**. Christina, who for the past thirteen years has been with the Atlantic Jewish Council, brings with her a wealth of skills as well as a commitment to the activities of our community.

We are most certain that with these two women at the helm, along with our regional Chairperson, **Irwin Lampert**, the Executive Director **Mark Mendelson**, and the various Chairs in our region, the Jewish National Fund will continue to hold a vital and vibrant presence in the Halifax and Atlantic Provinces region raising money for their important work with the land, trees, and water in Israel. ■



Myrna Yazer, president of JNF Halifax/Dartmouth and Mark Mendelson (right), Executive Director Eastern Region JNF, present Victor Goldberg with a certificate of appreciation. Victor allowed JNF volunteers to use his law offices during the very successful Tu Bi'Shevat Tree-a-thon on Sunday, February 18th. A special and heartfelt thanks to Victor Goldberg!

Student leadership in Israel

by Shayna Allen

At 9:15 on the morning of December 27, 1995, I boarded Air Nova at Sydney, Nova Scotia's airport to begin an unforgettable journey. I arrived in Montreal at 11:17 to wait out the day to meet half of the Canadian contingent that I was to travel with for the next two weeks. By 7:30 that night I met seven students who were soon to become my traveling companions, my educators, but most importantly, my friends. Together we spent the next two hours on the floor of the airport getting to know one another as we waited for the "delayed" El Al to allow us to board the plane. Finally, we were off to Israel to take part in the Network Leadership Development Seminar (LDS).

Ten hours later we landed at the Ben Gurion Airport in sunny Israel. Ahhhh! What a relief to finally be here! We were met by our Israeli chaperone, **Avigail Bercovici**, who was soon to become one of the gang. We loaded our luggage onto the bus and headed for the first of many accommodations where we were also going to meet the other six participants. Within minutes of arriving, all fourteen of us were sharing our El Al experiences and the sense of everlasting friendships was in the air.

O.K. Reality check. I am in Israel with

a group of people I don't know. I can't speak a word of Hebrew. [Almost all of the group is fluent in Hebrew and they are speaking it to each other]. My knowledge of Israel and Judaism is not up to speed. [I feel like the whole group knows everything there is to know about Judaism and Israel]. What am I doing here? I must have been *meshuga* to come on this trip. How could I do this to myself? These were all my initial feelings that I could not get over until I called Canada and spoke to Mom and Dad. "Give it a try honey." "Get in touch with cousin so-and-so." "You'll be OK!" Well, from past experiences, Mom and Dad have always known best so I gave it a try. Once again, they were right!

The next morning, after a traditional Israeli breakfast consisting of a cucumber, tomato, and egg, we boarded the bus to tour Jerusalem's Neighborhoods. This is where everything started to fit and I knew that I had made the right decision to take part in an experience of a lifetime. I learned a lot that day about myself, my religion, and other people. This was just the beginning of many new things that I was about to experience.

That evening we celebrated Shabbat at The Kotel. We walked everywhere we had to go. We walked through Mea Shearim. We walked to our evening program coordinated by **Joey Feltsin**, originally from

Toronto. We walked back to our hotel. This was something that I am definitely not used to. I liked it a lot. We woke the next morning and watched the children playing in the streets. It was breathtaking to be in beautiful Israel experiencing all of this.

That afternoon the group was divided up and placed with families for lunch. My group was hosted by **Shlomo** and **Tobi Greenwald**, originally from New York. They were very hospitable and the food was fabulous. After lunch, we joined again with the group to begin our program on leadership.

This day was very special for me because I never really observed Shabbat in this way before. I learned a lot that day and I really appreciated having the opportunity to share in such a special tradition.

The next five days of our trip proved to be very fun, exciting, intense, educational, and long. Some of the programs that we participated in and learned about included leadership programming at Sde Boker, the project Genesis program in Beer Sheva, World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) Arad, a Leadership and Activism Seminar in Jerusalem, Israeli Society through Pop Music, and the Peace Process — tour and discussion. These activities were very educational and generated a lot of discussion within our group.

Some of the highlights of the trip, most of which were first experiences for me, included the Kabbalat Shabbat, rappelling at Nahal Kumeran, camel riding, spending the night in a Bedouin tent, being buzzed by three F-16's, climbing Masada, visiting Mount Hertzal, and partying with the group at an Israeli Folk Club in Knaan. These events allowed the group to let loose and have fun, share our innermost feelings, and most of all become very close friends.

On January 4, 1996, I said good-bye to the group. We all went our separate ways for our free weekend. I spent one night in Rohovot and two nights in Holon with **Ben** (originally from my hometown) and **Bilah Bernick**. On January 8, 1996, I boarded El Al to return to Canada because of school obligations. The rest of the group met up again to take part in the WUJS Conference. From all I have heard,

Cont'd on page 21

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada is a non-profit medical research foundation dedicated to finding a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), are chronic, painful inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract for which the cause and cure is as yet unknown.

Our main objective is to raise funds to support medical research to find the cause and cure for these chronic illnesses which affect over 250,000 Canadians, including 9,000 Nova Scotians, 20 to 30 percent of whom are children or teenagers. The Foundation also aims to provide current IBD information for people with this disease and their families, health professional and the general public.

With the highest incidence of IBD in Canada centered in Nova Scotia, we rely heavily on our volunteers for support. We are looking for interested people to either sit on an advisory council board or to help organize special events. If you have previous board experience and you enjoy community involvement, we would appreciate your help! This is not a time consuming volunteer position, we understand that most of you are very busy.

If you are interested in volunteering, the CCFC would greatly appreciate your help!

Thank you for taking the time to consider how you can help the CCFC move closer and closer to FINDING THE CURE! Please call (902) 422-8137 for further information. ■

Continuity ~ a Look Back to the Future

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman,
Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

The Seder ceremony is all about transmission. Much emphasis is placed on reaching children even at a tender age. Our Sages instruct us to start early so that even toddlers will remain awake for the duration of the Seder. For children attending Hebrew School we offer a leadership role in the proceedings. And for the mature teenagers we engage in the annual ritual of identifying and updating the family's "Who's Who," using the narrative of the "Four sons." Yet in days gone by the concern and program for transmitting values and commitment was a full time occupation, one couldn't expect much from children unless their own commitment to Judaism was thorough, comprehensive and binding. When a family encountered a dichotomy they knew where the breach occurred, they didn't need a mantra to explore its origin.

It is only recently that we added sophistication to the debate and sanitized the heart wrenching issue by adding some pizzazz in the form of a 'buzz' word. Today the key word in leadership dialogue across North America, is "continuity." Countless studies have been commissioned to extrapolate trends in Jewish life and how things will look when we reset our computers in the year two thousand. Needless to say, the tomes of research data we assembled, provided the information we knew, rampant intermarriage, (Torah) ignorance, and indifference "may be hazardous to our spiritual health." Regrettably the remedies offered provided 'band-aid' solutions and little comfort for issues of such importance. In fact to start exploring alternate answers is nothing less than an attempt to "re-invent the wheel."

Without being offensive and in the spirit of honesty it would be fair to view the current debate as a cowardly acknowledgment that the current state of Jewish life is fine. Our concern is restricted to 'continuity', we are looking for assurance that the status-quo will enjoy a long shelf life.

This brings to mind the story told about a father who in desperation went to see a saintly Rabbi. "Rebbe," he intoned, "I cannot get my son to take his Cheder studies seriously." "Don't worry," the rebbe responded, "he will grow up to be just like his father." Seeing the puzzled look of the father, the Rebbe continued. "What do you do to encourage your son to study?" "Rebbe I speak to him constantly about the importance of learning." "Indeed" replied the Rebbe, "and rest assured that your son will do the same, instead of setting a living example, he too will talk endlessly to his children that they should study!"

Indeed if our concern is restricted to maintenance, then perhaps there is no need for alarm. Children of families that are committed to Jewish education in spite of the cost, will most probably be inculcated to likewise make sacrifice for education. In homes where Kosher is observed, the fundamentals are in place that they too will maintain the laws of Kashrut. Surely a home where Shabbos candles usher in a weekly sense of tranquillity,

has a snowball effect on the inhabitants. Regrettably the flip-side has corresponding results as well and that's reason for alarm.

Having just celebrated Purim we can still glean some point of reference from the Megillah and take our cue from Mordechai and Esther. When they learned of Haman's decree the Megillah notes, "*and Mordechai knew*," commentaries note that Mordechai knew that the terrible calamity was the result of neglect. So too, Esther asked "*ma zeh v'al ma zeh?*" is it on account of "*zeh - this*," an inference to lack of prayer in which the Jews excelled after crossing through the Red Sea, when they proclaimed "*This is my G-d*." Or is it due to a deficiency in Torah scholarship alluded to in the second "*zeh*." Esther as the queen and Mordechai as a high ranking official, did not allow their prestigious positions to cloud their vision. Indeed it was Esther who declared the three day fast, dedicated to prayer and introspection. So too Mordechai gathered twenty-two thousand youngsters and engaged in Torah studies. They concentrated their efforts to reinforce *linkage* to G-d, through a dual agenda.

1) Foster Jewish education and thereby usher in a spirit of holiness to a dismal surrounding.

2) Engage in prayer and consequently rise above the callousness of society.

They knew that in order to safeguard the future, the Jewish people should take a good look back! In the words of a great man, "We cannot have a sound future unless the past is very much present."

The festival of Pesach reminds us that this commitment to *Torah* and *Tefilah* cannot be left merely to educators and Rabbis. If we expect our children to maintain a strong sense of tradition, there must be a genuine sacrifice at the Alter of the dining room table. Living Judaism needs time (Shabbat) and space (the home) to breed. So let's resolve to continue the Seder all year long, every Shabbat!

Best wishes for a kosher and enjoyable Pesach! ■

Saint John Museum

Cont'd from page 7

Our Art Show this year will feature a display and sale by the world renowned print maker **David Silverberg** (formerly of Mt. Allison and now of Acadia University). The show will open on June 30th and will remain up until Labour Day.

We will be open for the New Season from May 27th and will remain open until September 27th.

We invite everyone from the Atlantic provinces to visit during the summer. Our student docents will be delighted to give you a tour.

Our hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and also during July and August, Sunday from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free and donations are accepted.

Passover greetings to all *Shalom* readers. ■

Racism: How Jews Fight It

by Rabbi David Ellis

I was called yesterday to be a participant at a local school on the issue of racism. As I prepared for the session, I thought: We are obviously opposed to racism and have as much an interest as anyone in eliminating it. The question is, how do we go about it?

A common approach, as I have experienced it in Canada, is to take a multicultural position vis-à-vis the various ethnic groups. We support the Sikhs on the argument over headress with the Canadian Legion; they'll support us on issues of the Holocaust and Israel. We'll give a session on the various artifacts of the Jewish holidays; the Micmacs will present their ceremonies.

Such mutual respect is commendable and effective—to a point. Its weakness is that, however tolerant the general society may be, racism and intolerance will still loom somewhere in society. We say in the Pesach Haggadah: *B'chol dor vador*—in every generation there is someone—Pharaoh, Haman, Titus, Hitler, Saddam Hussein—ready to annihilate us.

There will be announcements in this issue of this magazine of the programs for Holocaust Awareness, which occur shortly after Passover each year. They have been well-attended. Politicians and other civic leaders will make their appearances at them. The assumption is that if people saw the horrors of what happened during the Holocaust, they would immediately act to stop genocide wherever it happened.

But this has not been the case. Several years ago, while the Holocaust museum in Washington was opening to much fanfare and celebration, the U.S. Congress was fiddling while the former Yugoslavia

burned with ethnic massacres. The slaughter in Rwanda, which was, relatively speaking, in numbers and rapidity very near to our tragedy in Europe, and yet Quebec and other issues gradually won the day. Recently, there has been a plea from the Tibetan leader in exile for the Western countries to exert pressure on the Chinese government to redress wrongs done to his people. But, if you look in your local store where most of our articles come from nowadays, you will see that it is "not in our national interest" to rock the boat over an ethnic issue.

It may be that the West may pay eventually for such short-sighted values; Bosnia could still lead to a World War III, as it did to World War I. But what about us Jews? What can we do in the midst of these insurmountable struggles to make our message known?

My experience has shown that the answer is—to be Jews. Sometimes, that will mean taking on racism directly. But more often it will be leading an informed lifestyle, displaying what has been our record and tradition in history.

When we speak about our record, we must note that we are the chosen people. Oh, but rabbi, that is not politically correct. Other cultures have their rights too, and we're certainly not perfect. You're being a racist, a jingoist.

No, I'm just being a realist. Our history is simply not comparable to that of other ethnic minorities. We have a continuous history going back nearly 4000 years. We have used the same Hebrew language over that time period. We have been in the midst of all the major struggles of history. We have returned to our homeland and built up a thriving society, one which has recently absorbed half a mil-

lion immigrants from the former Soviet Union. We have had scholars such as Maimonides, whose work in several fields—philosophy, law, medicine—made a major contribution to knowledge.

The Jew is the one who can say, in the words of the **Hank Snow** song, "I've been everywhere, man." We have seen it all, if we have become learned and knowledgeable about what we have done, and thus we are in a position to be a guidelight to other groups seeking their place in the world.

It is not I who am saying this; others are saying it to me. Just this week, the Atlantic Jewish Council arranged for two Israeli teenagers to visit high schools in Moncton. Their presentations were enormously well-received. Within half an hour of concluding them, the local director of MAGMA, who had attended the sessions, was on the phone to me. He told me that he had just returned from Cuba, but that he now sees the place he should have gone was to Israel. He asked to obtain the video the students showed for his collection.

This year, I have had dozens of requests for school presentations and tours of the synagogue. Some are now repeat engagements. It may be a church looking for its Jewish background, a history class learning about the Jewish role in civilization, or simply ordinary persons interested in the story they have heard about but do not know in detail.

As we come to tell and exemplify this story of ours teaches, the world will see that it is one which they must come to know as well. We are the "race" which will bring an end to racism—"Through you, all the families will be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)■

At the Beautiful Seder Table

by Leah Herskowitz
submitted by Rabbi Grafstein

Young Dr. Milanewski came to the small town by the river when Dr. Polanski died. It did not take long before he was well liked by the townspeople - both for his care and devotion to his patients.

Was Dr. Milanewski a gentile, like his predecessor? Or was

he a Jew, like most of the townspeople? Had the people been questioned, no one could have answered. He never went to shul, but neither did he go to church. Outside of his medical practice he came into very little social contact with anyone, and no one dared to ask him this personal question.

Once, Yossel Milchiger, the dairyman, caused a major sensation by announcing his "discovery" that Dr. Milanewski was indeed Jewish. How did he know this? He saw that the doctor

understood Yiddish. Ha! Everyone laughed at Yossel. That didn't prove anything! Many non-Jews who worked with Jewish people understood some Yiddish! So the question still remained unanswered. Berel Shmitt, a bold and simple fellow, could not contain his curiosity, and he asked him, when Dr. Milanewski was binding his sprained ankle, "Is the doctor a Jew?"

Dr. Milanewski became very angry. "Is that your business? I did not come here to be president of the community! I only came here to be your doctor. Is that clear?"

This reply also caused speculation. Some said this proved he was a gentile. Others said this showed that he was a Jew from an assimilated family, who wanted to deny his Jewishness. So the people did not know until...

The reason the question had aroused the wrath of Dr. Milanewski was that he truthfully did not know the answer. Many times, he had asked himself the same question. He simply did not know what he was.

He did know that he was descended from Jews. But he had not even known that until that terrible day at Leipzig University, when there had been a sudden students' uprising against the Jewish students.

That day, as he had come onto campus he heard voices shouting, "Jew! Get out of here!" He did not know to whom they were referring, until a rock hitting his head made it clear to him that they meant him.

When he recovered from the attack, he discussed the matter with his father, who was a lawyer and a high government official. "Yes, it is true. We come from Jewish ancestors. I never told this to you because I consider it unimportant."

Young Milanewski argued, "Father, you say I am descended from Jews - but I am not a Jew. But I am also not a gentile. So what am I?"

"You are a person. That should be enough for you," replied his father.

Young Milanewski accepted his father's answer. He did not give the matter too much thought, for he was too busy with his studies at medical school. He was an excellent student. His professors liked him and foretold a shining future for him in the medical field.

But from time to time, especially since he had accepted the position in this small Jewish town, the question would arise in his mind and haunt him. His father's answer was not enough. A voice in his heart told him that he must choose a world in which to belong. He thought to himself, "The Jewish life is so difficult, so lonely and full of hardships - I don't see how the Jews survive it. Although it is not proper to deny one's religion, I know that I will have to find my place in the non-Jewish world."

And that was Dr. Milanewski's decision, for a while. Around Purim time, the rabbi's wife became very ill. The doctor worked very hard to cure her. He came to see her twice a day and spent many hours at her bedside, observing the effects of his medications, and trying various remedies.

Finally, one day, Dr. Milanewski announced that the patient had successfully passed the crisis and would recover. The family was overjoyed to hear the good news. The rabbi said, "Blessed is the One above for His goodness."

And to Dr. Milanewski, he said, "You are a good messenger.

May G-d repay you for your work from His open hand."

The doctor had to continue his daily visits to the rabbi's home to oversee the slow but steady recovery of the patient. He actually enjoyed these calls, as he liked being in the company of the rabbi, and hearing his words of wisdom which made a deep impression on him. He found pleasure in the happy atmosphere of the house, with the children busy at their studies, and at play.

He enjoyed seeing the bustling preparations going on for a major holiday. He was charmed by ten-year-old Yankel, swaying in study over a Gemara that was almost as big as he was. Dr. Milanewski thought to himself, "I really should pay the rabbi for my visits here. The atmosphere delights my heart."

Erev Pesach (the day before Pesach), one of the children came to the doctor's office to inquire whether or not the rebbitzin (rabbi's wife) would be allowed to sit at the table with the family at the Seder.

"When is the Seder?" inquired the doctor.

"Tonight," the child replied hopefully.

"Good. I will come to examine your mother this afternoon. I hope she will be strong enough to leave her bed."

Dr. Milanewski had a busy afternoon, and by the time he came to the rabbi's house, it was already night. The Seder table was beautifully set with a white cloth, gleaming glassware, and shining silver candlesticks and goblets. Everyone was dressed in holiday clothes, their shining happy faces reflecting the joy of Yom Tov. The family was waiting for the rabbi to come home from shul. The doctor examined his patient, and to everyone's delight, he found her fit to join the Seder.

The rabbi returned home, but Dr. Milanewski stood there, entranced by the scene. He gazed at the big chair covered with tapestry; the hessa-bet - the kingly throne upon which the rabbi would recline during the Seder. He reflected and wondered - where had he seen this before? As he searched through the deep recesses of his mind, he suddenly remembered a picture. He had been a young child of about four, and his parents had taken him to their grandfather's home for the Seder. There he had seen a similar hessa-bet. Oh the distant memories!

"Would Dr. Milanewski care to join us at our Seder?" asked the host, seeing his yearning face.

"With the greatest of pleasure, Rabbi."

Dr. Milanewski understood very little of the Haggadah. But he did understand that he was in the presence of peace, spiritual heights, happiness, and holiness. He saw faith in the future.

He thought to himself, "My father said it is enough to be just a person without religion. But what did he consider a person? Just a living being? Another kind of animal? A real person is one who observes the Torah as this beautiful family does."

At the intermission of the Haggadah, when it was time to "wash" to eat the matzah, Dr. Milanewski asked permission to say a few words.

"I was once asked if I was a Jew. Until today, I myself did not know. Now I have found the answer. Yes, I am a Jew, or better said, I want to live as a Jew, with the help of G-d."

"Amen," said the rabbi.

As Dr. Milanewski wiped the tears from his eyes, he said to the rabbi's wife, "I came to heal you. But through you, I have been healed." ■



Jewish Men's Club of Halifax
and
Atlantic Jewish Council
Present



THE THREE CANTORS CONCERT II

*In aid of the Metro Jewish Family Services Fund
An evening of Jewish and Classical Music Featuring Cantors:*



Stuart Friedman



Moshe Weiss



Yaakov Motzen

Piano accompaniment by **Stephen Glass**

Date: Monday, May 6, 1996 (Lag Ba'Omer)
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Beth Israel Synagogue, 1480 Oxford Street
Coffee Reception to follow

Admission: \$12.00 Adults / \$10.00 Seniors and Students
Patron \$108 +, Sponsors \$54+, Donor \$36+, Friend \$18+
(Tax receipt for portion above regular admission)

Tickets are available at the AJC office, Lord Nelson Hotel #305 - 1515 South Park Street, Halifax
Tel: 422-7491. Please make cheques payable to "AJC Charities - Family Services Fund."

Special hotel rate at Lord Nelson Hotel
(South Park and Spring Garden) \$60.00 + Tax (single or double)
for May 3-6, 1996. Call (902) 423-6331 and mention:
Three Cantors Concert II

 **airNova**
AIR CANADA

The Three Cantors Concert II

by Leo Weniger

After the success of last year's concert, the Jewish Men's Club of Halifax and the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) will be presenting the Three Cantors Concert II at Beth Israel Synagogue on Monday, May 6th, 1996 - Lag Ba'Omer, at 7:30 p.m. This will be followed by a reception in the Youth Lounge sponsored by the AJC. All net proceeds will go to the Metro Jewish Family Services Fund which gives emergency funds to needy Jewish families and individuals in the area.

How will this year's concert be better than last year's excellent concert? Our **Cantor Stuart Friedman** will have a larger part in the concert. **Cantor Yaakov Motzen** is acknowledged to be one of the top Cantors in Montreal, has given concerts around the world and has released over a dozen recordings of Cantorial and Hassidic Music. Some of our younger people will remember him as Cantor on one of the last two Marches of the Living. **Cantor Moshe Weiss** is Cantor of a synagogue in the Queens area of New York City and has studied with well known Cantors and participated in concerts extensively.

We are fortunate to have **Stephen Glass** of Montreal as our accompanist. He specializes in Jewish music and has an excellent reputation as accompanist, arranger, composer, conductor, teacher and lecturer. He has been conducting Jewish choirs and accompanying Cantors since the age of 16.

To properly present such excellent talent you need a good sound system. This year there will be a professional sound system to bring out the best from our Cantors and accompanist. How will the performance be different? There will be something for everyone. For the purists among you, the program will show

more of the "Chazznut" skills demanded of Cantors. There will be a section showing the Cantors' skills in the area of Classical singing similar to what the "Three Tenors" present in their concert and the Cantors will present Yiddish and Hebrew favourites for our audience with a tie in to the Lag Ba'Omer theme.

Tickets at reasonable prices are available at the Halifax synagogues and AJC offices. Contribution tickets, with donation to the Metro Family Services Fund giving you a partial tax receipt, are also available. For people from out of town a special hotel rate is available. Information about prices and accommodations is available on the poster and elsewhere in this edition of *Shalom*. If you wish to place an ad or greetings in the Concert Programme, please call Gali Brock at 425-2954.

Don't miss the Jewish Music event of the year! A great Pass-over gift! ■

Student in Israel

Cont'd from page 16
it was amazing.

I really enjoyed my time in Israel. The group was very diverse and everyone had something to offer in which everyone could learn from. Having Network Canada provide opportunities such as this one allows for students such as myself to learn about Jewish student programs across the country. This organization, along with the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student Federation plays a crucial role in keeping Canadian Jewish students included and informed about current issues that concern each and everyone of us. I thank them for choosing me to participate in such a program. ■

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HUGH SMILESTONE,
B. Comm., CGA

Holocaust Remembrance Update

by Larry Riteman
Regional chair

While reviewing my records over the past week I was surprised by the fact that my last report in the *Shalom* was for the summer edition of 1993. As it is now the spring edition of 1996 it is a good opportunity to assess what has been achieved as AJC's Holocaust Remembrance Chairman. I must express a guarded optimism; however, our progress has been more like a cha-cha dance than a straight forward progression- yes one step forward one step back and shuffle side shuffle side. There is plenty fancy foot work to meeting our objectives! Of course when engaging in social actions, the quality and commitment of the society determines how well these actions are implemented. In the case of the Jewish community the caliber of commitment and understanding of purpose is excellent. This has become evident with both Yom HaShoah and the Dignity Day commemoration.

The first issue to be raised is what is the status of Holocaust education in our provincial school system. In spring '93, I had mentioned a questionnaire that I had circulated, with the help of the province's department of education, to all the school districts. I had reported my frustration at the small response, however, consideration was given to those who did participate and we proceeded with the report. The report worked strictly within the terms of what could be logically demonstrated and was vetted by professionals with the required expertise. In January 1994 the report was received at the Ministry of Education. Fifteen months later the education department put into motion a staff and budget to introduce a program that would integrate Holocaust education into the curriculum. In March and April of 1995 AJC representatives participated in a focus committee with provincial officials. The purpose of these meetings was to define: Title, Purpose, Needs, Testable Results, Broad Themes; and to gazette for a Teacher's Guide and Resource Kit. **Dr. Franklin Bialystok** of Toronto has been given the tender to produce this kit, and

five school classrooms (in rural and urban settings) are to participate in a test pilot assessment in 1996 before the final kits are circulated to the districts.

For us our remembrance is on Yom HaShoah, a time for our Jewish community to commemorate and learn the several poignant lessons of this catastrophe. In 1994 our April 7th service went with the theme of the Hungarian deportations. Our guest speaker was **Mr. Max Eisen** a survivor and witness of the Hungarian tragedy. The program was as successful as the one done in the previous year to mark the 50 years since the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. I can claim no credit for the excellent program of '94, and special mention must be made for **Rabbi Hoffman, Laslo and Anna Fried, David Korn, Jonathan Mendleson**, the youth from the "March of the Living" and **Rabbi Grafstein**. What was the major lesson of the Hungarian tragedy? It was that a large community, even with vitality and usefulness to its home nation, had not refuge once that nation, through decrees, amputated their civil equality within the nation at large. The collaborators who then acted as nazi agents were as much the resulting symptom of this national schizophrenia as the very decrees were. The real cause of the psychosis was the pernicious and relentless propaganda from Germany that infiltrated and saturated Hungarian society.

In 1995 our commemoration was observed on April 27th. The theme of our service focused on the 50th anniversary of liberation. Our program sought to thank and pay respect to all those who went in harm's way to save the remnant. Our guest speaker in Halifax was **Dr. David H. Pollock** (R.C.A.F.) who witnessed Buchenwald that spring of 1945. We were very fortunate to also have present **Mr. Gerald LeBlanc** (B.E.F.) of Wolfville who was with the regiments that took Belsen. What these people brought to us was the only message a human observer can seize when they escape the stench of an abattoir: "We must be vigilant, we must grab onto life and not let technology anesthetize us, and we must act against the cruel". The program was a great success

due to the participation of the music of **Shimon and Peggy Walt**, singing by David Korn, poetry by **Yori Gidron**, and Ael Ha Rachamim by Rabbi Grafstein, and Kaddish by Rabbi Hoffman. The evening was concluded at the Oxford Theatre with the premier showing of the Wiesenthal Centre's film "Liberation."

For 1996 Yom HaShoah will be on Tuesday, April 16th, and it will be exactly 50 years since the trials at Nuremberg, therefore, it would be appropriate and timely to give the theme the focus of the cause and principles of Justice.

As for the ongoing development of Dignity Day, in 1993 about 60 participants, including both **Premier Savage**, and **Mayor Ducharme**, attended our candle lighting ceremony at the cenotaph. In 1994 there were 50 participants including a few ministers of the provincial government and a few city aldermen. In the aftermath of the 1994 participation I expressed skepticism to the press whether this day would ever develop its own momentum. The reason we have tried to start a new tradition, one which is both tied to Armistice Day and invoking of the Holocaust, was for the sake of preventing the moral anesthesia that is the essential prerequisite for mankind to begin other kinds of persecution campaigns. One day in a year is not enough to commemorate, learn, and inoculate against a repetition of the Holocaust. The rule of Law is also not enough. German laws and plans of 60 years ago were duly legalistic; not even the laws of today are immune from formalizing grave injustices. The only way that we can protect ourselves and others is by founding, in the customs and opinions of society, a few days in the year where we both honour the sacrifices of others and ponder seriously our worthiness, and give consideration to the inherent dignity that all human beings are capable of. Perhaps in Israel they need only the one day in the year, but in this society the one day falls back into invisibility the other 364 days due to its indirect connection to those awful events.

Our efforts to impart an understanding of what the Holocaust was, will have

a measure of prevention providing its many lessons are both valid in the present circumstance and portrayed to be accessible to a remedy. It is easy to focus solely on the past errors to treat the Holocaust as an aberration of History, but this would leave us powerless to change systems that made the Holocaust a workable reality. It is for this reason that I support the project "Share Something Good!". This project provides a connection to present circumstance and goes a long way to giving a humanity to the victims of a murdered culture. Those from Vilna, Brest, Warsaw, Prague, Breslau, etc., passed on, besides values and language, a unique way of foods. There is no better way to restore

the human connection and overwhelm the anonymity of the multitude than through the pallet and nostrils. Participation in this project would be worth your support because it can be so entertaining and gratifying.

Before I close this I must make you aware that there are relentless tendencies and forces that are working against the obligations to remember: from the infantile politico's snide hate propaganda through neo-conservative church follower's insecurities, on to the crass and greedy entrepreneurs exploitations. The recent proposals for the Auschwitz mall and inevitable theme park are a reflection of the current zeitgeist prevalent in west-

ern civilization. That this scheme was cooked up by Protestant German businessmen and the land title made possible by the Carmelite order, would be a philosophical essay in itself, on the meaning of Auschwitz in relation to the Christian doctrines of "salvation by grace, without the deeds within the law". At this place the whole question of divine mercy, both Jewish and Christian, come into question, so there are tenacious forces in our world that want reality simple, benign and packaged into marketable items and clichés.

In the mean time I hope to see you at future Yom HaShoah and Dignity Day commemorations. Until the next time. ■

Irving Schwartz Honoured by Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo

by Evelyn Davis

On November 5, 1995 at Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue in Sydney, the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo presented an award to Sydney businessman **Irving Schwartz** for "Unselfish public service." Mr. Schwartz has been deeply involved in economic development, education, and recently in the unity campaign. He was introduced by his aunt **Norma Claener**, who presented him with Associated Life Membership in the organization.



Pictured l-r: Shirley Chernin, Diana Schwartz, Irving Schwartz, Senator Erminie Cohen, Edith Lecker.

The guest speaker for the occasion was **Senator Erminie Cohen**. She was introduced by the council vice-president **Shirley Chernin**. Senator Cohen told those attending about the fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. As a member of the Canadian delegation she explained the struggles for Human Rights which the 40,000 delegates had to confront. She felt, however, that by passing legislation declaring that "Violence Against Women" will not be tolerated anywhere in the world, some progress had been made.

Members of Hadassah-Wizo were joined by the Temple Sons of Israel members for the interesting afternoon. **Diana Schwartz**, president of the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo was chairman. **Edith Lecker** was convenor. Delicious refreshments were served. ■

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presents
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Fiddler on the Roof



Three shows only!

Sydney, N.S. Sunday May 26, 1996 2:30pm at Temple Sons of Israel synagogue.

Halifax, N.S. Monday May 27, 1996 7:30pm at Beth Israel Synagogue

Halifax, N.S. Tuesday May 28, 1996 7:30pm at Beth Israel Synagogue

Musical Director: Shirley Burnstein

Director: Nancy Marshall

Produced in a Theatre in the round style featuring a cast of about
80 seniors, adults, students and children singing and dancing as your favorite characters:
Tevye, Golde, Yenta, Lazer-Wolf, Tzeitl, Chava, Hodel, Motel, Perchik, Fyedka
and many more

Tickets available at AJC beginning April 25, 1996.

Limited seating available.

Write, call or fax for more information.



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL IS FUNDED BY UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL OF CANADA OUR
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BUT THE CONTINUITY AND QUALITY OF JEWISH LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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