

Shalom!

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חנוכה תשנ"ז 5758 Chanukah



Happy Chanukah
חג חנוכה שמח

שלום!





President: **Victor Goldberg**

**The Atlantic Jewish
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President's Message - One year later

by *Victor Goldberg*

This past November marked the first anniversary of my presidency of the Atlantic Jewish Council. It is appropriate to reflect on not only what has been done but what remains to be done, always bearing in mind that the job is never finished.

First, let me accentuate the positive. After almost two years of planning, I can proudly announce the appointment of **Rabbi David Ellis** as our AJC Chaplain. Rabbi Ellis, already a familiar face throughout Atlantic Canada, will split his time between pastoral support for the residents of Northwood in Halifax and travel to the smaller communities without a Rabbi. We welcome Rabbi and Mrs. Ellis and their children to Halifax, and are excited at the prospect of helping the elderly and those deprived of Judaism for no reason of their own.

As to our Northwood initiative, led by the relentless commitment of **Kathy Zilbert**, our committee has forged ahead in the planning of a new floor for the Jewish aged in this wonderful facility. As soon as formal approvals are in place, we are ready to proceed with the implementation of this centre and, as I have alluded to previously, we will be launching a major capital campaign to fund the costs unique to our Jewish setting. In the meantime, our Kosher Kitchen on the Go Program (Meals on Wheels), launched in September, continues to gain in popularity and has received rave reviews.

Our programming for all ages continues unabated and the Council of Jewish Federations has rewarded the success of our campus pilot program led by Programmer **Yakov Feig** by providing a permanent budget line. On a personal level, 1997 was a great year for Yakov as he became engaged to a lovely medical resident, **Denise Sherman**, whom he met in Halifax. How wonderful to see two young Jewish people meet in our midst. Mazel Tov and best wishes to both!

On the national scene, our relationships have flourished as we continue to ably represent the Canadian Jewish Congress and the United Jewish Appeal. Camp Kadimah is stronger than ever thanks to the dedicated work of **Andrew Wolfson** and **Mark Rosen** and their committee. Holocaust education thrives only because of the **Ritemans'** tireless efforts. We have even implemented our



own Home Page on the Internet. In fact, due to the great work of our staff led by **Jon** (the fact that we are still talking to each other is perhaps my greatest accomplishment), the Executive and the Management Committee of the AJC, the many committee members and volunteers, the AJC has had a busy and successful year.

Before becoming intoxicated by all of our accomplish-

ments, let me do a reality check. We are losing our two-prong battle against demographics and assimilation. The funerals outnumber births and weddings and, while the population of our biggest centres may not be shrinking, they are qualitatively dissipating. Moreover, just as she prepares to celebrate her 50th birthday, Israel's underbelly is being increasingly exposed. She still needs our support as do fellow Jews around the world who are not as privileged as we, and many of whom wish to immigrate.

Our local and international needs increase as we try to fulfill our mandate in a meaningful way. But our campaign dwindles as the committed pass on and many of the younger people cannot or will not make meaningful gifts. Where there should be cohesiveness, pooling of resources and Shalom., there continues to be divisiveness, duplication and acrimony. What will become of our Jewish community in the next many years? Can we prosper or will we become an exhibit in a museum?

Perhaps it is the theme of Chanukah, our Festival of Lights, or just my stubborn optimism, but I believe that the future is bright. We have the encouragement of the National Jewish Community, especially those many ex-Atlantic Canadians who now live in Central Canada. We will bolster the infrastructure, continue and improve programming and harness all available funding. However, if we want a viable Jewish life for the next generation, we must start at home, create Jewish priorities for ourselves and our children, and foster tolerance for all fellow human beings, especially our own. Only then can we band together as a community to maximize our human and financial resources in a positive way.

As tough as it may seem, and despite our differences, let us resolve to work together in the year to come as there is much to accomplish, and together we can accomplish much. Happy Chanukah!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Jon Goldberg

Just over two weeks until Chanukah. This year will be a special Chanukah for all Jews around the world. On the evening of December 23, 1997, the first night marks the opening of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Israel. On that evening a candle lighting ceremony, a veritable Festival of Lights, will occur when the Heads of State of various countries each light a candle from within their country, to launch a year-long celebration. Participation from world leaders reconfirms the miracle of the holiday and the miracle of the establishment of the democratic State of Israel.

To date, confirmed Heads of State or government who will light a candle include the Prime Minister of Canada, the President of the United States, the President of Israel, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Prime Minister of Thailand, the Presidents of the Czech Republic, Italy, France, Romania and more to come. Each of these leaders will be joined by a large delegation of their nation's Jewish leaders and friends as part of the celebration. I am enclosing a copy of a special Chanukah meditation which has been crafted by the UJA Rabbinic Cabinet for Israel at 50. The national leaders have been requested to recite this meditation.

In Canada, a number of Premiers have been invited to similar ceremonies in the provincial capitals, including Halifax. I have been asked to distribute this meditation throughout the region in the hope that it will be recited each night as you light the Chanukah candles at home with your family and friends.

This is only the beginning of a year-long celebration which we in Atlantic Canada will participate. Through the offices of UJA, CJF, CJC and CZF, we will be part of a Canada-wide Art Exhibit Program, a satellite broadcast and various performing artists and speakers. The Gala 50th Anniversary Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration will take place on **Thursday, April 30th, 1998**. Plans are underway for a terrific event to be held in Halifax for Nova Scotia, Fredericton for New Brunswick and PEI, and St. John's for Newfoundland. In addition, **Yakov Feig**, our programmer, will be working with all our communities on their own specific programs. Watch your mail in the new year for further information!

"As we recall the valor of ancient

Maccabees who restored Divine worship and Jewish sovereignty to the Land of Israel, let us dedicate ourselves as modern-day Maccabees to once more unite the Jewish people in our Promised Land.

As the Maccabees kindled the menorah in ancient days, may the menorah of modern times, the official symbol of the State of Israel, shed light on all who lead and support Israel and who sustain its moral and material well-being.

As Israel prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, may it continue to be a beacon of light and hope to a

world deeply in need of its spiritual blessings.

As we gather here together, please God, bless us as we unite with Jews everywhere to kindle the menorah, and may its message illuminate our lives and brighten the world, Amen."

As we wind down 1997, it is only fitting that at this time of "The Festival of Lights", I am pleased to inform you of the presence in Atlantic Canada of a number of individuals whom I'm sure will help to "illuminate"

Jewish life in the communities they are located.

A hearty AJC Shalom to **Rabbi Yochanan and Carol Samuels** in Fredericton, the arevim in St. John's **Yifaat Bassist** and the arevim in Moncton, **Sarah and Aviel Zwebner**. Congratulations to each of the communities involved and their leaders for investing their time and resources to brighten Jewish life for themselves and their children. In addition, we now have **Rabbi and Mrs. David Ellis** living in Halifax. Rabbi Ellis will assume the position of AJC Chaplain-Senior's Consultant to Northwood Care Inc. Rabbi Ellis's chaplaincy duties are to the Jewish population not presently served by a Rabbi here in Atlantic Canada. To all of you spread out over four provinces, he is here for your spiritual needs and advise. Rabbi Ellis will be travelling throughout the region and please don't hesitate to call or write to him in care of the AJC should you have a particular question or problem.

So my friends, I wish you and your families a Happy Chanukah. May 1998 for you, be a year of peace and good health and a year of celebration both for the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel and for our Jewish life here in Atlantic Canada.

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Building Bridges

By Yakov Feig, Programmer

In our region, there was a lot of attention paid to the "Fixed Link" that was created between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. On the weekend of November 7 - 9, 1997, I had the opportunity to drive over this bridge for the first time on my way to and from a weekend of Judaic programming with the PEI community. Driving over this bridge, I realized that the voyage to and from the Island was a lot quicker than it had been on the previous occasions that I had been on the Island. In fact, it shaved over an hour off the travel time! On the other hand, the ferry also had its unique role in preserving a certain mystique while travelling to and from PEI. I always used to enjoy standing on the deck of the ferry, and looking either toward or away from the Island as I was approaching it.

In my role at the Atlantic Jewish Council, I have always realized that my job is one of constructing bridges too. One aspect of this has been with regards to building bridges between people and trying to eliminate barriers that exist. One small example of this is in regards to our language and culture. This summer, **Jon Goldberg** and myself became aware of programs offered by the National Jewish Outreach Program in the United States. These programs included, among others, a Hebrew Reading Crash Course. This course provides the opportunity for those with little or no knowledge of Hebrew to learn how to read it in five easy lessons. In Halifax, the course was implemented successfully. A full course of students enjoyed learning to read the language in six lessons (we needed the extra lesson) at the boardroom of the Atlantic Jewish Council. In St. John's, I was able to give this kit to the WUJS Arevim, **Ifaat Bassist**, who works with the community there. She has been using the kit to teach adults as well. I also was able to give this kit to the new Arevim, **Sarah and Aviel Zwebner** in

Moncton and to **Rosalie Simeone** in PEI.

In the same light, our regional representatives, Arevim, synagogue leaders and all the people in our region should be made aware of programs that are going on, speakers, bands, plays, and resources that be-



Chanukah Casino Night - (l-r) Andrew LeVine, Ava Tsinman and Lauren Abrahams take their chances with the roulette wheel.

come available to them. Through increased communication, pooling of resources, and cooperation we can help build bridges between our communities and within our communities.

Another aspect of building bridges is realizing when bridges should be built, and when it is more important to strengthen existing services. Two and a half years ago, I came to a region with a strong tradition in youth and student programming. While, we are always tinkering with the programs themselves, in many cases we are building on an existing foundation. In other areas, we are building new programs for youth, teens, students, young adults, and adults alike. In this respect, overall I am satisfied with what we have accomplished this autumn, while I realize that there is still more work to do.

At the youth level, September began with our Rosh Hashanah Apple Picking in the Annapolis Valley on September 21st which attracted 20 youth. On September 28th, we had our annual March to Jerusa-

lem which attracted 35 people, who came down, won prizes and t-shirts, marched for Israel and enjoyed some Karaoke. In October, Grades 3 - 6 were invited down to "Super Sundae Sunday" at the Shaar, and play rehearsals began for the Jewish Community Players production of the *Wizard of Oz* (I am the Cowardly Lion!). November saw the beginning of Dalplex Skating.

At the teen level, September began with our Make-Your-Own Subs/Pool/Elections with over 35 teens in attendance!!! After a hard fought rivalry, we elected a new Atlantic Jewish Teen Leadership Council, with **Debra Freeman** as President, **Lauren Abrahams** as Vice President, **Mike Stern** and **Laura Gergely** as High School Reps, **Sharon Alexander** and **Adam Adler** (now our Kings Edgehill Rep) as Communications, **Nathan Zilbert** and **Adam Conter** as Junior High Reps, **Darah Gaum** and **Hannah Zitner** as Secretaries, and **Schuyler Smith** as a member at large. Immediately, the new Executive went to work at planning a myriad of successful events including a Movie Night on October 21st with 16 teens in attendance, and our annual Chanukah Casino Night on December 7th with over 45 teens in attendance! We are very lucky to have a wonderful group of dedicated teens and we

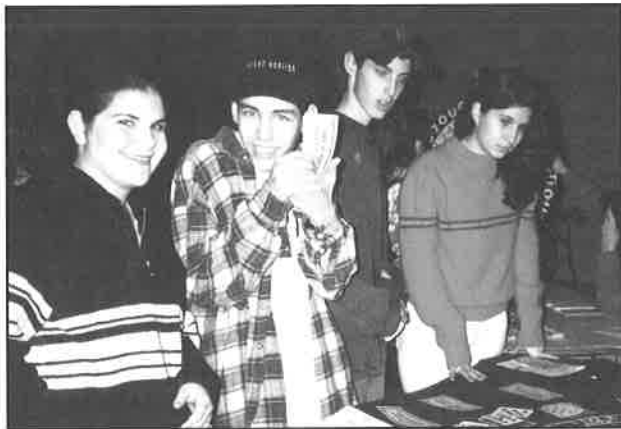


... as do (l-r) Andrew Gergely, Ben Ludmanand and Mark Merovitch

are looking forward to an even more exciting second semester.

Speaking of semesters, the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation has been more active then ever. Our Executive, consisting of **Viva Press** and **Ian Epstein**, Co-Presidents, and other exec members,

David Price, Toni Fried, Charles Rak, Erin Sperling, Ami Wise, Jasmine Oore, Jake Fisher, and Michael Hollinger, have helped implement a full semester of programming. We began with information



Black Jack players (l-r) Kayla Wexler, Aaron Fox (I'm in the money!), Zachary Abrahams and an exchange student from Brazil

tables at UNB, Saint Mary's, Dalhousie, Mount A, St. FX, and Acadia to attract new members. Our first event, our annual Shmooze and Booze on September 20th in Halifax attracted over 85 students. Meanwhile in PEI, our representative **Roselyn Allen** was busy organizing a Rosh Hashanah Vegetarian Pot luck for the Veterinary students. On October 11th, 40 students crowded into my place for breaking of the Yom Kippur fast. I also had the opportunity to meet with **Shelby Hirsch**, during my trip to Cape Breton on October 24th. Meanwhile the end of October saw the APJSF have its annual fall convention in Halifax. Over 45 students from around the region got a chance to attend a Shabbat Dinner on Friday night featuring the Israeli Ambassador **David Sultan, Michael Soberman** from Toronto, Erin Sperling and **Kim Grove**, a Saturday lunch at the Shaar Shalom featuring WUJS Areva Ifaat Bassist and Toni Fried, and a pub crawl on Saturday night. On November 8th, I had the opportunity of meeting the five of the six Jewish students from the Veterinary college as well as **Miriam Naylor** and her fiancée! An intergenerational Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel on November 21st was a major success featuring over 65 students and seniors. Thanks again to Club Massada for the

surprise cake and the beautiful engagement presents. Finally, on December 7th, the APJSF had a Chanukah Brunch with over 21 students in attendance on a pre-exam week. An even more ambitious second semester is being planned with the highlight being a Winter Ski Retreat at Cape Smokey on February 5 - 8th for students from around the region.

Speaking of around the region, I already alluded to my weekend in PEI on November 7 - 9th. I was very happy to have **Yoram Abisror**, Shaliach from Canadian Young Judea in Montreal, accompany me for my weekend. Yoram brought some wonderful program ideas with him, which we helped him implement during a Community

Shabbat Dinner at the Dunstaffenage Bed and Breakfast, as well as at a Shabbat afternoon program for the teens at Rosalie Simeone's. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank **Sol and Evelyn Feldstein** for being such gracious hosts as well as Rosalie for providing a venue, and making great pizzas! On Sunday November 9th, I also had the opportunity to visit Moncton for the second time this fall and meet with the new Arevim, Sarah and Aviel Zwebner.

On my first visit to Moncton (other than my trip with the students), on October 12th, I was met by a small, but vibrant contingent of youth and teens who enjoyed "Moncton Madness". It was also wonderful to be up in Cape Breton on Shmini Atseret and Simchat Torah with the Glace Bay and Sydney communities. Special thanks to **Louis and Sylvia Allen** for the warm hospitality and cabbage rolls! (They really were great!). I am looking forward to more visits around the region (including Newfoundland) in the next few months!

At the Young Adult level, 17 people attended the "Shmoozerama" at Ryan Duffy's Speak Easy on September 27th and 4 hearty young adults attended a hike to Cape Split on October 19th. In November, a lot of young adults could also be seen at a party in Halifax as well. It is wonderful to see a young adult group which is active and we are looking forward to a great New Year.

It is in the same vein that I am happy with the progress that has taken place at the adult level as well. It is my belief that book clubs, music clubs, and any groups that help facilitate interaction among members of our Jewish community should be welcomed and encouraged. There are many elements of Judaism; our culture, heritage, traditions, history, food, music, art, etc. that unite us as a people. It is time to bridge the gap between us and focus on our strengths as a people.

Finally, bridges cannot be built without a construction crew. I am very lucky to have worked with a myriad of volunteers throughout the region and in Halifax. While it is impossible to thank everybody, you all



Having fun at the APJSF Chanukah brunch are Erin Sperling, Jason Levitt and Lisa Gaum.

know who you are, and you all deserve a pat on the back!!! Most importantly, I would like to thank the AJC staff, with special mention to **Connie Zimmerman**, and to **Jon Goldberg**, who quietly (or sometimes not so quietly) does a lot of the legwork behind the scenes and never seems to get the credit that he deserves as a leader in our community. I am very fortunate to be working with him, and we are all fortunate to have a leader whose heart and soul is with the people of Atlantic Canada.

I could continue, but there are many more bridges to be built!!!

MAURICE JAKE ATTAINS HIS DREAM

By Raymond I. Goldman, Volunteer Archivist

After years of research, hundreds of letters, phone calls and personal contacts, **Maurice Jake**, of Moncton is proud of the support given his dream.

Sgt. Jake was a tailgunner with the RCAF in World War II surviving his many bomber missions over Axis Europe. God willing, he came home safely in 1945.

Maurice, a member of Congregation Tiferes Israel, a newly restored and renovated Orthodox Synagogue, prayed that a living reminder would be in place, for not only the veterans of his Moncton area, but for all the Atlantic Provinces.

This was not a simple task. He did not have immediate success, especially from the larger Jewish centres, such as Saint John, NB and Halifax, NS. However, he was surprised that besides his own Moncton base, he received enthusiastic support from the Cape Breton small areas of Sydney, Glace Bay and New Waterford.

It should be of interest and take note that a small village on the west coast of

fice. Incredible odds, three out of five.

Mr. Jake, now 82 years old, was successful in having erected a memorial inside the newly renovated foyer of Moncton's Tiferes Israel Synagogue. He has assembled the names of every known Jewish war veteran in Atlantic Canada, 364 names in all. Each name is engraved into the Jewish War Memorial honour roll. The names of each city, town or village is listed and the veterans listed in alphabetical order, under their respected domicile at the time of war service.

"The war veterans who served in World War II are getting older, we have fewer of them now as each year passes ... It's the last living reminder of what the Atlantic Jewish communities can do to preserve their names

in perpetuity," said Mr. Jake.

Donations or gifts are payable to Congregation Tiferes Israel War Memorial, PO Box 596, Moncton, NB, E1C 8L9. Receipts for income tax purposed will be issued.



Raymond Goldman, left, visited the Moncton Synagogue to congratulate Maurice Jake for his unselfish and tireless effort.

Cape Breton, Inverness, sent five members out of only two Jewish families residing there to war. The Levines and the Feinsteins - **Nathan Feinstein, Samuel Feinstein** and **Lt. Jack Levine** - gave the supreme sacri-



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FREDERICTON NEWS

By Jennie Brown

Anniversary greetings to the following: **Valerie & Bernard Chippin** - 40 years; **Sandra & Milton Levine** - 16 years; **Rose & Arnold Chippin** - 10 years; **Charlotte & Iaan Brown** - 2 years.

We welcome **Rabbi Jonathon Samuels** and **Mrs. Carol Samuels**, who have taken up residence in our community as spiritual leaders of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

Mazel Tov: to **Cheryl & Joe Abrams** upon the engagement of their daughter **Tara** to **Jason Ellis**, son of **Judy & Henry Ellis**, Rayham, Mass. Grandparents are **Vera Singer**, Montreal, and **Celia & Phillip Sassiran**, Falmouth, Mass... to **Mitchell Abrams**, son of Cheryl & Joe. Mitchell received an award from the University of New Brunswick in recognition of being named to the Dean's List in the faculty of Science. He also received the C.W. Argue Scholarship awarded to a science student with the highest academic average in Biology.... to **Lorne Brown**, son of **Roz & Bob**, upon receiving his C.A. degree. Best wishes for a successful career in Vancouver, Lorne.

Speedy recoveries to **Bea Sherman**, **Marilyn Leighton** and **Harry Brown**.

More than 400 Jews and Gentiles, men and women, old and young, gathered at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton on October 26th to celebrate 54 years of service and to wish **Rabbi David Spiro** and his wife a happy and healthy retirement.

Among the accomplishments and achievements of Rabbi Spiro are that he ministered to five generations of Fredericton Jews, that he guided approximately 20,000 people through the synagogue, that he was not only the Rabbi but also the cantor, the shofar blower, the mohel, the shohet, the teacher and the one who prepared the young boys for their bar mitzvah. While he was doing all that, he also married young couples, visited the sick in hospital, took care of funerals when that was necessary, raised a family and helped to organize many events in support of Israel.

Many prominent members of the community were present at the event including the Mayor of Fredericton, **Brad Woodside**, the Minister of Health the Honourable **Russ King**, members of the business community, the university and the clergy. **Bill MacLeod**, director of pastoral care at the Doctor Everett Chalmers Hospital, where the Rabbi served for over 20 years, said "He has been a tireless worker, he coordinated the effort for holidays such as Christmas to be covered by the Jewish community." Rev. MacLeod continued, "I appreciate the wisdom and the counsel that he brought to me." Many people spoke of the bridging that the Rabbi was instrumental in creating between the Jewish and Christian communities.

"I've tried my best to bring people of different faiths together. If even two people become friends, then I can say 'This david (with a small 'd') will sing out with David of the Psalms, My cup runneth over,'" said the Rabbi.

Rabbi Spiro arrived in Fredericton in 1944 as a 21-year-old ordinand. The years brought many challenges. Rabbi Spiro met all of them with faith, with kindness, with humility, with hope, with grace and with humour. He worked alone, tirelessly; he was devoted to and he loved and cared for all the members of the commu-

nity and in turn they loved and respected him. He was a central and unifying force in the Jewish community. In time he gained the respect of the Christian community.

Teaching was probably the function that he enjoyed the most and certainly excelled at. Speaking to this, the President of the synagogue, Arnold Chippin, said "My first memories of you are as a teacher. You were the best teacher I ever had. You taught not just in the classroom, but by your actions as well."

Cheryl Abrams, assisted by several members of the Sisterhood, organized the event - no small feat when one considers that 400 people participated in a small area, over about three hours. **Judy Budovitch** was in charge of decorating the synagogue.

The Lillian Frieman Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO held the Baby Crèche fund raising evening on October 27 at the home of the chairperson, Cheryl Abrams. The meeting was well attended with twenty members present.

The guest speaker, **Carolyn Hallet**, was introduced by **Marissa Blanchard**. Carolyn is a social worker at Health and Community Services. She spoke about the Child Protection Act and the work being done to protect children in our society. **Sydelle Grobe**, President of the Fredericton chapter, thanked the speaker. Hostesses for the evening were Roz Brown, Sydelle Grobe and **Miriam Cohen**.

University of New Brunswick professor and writer, **Dr. Norman Ravvin**, read two of his short stories at the November meeting of the Chapter. Twenty-two members and spouses, Rabbi & Mrs. Samuels and Rabbi Emeritus & Mrs. Spiro attended the reading, which was held in the Tartan Room of the Alumni Memorial Building at UNB. Dr. Ravvin was introduced by Program Chair **Marlene Unger** and thanked by Miriam Cohen.

The first story *The Ghosts of Hersh* was an evocative personal account of two visits the author made to the abandoned Saskatchewan farming community where his grandfather first lived upon his arrival in Canada. In the second story, *A Jew's House*, a Pole living in a house that once belonged to a Jewish family encounters an American on the street who is looking for his parents' former home.

Dr. Ravvin teaches Creative Writing in the English Department. His first novel, *Café des Westens*, focuses on four generations of a Jewish family. A second novel, *Fat Tuesday*, is as yet unpublished. He has also published a collection of short stories entitled *Sex, Skyscrapers and Standard Yiddish*.

Following the program, coffee, tea and dessert were served. They were provided by hostesses Marissa Blanchard, **Edye Besner**, Sydelle Grobe, **Doris Rauch** and Marlene Unger.

The Israeli Ambassador, **David Sultan**, met with the Jewish community in Fredericton on the 29th of October. The Ambassador was accompanied by his wife, **Adina**, and the Consul General from Montreal, **Daniel Gal**.

He gave a formal address on current affairs in Israel and then fielded questions from the audience. The community appreciated his friendly and informative way of answering their questions.

The evening concluded with light refreshments provided by the Atlantic Jewish Council. A book of pictures of Atlantic Canada was presented to the Ambassador and his wife to commemorate their visit to Fredericton.

Wishing all the readers of *Shalom* a Happy Chanukah.

Remembrance Day in Cape Breton

A Remembrance Day service was held at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney on November 8th where a larger than usual congregation was in attendance.

Jewish war veterans from Sydney took part in all aspects of the service. The Remembrance Day address was delivered by **Melvin "Buddy" Moraff**. Buddy, a navy veteran and president of the Naval veterans association, related his role in the navy, particularly on the "Murmask Run" the vital northern link to Russia from the west. He was very graphic in his descriptions and had a very attentive audience.

The day had a double meaning for it marked the celebration of **Evelyn and Harold Davis'** 50th wedding anniversary. Following the services, the congregation was invited to a Kiddush sponsored by the Davis' to mark the occasion.

NEWS FROM MONCTON

By Nancy Cohen

Moncton was pleased to welcome **Sarah and Aviel Zwebner**, Arevim who arrived here from Israel just before Succot. Sarah and Aviel got to work immediately and have now set up several classes for children, teenagers and adults. They were quickly initiated into winter in Canada when Moncton was hit by two major snowstorms in one week.

Mazel tov to **Lorne Gorber**, son of **Harry and Ann Gorber**, who graduated from Concordia University last spring with a BA in English. Lorne is now working on a Masters degree in scriptwriting at the University of Southern California, Columbia College. Before starting his Masters, Lorne spent a month interning for Columbia Tristar. While there he met many stars and was even sought out by **Jodie Foster**, who

had heard that Lorne spoke French and was looking for someone she could practice her French with.

Congratulations to **Gerard Etienne** who was awarded "*la medaille d'or au titre des lettres francaises*" by l'Association de la Renaissance francaise, section Quebec, for his literary work and its impact in the French speaking world.

Moncton lost another longtime member of the community when **Helen Brodie** passed away in November. Helen lived in Moncton all her life, and was well known for the hospitality she offered to all. This hospitality was particularly appreciated by Jewish servicemen who passed through Moncton during the war. Sincere condolences to **Jack, Harry** and the rest of the family.

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REPORT FROM SAINT JOHN

By Janet Holtzman and Marcia Koven

It is with much regret that we record the passing of **Perla Arditti**. Perla involved herself in many organizations and in many lives. She was a very courageous young lady and always thought of others before herself. Although she had made her home in Toronto for many years, her passing has been felt by all of our community. Our sympathy to the Arditti family.

Our congratulations go out to **Dr. Herzl Kashetsky** for being the recipient of the first Humanitarian Award by the New Brunswick Chapter of the Canadian Red Cross.

Our big Menorah will once again be lit on the lawn of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum on the first night of Chanukah, December, 23.

Our annual Chanukah Community supper will be held on Sunday, December 28th in the Synagogue Social hall. All are welcome.

Our Museum is now closed to "walk-in" visitors but we will take group tours (by appointment). Many schools have already booked tours as well as booking our Jewish Educational Outreach Kits.

Our services continue on Friday night and Saturday morning under the direction of **Dan Elman** and **Jerry Koven** with assistance from **Dr. Joseph Arditti**, **Abe Goldberg**, **Ben Smith** and, from time to time, other members of the community. We are now holding services in our Chapel until next Passover, at which time we will resume services in the big Shul.

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A Prayer for the Dead

Reprint. Marni Weisz, Times Globe, October 15, 1997

The Saint John Library will received a gift the Saint John artist **Herzl Kashetsky** hopes will help educate people about one of the most crucial chapters in human history.

The gift is a video that documents Kashetsky's exhibit, "A Prayer for the Dead", a collection of paintings that recently filled the New Brunswick Museum with grim, photo-realistic interpretations of Holocaust images.

"What is it that people say? If you forget the past you're doomed to relive it? The same thing is happening today. Still, people don't learn," said Kashetsky, who began working on the collection in 1974 but completed the bulk of it between 1990 and 1996.

Many of the works can be mistaken for photographs because of their painstaking detail and the successful capture of a somber moment both brief and eternal. All but one, a portrait of a Holocaust survivor, are black and white creations patterned after archival photographs or photographs taken by Kashetsky when he toured the concentration camps of eastern Europe in 1990.

The video was a joint creation of the New Brunswick Museum and the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum with technical facilities donated by Fundy Communications, Inc.

It was the brainchild of the Jewish Museum's president of the board, **Josh Beutel**, and **Lisa Lamb**, now the general manager of Symphony New Brunswick but then an intern with the Heritage Appreciation Program who split her time between the two museums.

The video combines an interview with Kashetsky conducted by Beutel with inter-

views with Holocaust specialists and survivors and with renowned Canadian artist **Alex Colville**, who was a Canadian War Artist during the Second World War, and witnessed many of the disturbing images first-hand.

On the back of the video case there's a quote from Colville: "I have profound respect for this work."

"It is difficult to look at it without weeping."

Being involved in the process of creating the works didn't diminish that wrenching effect for Kashetsky. If anything, it intensified it. "It was a very difficult project to work on emotionally," said Kashetsky. "I was constantly depressed, working day after day on corpses and children, while I have two children of my own. It was very difficult emotionally."

The purpose of the video is twofold.

First, it is an educational tool that will be available free of charge to anyone with a library card and will also be added to the Holocaust kit, which is available to schools throughout the province.

"The Holocaust kit is full of videos and books."

"There's certainly no lack of information but what's interesting about this video is that Herzl Kashetsky is from the Saint John Jewish community. Most of the other stuff is from outside of the local region," said Lamb.

Second, it's a promotional tool that will be sent to galleries across the country which might be interested in the exhibit. "This is the video age," said Beutel. "And we recognize that this is one means to communicate that this is an exhibition worthy of seeing."

In other words, it's a way for the New Brunswick Museum to promote one of its own. And it was fortuitous that Lamb was the intern at the time since she had production experience and used to work in the audio visual department at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Que.

Facilities and a camera crew were donated by Fundy Communications Inc., making the project hard to refuse from a financial standpoint. Even though she spent seven days a week for six weeks working on the video Lamb said she was honoured to head the project. "I find the paintings incredibly moving," she said. "It's wonderful just to see the technical ability."

"Herzl is a very meticulous artist. He'll do a sketch and then another sketch and then a watercolor from that and then put it on canvas."

This is the first show of Kashetsky's to be documented with a video. "I think it depends on the show," he said. "I don't think every show warrants a video."

"It's a question of how much you can add to it. This one was well-suited to it because it's of interest historically as well as artistically."

The next showing of "A Prayer for the Dead" will be at the Dalhousie Art Gallery from January 9 to February 22, and then in March it will travel to the McCain Gallery in Florenceville.

Ed. Note - The official opening of this exhibit will be on Sunday, January 11, 1998 at 2:30 pm. Victor Goldberg, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council will give the opening remarks.

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The Cape Breton Jewish Club

By Dr. Philip Simon

On September 13th, the Cape Breton Jewish Club held a social and cultural evening at Earle Baeles Park in Toronto. The meeting was extended to all Jewish people from the Maritimes.

Guest speaker of the evening was **Dr. Laurence I. Gaum**, an oral surgeon practicing in Toronto. Delving into his roots, his research, his trip to Russia, he published his book *From Belarus to Cape Breton and Beyond*, and his presentation was warmly received and was most interesting.

Also on the program was **Dr. Irving Koven**, a surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital. He brought some musical entertainment to the group and it was most appreciated.

Chairman for the evening was **Dr. Sam Newman** and **Mr. Irving Sherman**. **Barry Lipkus** was also very helpful.

Over 100 former Maritimers attended the function. The get-together was highlighted by the reverberations of "Haven't seen you for such a long time!". The bond of Maritime friendship was quite evident.

A guest at the rendezvous was **Rabbi**



Services in progress on Lake Muskoka.

were led by Barry Lipkus, formerly of Glace Bay, who was saying Kaddish for his late father.

Kirshenblatt, now 92, who served in the Glace Bay community for ten years. A good time was held by all.

Earlier in the summer, a gala party was held at the cottage of **Mark Simon**, situated at Bracebridge on Lake Muskoka. Many former Cape Bretoners were in attendance. People enjoyed a boat ride, a delicious meal and pleasant conversation.

Mincha and Maariv services

Optometrist honoured

Sydney, NS optometrist **Dr. Garson Lecker** was recently awarded The President's Award, Canadian Optometry's highest honour at the Canadian association's biennial congress in St. John's, Nfld. Dr. Lecker received the recognition for "his service and dedication to optometry in Nova Scotia and the Canadian Association of Optometrists and his contribution to the growth and development of the profession as one of the founding officers of the Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund."

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JEWISH WAR VETS OF MONCTON

By Maurice Jake

The Moncton Jewish War Vets would like to thank the following people who made our venture a big success; **Joan Sichel**, sparkplug of our success; **Helen Jochelman**, for her day-to-day very helpful and appreciated advice, **Harry Gorber**, responsible for all food and **Tom Barnes** for terrific photo work. The Hadassah girls produced such a wonderful dinner that even today legion members still recall.

CAPE BRETON COUNCIL OF HADASSAH-WIZO

By Evelyn Davis

The Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo met with President **Edith Lecker** to plan the 1997-98 agenda. Dates were settled for medical services tea and for the 1998 Bazaar set for May 13th, 1998.



L-R: Brenda Stieger, guest speaker, and Edith Lecker, President of Hadassah-Wizo Cape Breton Council

Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo Executive 1997-98 are: **Fanny Cohen** - Glace Bay President, **Edith Lecker** - Council President; **Faye David** - Sydney President; **Fruma Shore** - Vice President of Council; **Mary-Ann Cohen** - Council Treasurer; **Shirley Chernin** - Council Vice President; **Brenda Stieger** - Correspondent Secretary.

On September 16th, the Council gathered to hear the report of our Aviv representative **Brenda Stieger** who had returned from her trip to Switzerland and Israel. Brenda's report on her visit to the source of Zionism and her visit to the Hadassah-WIZO projects in Israel inspired her audience and gave everyone the desire to visit Israel as soon as possible. Brenda moved everyone to tears when she spoke of her visit to the Children's House at Yad Vashem.

Edith Nathanson introduced Brenda to the audience and **Shirley Chernin** thanked our guest.



1997-98 Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-Wizo.

PEI News

The PEI community's fifth annual meeting was held on August 24, 1997, at the home of **Barbara & Jim Munves**. Executive officers were elected (or re-elected) unanimously: President - **Joe Naylor**; Vice-President - **Clive Pickles**; Treasurer - **Winston MacGregor**; Secretary - **Annabel Cohen**; Hebrew School Principal - **Rosalie Simeone**, Past President (ex officio) - **Sol Feldstein** and Summer resident ad hoc - **Jim Munves**.

Mazel tov: to **Aaron Feldstein**, son of Dr. Sol & **Evelyn** on his graduation from Dalhousie Medical School. He will be completing two years of residency in Thunder Bay, Ont... to **Alex Mazer** on his graduation from Charlottetown Rural High School with the Governor General's Award... to **Kate Lehmann** on her graduation from the University of PEI in Psychology. Kate has taken a position as Child Care Worker in Power River, BC... to **Joann Katz** on her graduation from the University of PEI and her acceptance for studies at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

Thanks to **Shirley Burnstein** and **Edith Schneiderman**, on a lovely sunny morning, a bus load of seniors including **Rabbi Saul and Dina Aranov** and two visitors from Israel, 37 in all, set out early in the morning of July 15th from the Beth Israel Synagogue to begin a tour of the South Shore of Nova Scotia and to arrive at Camp Kadimah.

As Shirley led us in familiar songs, how pleasant it was to look out the windows of our bus and see the lovely blue water of St. Margaret's Bay. Rather than the monotony of the wider highway, it was enjoyable to come upon the old familiar names of French Village, Black Point, Queensland, Hubbards and then on to a very welcomed stop in Chester. How nice it was to be greeted, as we descended the bus, by **Charles and Natalie Oler**, as well as, by coincidence, **Pamela (Medjack) Stern**, who happened by on a walk with her little daughter.

Though Chester was almost too beautiful to leave that morning, we had to continue on our journey. So it was on the Chester Basin, Martins River, Mahone Bay and a change of direction at Blockhouse. This change had us cut across country, a pleasant drive inland, but it was when we reached Barss Corner that we knew we were within reach of Camp Kadimah!

As we stretched our limbs and descended from the bus, we were warmly welcomed by Camp Director **Sheldon Cohen** and by Program Director **Marty Zatzman**. We were told that since we were among those who had help create and develop this marvelous Camp Kadimah more than half a century ago,

we were invited to walk about the Camp wherever we wished and to share lunch with the campers and staff in the dining hall. Bubbies rushed off to find cabins, grandchildren, counselors, boyfriends, girlfriends, etc. By then lunch was ready and the food disappeared in short order. The travelling seniors were recognized and acknowledged with joyful singing.

And then it was time to take our leave. With two stops for bus breaks and refreshments, we

made it back to Halifax and Beth Israel - tired but happy!

On October 21st the bus tour to the Annapolis Valley became the car tour to the Valley and a lot of fun. The beauty of the multicolored leaves with the sun shining down on them as they fell - how could we not enjoy our excursion! But the highlights for the twelve of us were the two visits we made in the Valley.

The first was the visit to **David Silverberg** in his home, the home that Acadia University gave him (no money but a home): a home to paint in, to experiment in, to keep meticulously clean and orderly, to enjoy the many people who come to his studio: to talk to him, to discuss his interests and theirs, to explain in great detail why he does what he does and loves, to tell you of the many countries he (with his wife) has spent a whole year painting in - and occasionally to drop a Yiddish word or phrase or speak of his sons. I think I speak for the twelve of us when I say that it was a very interesting and enjoyable visit!

The second visit was with **Naomi Honey**. This lovely lady greeted us with pleasure on our arrival and invited us in to her home where we discovered she had set her dining room table with lovely food and drink (Heaven forbid we should be hungry!). We saw pictures on her wall of her three children: her son in the Israeli Army, her married daughter and her younger child living at home. When we were finished, she ushered us into her salon (at our request) where we saw samples of the jewelry she makes herself as well as what she brings in from Israel. A very enjoyable time was had by all!

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by Doreen Gordon

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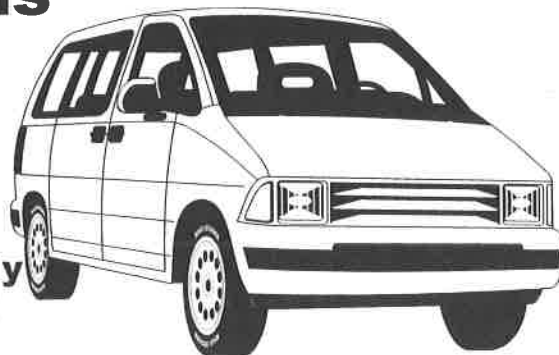


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There is no doubt that this service is or could be of great benefit to members of the Halifax community! Please use it! Or you will lose it!! For information and orders, call AJC at 422-7491. Thank you.

Kathy Zilbert



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The Northwood-AJC Connection

By Michelle Irwin, Manager of Communications and Fund Development

Northwood and the Atlantic Jewish Council share a 25-year history of cooperation that became a more formal partnership this year, with an agreement to co-develop and deliver services to respond to the specific needs of the Jewish community. Knowing that the Jewish Council had conducted a study in 1993 to assess the needs of Jewish seniors, Northwood approached the Council with an offer to help them formulate solutions and action plans. The groups got together for meetings and discussions and identified several key areas, including the need to establish a centre for Jewish seniors.

Reaching out to the Jewish community also prompted Northwood to look within, and develop ways to enhance the quality of life for the 13 Jewish residents of Northwood. **Rabbi Ellis** recently joined Northwood to provide pastoral care to Jewish residents and lend support to Northwood's Jewish initiatives, including a program to educate staff about Jewish history and culture. As there is currently no Jewish long term care facility in Atlantic Canada, Northwood is in the midst of developing a plan to introduce a nursing unit, where Jewish culture and customs would be maintained.

Northwood is here to help. The decision to look beyond the family for resources to care for our loved ones as they get older is difficult to make. It helps to know that the people at Northwood understand what you are going through, and will work closely with you and your family member every step of the way to ease the transition. You may also feel better knowing that, while Northwood provides first-rate, compassionate care, we look after more than just the physical needs of our residents. We care



Seniors' activities at Northwood.

just as much about the emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual needs of each individual who lives at Northwood, and offer a variety of services and programs to help older adults get the most out of life.

Northwood - a vibrant community. When someone comes to live at Northwood, they are not entering an institution so much as joining a community. Everyone is welcome to participate in the many activities on the go at Northwood. We encourage family and friends to stay involved in their loved one's life by accompanying him or her to social events, visiting on a regular basis and joining the Family Council. Family Council is a group of family members who volunteer their time and energy to help make life more comfortable, enjoyable and fulfilling for residents of

Northwood.

In addition to Northwood Centre, where we offer our nursing care services, Northwood Manor provides a home for seniors who are receiving personal care services, and part of Northwood Manor and the Northwood Towers houses seniors who are living independently. All of these people, along with the 400 seniors outside Northwood who are members of our Multi-Purpose Centre, plus staff members, volunteers and families, make up the Northwood community.

Northwood's introduction of a nursing unit where Jewish culture and customs can be maintained is in response to a community needs. The result will provide seniors in the Jewish community with a choice and an opportunity to continue lifelong traditions and cultures within a larger community.

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March to Jerusalem. The Chevra. Halifax, September 1997



Manny Batshaw (c) retiring advisor to Charles Bronfman for Jewish affairs receiving a plaque for his efforts on behalf of Atlantic Jewish Youth from Sheldon Cohen (l) and Larry Freeman (r) Montreal, December 1997



L-R Mrs. Ina Kohler, UJA Shaliach Dr. Danny Levine, Mrs. Riva Spatz shown here at UJA Parlour meeting. Halifax, October 1997



"Start Your Engines". Jon Goldberg, Mike Soberman and Adam Minsky attending the GA in Indianapolis, USA, November 1997



Atlantic delegates participating at CJC National Executive Meeting. Toronto, October 1997. Larry Riteman, Halifax, Art Saffron, Springhill, NS., Messod Salama, St. John's NF.



AJC. President Victor Goldberg presenting a gift to Israeli Ambassador David Sultan and Mrs. Sultan during their official visit to Nova Scotia, October 1997

The Region



Dignity Day Ceremony, Kristallnacht, Halifax, November 1997



Program with P.E.I. Jewish Community. November, 1997



"Friends Forever". Sharon Alexander and Darah Gaum Chanukah Casino Night. Halifax, December 7 1997



David Attis of Moncton receiving the Samuel Bronfman medal from CJC President Goldie Hershon. Toronto, October 1997



The crowd gathering to light candles at Kristallnacht Ceremony. Halifax, November 1997



Mrs. Helena Jockel, Holocaust Survivor speaking to Junior High School students in Dartmouth, NS. November 1997

KRISTALLNACHT IN HALIFAX

By Joel Jacobson

The evening was dark, damp and foggy, typical of the mood of more than 100 people crowded near the Halifax Cenotaph in Grand Parade Square. Members of the Jewish and Gentile communities were gathered on this Sunday evening (Nov. 9) to commemorate Kristallnacht, a night of destruction of Jewish synagogues, homes and businesses in Nazi Germany, Nov. 9, 1938. It was also a celebration of Dignity Day, designated to encourage mankind to ensure the elimination of hatred and the growth of respect for each other. Men, women and children carried lit candles a few hundred meters from Province House, the seat of Nova Scotia government, to the central city square and then quietly laid their candles at the base of the Cenotaph.



Mr. Phillip Riteman lighting candle at the Kristallnacht ceremony. Halifax, November 1997

"The turnout is very encouraging," said **Larry Riteman**, chairman of the Atlantic Jewish Council Education Committee, and the son of a Holocaust survivor. "This is our sixth year of Dignity Day and the large numbers indicate people want to learn the best lessons they can from the sorrows, grief and losses of war. They want to ensure human

dignity for everyone and that human dignity can play a major role in security for all nations."

Candles were placed by **James Kinley**,

Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Provincial Minister of Labour **Gerald O'Malley**, and Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor **Walter Fitzgerald**. Among other dignitaries attending were Provincial Attorney General **Alan Mitchell** and Halifax councilors **Howard Epstein**, **Bob Harvey**, **Clint Schofield** and **Russell Walker**. Holocaust survivors **Helena Jockel** and **Philip Riteman** placed candles on behalf of other survivors while a large group of Halifax area children represented youth and the hope for the future.

Viva Press, co-president of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation, a University of King's College journalism student, and a CJN columnist, gave a background to Kristallnacht. "It was the start of exclusion for Jews, the beginning of suppression of Jews from organizations, ban of Jewish publications and the ban from schools of Jewish children. It was the night when anti-Semitism and hatred took control of Europe. Fifty-nine years ago, Jews of Germany lost more than synagogues and shops. They lost dignity."



DATELINE HALIFAX

Mazel Tov: to **Donald and Shirley Arron** on their 50th wedding anniversary; to **Joseph and Sarah Raskin** on their 50th wedding anniversary; and to **Riva and Simon Spatz** on their 50th wedding anniversary. Birthday wishes go out to **Edith Schneiderman** on her 75th, **Howard Polar** on his 90th, **Ella Morris** on her 80th, **Ida Phillipson** on her 88th, **Betty Astroff** on her 80th, and **Nardy Nathanson** on his 70th. Mazel Tov: to **Max and Patrice Berdowski** on the birth of their son **Noah**; and to **Ina Kohler** on the marriage of her daughter **Annalee Cohen** and the marriage of her grandson **Jamie Cohen**. Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Ross** on passing the Nova Scotia Bar Examinations.

Condolences go out to **Sharron Ross** on the death of her father **Max Lowe**, to **Bunny Shore** on the passing of her father **Norman Cohen**, to **Harry Gordon** on the death of his wife **Vivian Gordon**, to **Peter Herschorn** on the death of his wife **Sylvia Herschorn**, and to **Sadie Goldberg** on the death of her husband, **Henry Goldberg**. Condolences to **Joseph Zatzman**, **Michael Zatzman** and family on the passing of **Leah Zatzman**. Condolences to the Goldberg family on the passing of **Rhoda Goldberg**, to **Helen Simon** on the death of her husband **Ron Simon** and to **Harvey Meretsky** on the passing of his father.



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From the AJC Regional Chaplain

By Rabbi David Ellis

I am writing to you within my first days of assuming the position of chaplain in service to the Atlantic Jewish Council. Just precisely what this job will be, both the Council and I have yet to see. There will be a period of trial and error and experimentation. Nonetheless, there are some very clear general mandates for my position, and I hope to be able to accomplish some things which very much need to be done in the region.

You have read about the Northwood senior's complex and the plans to add a Jewish wing, with a kosher kitchen, holiday celebrations, and perhaps prayer services. The planning is well-advanced, and I am already in service to the staff and Jewish residents of Northwood. To see that Jewish seniors can be cared for in a meaningful way, that the resources of Judaism can be available to them as an inspiration, should make their golden years rewarding ones of reflection, celebration and fellowship. No more need it happen, as a friend lamented to me of an incident he saw some years ago, of an elderly Jewish man in a seniors' home being served a ham sandwich and a glass of milk. My hope is that the Jewish community at Northwood be a place for all of the Jewish community - families, children, youth - to serve and appreciate.

I will also employ my familiarity with the outlying communities (I have, at one time or other, visited every community in the Atlantic Region, except for Newfoundland and the Annapolis Valley, and even in those, I have good friends.) in my role as the "roving rabbi." I will be available to travel to the outlying communities up to ten days or two weekends per month. These communities are very diverse, and just what needs to be done will be played by ear. Sometimes it will be leading services, other times it will be training others to lead services. There is a need for education, both for adults and children. Some communities wish a rabbi to conduct funerals; others would like information on how they might do it themselves. Often the communities outside of Halifax lack numbers and a critical mass of people to make many programs effective; for them, we must look at more joint projects with neighbouring com-

munities. Whatever comes about will be up to your input and suggestions; you can always reach me through the AJC office.

From my travels around the Maritimes, one thing I can see which needs to be done is to coordinate a Jewish speakers' bureau.

We have numerous talented people within our region who should be shared with one another. Immediately coming to mind are the artists **David Silverberg** of the Annapolis Valley and **Herzl Kashetsky** of Saint John, the poet **Joseph Sherman** of PEI, and musicians such as **Evie Carnat**. There certainly are others - professors, lawyers, perhaps even everyday people - who touch upon Jewish sources and experience in their professions and activities, who should share their contributions with others outside of their local communities. I will be calling the representatives of the various communities for suggestions, or you may let me know directly.

My general rule in working as a chaplain will be to eliminate my job! I would be glad to perform services in Glace Bay (or wherever), but I would

rather show someone there to do it themselves. I hope to teach Hebrew to people who do not know it, but I hope they will be able to master the resources themselves. I can give a talk about the Holocaust, the Jewish holidays, etc., but I would like to train others to do so. So if I can get you to do the work and get the credit for it, I will do it; everyone in the Maritimes should potentially anticipate a call from me. In fact, there will always be **plenty** of objectives for me to do, and I am looking forward to joining you and the AJC and Northwood staffs in achieving them.

Our communities all face difficulties. It is known that we have lost numbers and may continue to do so. It is natural to despair and reminisce of the good old days. Those in the small communities have heard me quote the words of the old **Porter Waggoner** song—"When I Go Down, I'll Go Down Swinging." If we adopt this as our motto, we will see that there is still much to be achieved in our region. Let this Chanukah season be a time of rekindling and dedication for all of us. We may still be able to hit a single or two, maybe more. At least, we will not be called out on strikes.

"We have numerous talented people within our region who should be shared with one another."



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CHANUKAH GELT:

THE MIRACLE OF OIL AND THE ECONOMIC FACTOR THEN AND NOW

By Rabbi Saul Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

The tale of surrender of religious values for the sake of economic advancement is an old one. It was evident in the years prior to the first Chanukah in 165 BCE just as it was when Jews entered the New World of North America during the last century when they gave up their prior preoccupation with religious study and practice of Judaism which was central to their lives for material prosperity.

Let us go back to the years before that first Chanukah. The chief reason why the political leadership of Judea led by the High Priest of Jerusalem began to court the ruler of the Seleucid Empire Antiochus Epiphanes IV in the years 175-165 BCE was based on an economic motivation. They wanted Jerusalem to acquire the right to be able to issue coinage which was an important factor in the economic development of a city-state to ensure their economic prosperity. The trade-off was that they adopted the ways of Hellenism at the expense of Judaism.

The chief religious symbol of the Chanukah festival was the miracle of the pure cruse of oil which would normally last for one day's kindling and it lasted for 8 days of kindling until new oil could be prepared to kindle the Temple menorah. We ought to understand that oil is a means to an end whether to kindle lights for illumination or to fry latkes - potato pancakes or jelly rolls - *sufganiyyot*. In modern society we view oil as indispensable for air and ground transportation.

If the oil factor is so overriding then whoever possesses an abundance of oil should be an economically secure society. This supposition has been shown to be otherwise by **Dr. Eliyahu Kanovsky**, a visiting Professor of Economics at Yeshiva University who was born in Canada but who has lived in Israel for many years. He has undertaken to study the economics of oil in the 1970's and 1980's when it was thought that OPEC led by Saudi Arabia would substantially increase its wealth because it was sitting on so much oil, while Israel, bereft of oil, was a potential basket case economically speaking.

Dr. Kanovsky challenged this premise against all other experts. He was one of the few scholars who studied Arab economics. He predicted correctly that an oil glut in the Middle East would lead to a price collapse which would affect the power of OPEC and cause financial deficits among Arab countries that export oil. This economic condition plagues Saudi Arabia since 1983 and persists as they incur huge deficits in their balance of payments rather than

the great profits that Israel, the US and other Western countries feared.

Technological development in the energy field in natural gas and hydro-electric power also affect those who depend upon oil as their sole export. Therefore only when the Arab oil producing countries introduce far ranging change can those countries avoid economic stagnation, unemployment and poverty that widens the gap between the rich and the poor in those countries.

A case in point is an arch-enemy of Israel and the West, namely, Iran. Officials in that extremist Islamic Republic have continually blamed their economic woes on their war with Iraq from 1980-88. However, in truth it is due to their mismanagement, corruption, the flight of professionals and entrepreneurs, and an inability to increase oil revenue on which they substantially depend. The tendency of countries to become belligerent because they cannot cope economically leads to more radical political change which will affect the Middle East and the West as well. Their high inflation, declining standard of living, weak manufacturing sector and high unemployment fuel protest by the populace which ends in bloody rioting since 1991.

In 1992 Iran was unable to repay money borrowed to finance their deficit. Since 1993 Iran's GNP per capita has and continues to decline. Iran had \$10 billion in oil revenues during the Gulf War but their support of weaponry resulted in a large balance of payments deficit.

Another enemy of Israel, the Gulf States and the US is Iraq. Just in time for Chanukah, Iraq kicked out the US inspection team that is supposed to guard against Iraq becoming a threat not only in the Middle East but globally, with its array of distinctive weaponry. Iraq is under boycott. The Russians again, purely for economic reasons, have struck oil deals for millions of dollars with Iraq and therefore seek to have economic boycotts removed from Iraq which is a danger to the world. The people of Iraq are indeed suffering because their leader expends fortunes on arms and their development while people are starving.

Chanukah reminds us of another type of oil - olive oil which was used to fuel the Temple menorah. It symbolizes the fuel that makes for spirituality and enlightenment as it recalls the function of the human soul and the light of knowledge which illuminates the mind. We are after all in the information age which points to progress

Cont. on next page



My Caucus colleagues and I are always interested in hearing from you. Please let us know of any issues which are of concern to you and to your community. You can reach us by calling 1-800-363-1998 or 424-2731, by faxing 424-7484, through e-mail — pccaucus@fox.nstn.ns.ca., or by using our TTY/TTD number — 424-8924.



John Hamm
Leader of the Opposition

The "Unknown Holiday"

By Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Sgoolai Israel Congregation, Fredericton

Everyone is familiar with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Shalosh Regalim of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot have their *moadim*, "appointed times". Although there is serious history behind Chanukah and Purim, people see them as a time for joyous celebration. Even the fast days are observed in varying degrees.

There is another holiday which is just as important, if not more so, than all the others. It is ushered in, as all festivals are, by Kiddush and *licht bentchen*. There is not just one, but three festive meals; and there is also an "additional" or "Musaf" service, just like the other festivals. However, this "holiday" comes fifty-two times a year, and so is not given the respect and observance it deserves. Of course, I'm talking about Shabbat.

In Parashat Yitro (Shemos 20:8) we read "Zachor - remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (that is, set apart from the other six days of the week). In Va' Etchanan (Devarim 5:12), we read, "Shamor - guard (or observe) the Shabbat to keep it holy." We are told that both of these words, Zachor/Shamor were spoken at the same time, to insure that, yes, we would remember Shabbat, and also observe it.

How do we observe this holiday? We learn that it is a "day of rest" on which we must do no work. One person's rest can be another's frenzy, and the term "work" is open to interpretation. After all, how much work is it to strike a match, or turn on a switch

(light or TV)? Many people also feel that if they can use timers, set before Shabbat, to turn lights on and off, why can't they do the same for TVs and VCRs? Let's take these questions in order. The word "*Melachah*" is translated as "work", but according to Dayan Dr. Isidor Grunfeld, z"l, author of *The Sabbath*:

Melachah thus includes within its scope any activity of a constructive nature which makes some significant change in our material environment - significant, that is, in relation to its usefulness for human purposes. Any act, *however small*, which demonstrates man's mastery of nature in this way is a *melachah*, be it striking a light or washing clothes, tying a knot, or building a house.

We have thus arrived at the definition we have been searching for. A *melachah* is an act that shows man's mastery over the world by the constructive exercise of his intelligence and skill.

Since the Shabbat is holy, that is, set apart from all other days of the week, things and devices used on the other days (such as TVs, VCRs, radios, computers, pens, pencils, and crayons, to name a few) must not, can not, be used on Shabbat. Many people believe that rest means playing a vigorous round of

golf, having a bar-b-que, sailing one's boat, etc., all activities which are forbidden on Shabbat. What is permitted? Well, first off, we need to go to shul, and give HaShem a few hours out of the week He has given us, to thank Him for all His blessings. Next, let's spend some time with our families. Instead of everybody running hither, thither and yon, why not make some time for DMC (Deep, Meaningful Conversation)? Parents, really listen to your children's hopes, aspirations and fears. Children, listen to your parents wishes and concerns for you. Both sides, temper your conversations with care, concern, and love for the other side. How about that book you never had time to read? On Shabbat, you now have plenty of time for uninterrupted reading, since you no longer have to answer the phone. And since no one knows everything about everything, how about curling up with a good book on Judaism; especially one about Shabbat observance. Then you'll really know how to observe the "unknown" holiday.

CHANUKAH GELT:

Cont. from page 20

in the future which will raise the standard of living of all human beings. Correct information about Jewish values must also be transmitted to the Jewish generations of the future if we hope to have a future. Remember that old saying to children "Early to bed and early to rise makes one healthy, wealthy and wise" or was that "Oily to bed and oily to rise will make us healthy, wealthy and wise".

In a more serious vein the Jewish people in the lands outside of Israel have an obligation to invest sufficient funds for the establishment of Jewish Day Schools. A special fund and program has been established by prominent Jewish philanthropists led by Canadians **Charles and Edgar Bronfman**. Their aim is to create 25 to 30 schools in the next five years as a bulwark to counter the growing tide of assimilation and indifference to Jewish education.

Each grant would be matched by the community sponsoring such start-up schools which would be \$300,000 in US funds over five years. If we want to give meaningful "Chanukah gelt" to our children then we ought to make that kind of investment in Jewish education in Halifax.

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DAVID ATTIS RECEIVES BRONFMAN MEDAL

David Attis of Moncton was presented with the Samuel Bronfman Medal at a meeting of the National Council of Canadian Jewish Congress on September 21 in Toronto. The award is presented to persons who have rendered distinguished service to CJC and the Jewish community.

"Any contribution I may have made came with a lot of support from CJC," said Mr. Attis. "But without CJC having reached out to me a decade earlier, I never would have stepped forward."

Mr. Attis, 56, is a native of Moncton. He was a past chair of the CJC National Small Communities Committee, the Atlantic Jewish Council and his local synagogue. However, he gained particular notice when he filed a 1988 complaint with the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission against Malcolm Ross, a school teacher whose public statements and books were condemned as being anti-Semitic. During a human rights inquiry, Mr. Attis's then 14-year-old daughter **Yona** testified on the climate of intolerance directed towards Jews in Moncton schools. The case wound up in the Supreme Court, and in a 1996 ruling the high court unanimously upheld a decision to keep Ross out of the classroom. The need to protect young minds from teachers who purvey anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, the court ruled, overrode any free-speech claim such a teacher might make. Mr. Attis and his wife **Margie** have three other daughters.

CJC President **Goldie Hershon** congratulated Mr. Attis on receiving the Bronfman Medal, saying he was a most deserving choice.

The following is David Attis's acceptance speech in full.

There was a time when Canadian Jewish Congress was the heart and soul of Canadian Jewry.

There was a time when CJC was front and centre in advancing the Jewish agenda; a time when Congress was the definition of "Jewish identity", Jewish "activism", indeed, all things Jewish. It was an inclusive

family - not only could anyone join its family, its hand reached out to all, fostering a sense of belonging and shared concern.

We, the Jewish family, have hit on hard times. The soul struggles for relevance, even for a sense of its own identity. Where Congress once set the communal agenda, it now serves as the agenda. Activism is now measured by which agency can out-"press release" its supposed competitors. And worst of all, instead of reaching out, it has become insular and withdrawn.

Who will care for the smaller communities which are struggling on the brink of spiritual and cultural oblivion? Who will champion the cause of Jewish youth - in an era where financial considerations dominate the decision-making process? Who will make the case for those who cannot get a hearing on their own?

There was a time when the answer to those questions would have instinctively been: "CJC, of course." It is time that we move to ensure that such questions still yield such a response.

Reclaims the soul of Canadian Jewry. Don't be distracted by "bean-counters" and "infrastructure consolidators" who never got their hands dirty with a Malcolm Ross; who never stood vigil outside a Soviet Consulate for hours and hours, days and days, years and years. Let such Jewish leaders travel to North Battleford, Saskatchewan and tell a couple who have home-schooled their children in Torah, Ivrit and Jewish history that: "We are sorry, but you don't fit into our neat paradigm of service delivery to the community. You'll have to move to Toronto."

CJC once was and should again be the "voice of the people"...the advocate of Amcha. And if those advocacy efforts have first to be directed at

"consolidators and bean-counters", then so be it.

To CJC's president, a woman whose name reflects her character, an activist who stood outside the consulates and in the streets of Russian, I say this: Use the time left in your mandate to re-affirm Congress' place within the community. Refine your agenda, share it with Amcha, re-kindle the spark within the neshoma and then go do battle with the bean-counters.

Any contribution I may have made came with a lot of support from Congress. But without Congress having reached out to me a decade earlier, I never would have stepped forward. Goldie, make sure others across this land have the same opportunity. For them to be able to step forward, CJC must step forward first.

I am grateful for your decision to recognize my family's efforts. Our sages say that when words "flow from a heart they penetrate a heart." I pray that it is true today. Thank you".

See picture on page 17.

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Fredericton

Budovitch, Lillian, Change, PO Box 71, Station A, 527 Queen Street, E3B 4Y2, (506) 472-4788

Cohen, Morton Allen, Change, PO Box 71, Station A, 527 Queen Street, E3B 4Y2, (506) 472-4788

Ravvin, Norman & Butler, Shelley, Addition- 70 Avondale Court, E3B 1Y3, (506) 454-6044

Samuels, Rabbi Yochanan & Carol, Addition, 268 Westmoreland Street, E3B 3M2, (506) 454-2717

Riverview

Maklin, Lois- Delete, no forward

Sackville

Gann, Dr. Andrew and Marjorie, Change- 19 Squire Street, E4L 4K8

Saint John

Stanton, Alberta- Delete, no forward

Woodstock

Rose, Hyman & Rhoda, Change, E7M 2T5

NOVA SCOTIA

Blackpoint

Sherman, Alan, Delete, no forward

Boutiliers Point

Zwerling, Stephen, Delete

Fall River

Offman, Alan, Delete, no forward

Halifax

Avramovitch, Solomon, Delete- no forward

Bloom, Barbara, Delete, moved out of Province

Denevers, Denise, Delete, no forward

Friedman, Wendy, Delete, no forward

Goldberg, Henry, Deceased

Goldberg, Rhoda, Deceased

Goldig, Brian, Delete, no forward

Gordon, Vivian, Deceased

Green, Esther, Delete, no forward

Herschorn, Sylvia, Deceased

Mencher, George & Lenore, Change to 80 Spinnaker Drive, #303, Halifax, NS, B3N 3B5

Moore, Hillary, Delete, no forward

Offman, Freda, new #, (902) 422-1766

Offman, Helen, new # (902) 477-6301

Pels, Jack, Delete, no forward

Roza, Joe, Change- 85 Spinnaker #601, Halifax, NS, B3N 3E3

Shapiro, Ron, Add e-mail address, ronald.shapiro@ns.sympatico.ca

Simon, Ron, Deceased

Stein, Mark, Change to 5555 Atlantic Street, B3H 1G6

Waldman, Stephen, Change to 6133 Shirley Street, B3H 2N1

Woolf, Dr Daniel, Addition- 2049 Beech Street, B3L 2X7

Yashayaev, Igor & Inessa, Addition- 5651 Olgivie Street #1003, B3H 1B9, (902) 425-5203

Zatzman, Myer, Delete

Zatzman, Leah, Deceased

Sydney

Cohen, Minnie, Delete, no forward

Tantallon

Levick, Arnold, Delete, no forward

Wolfville

Harrison, Karen & David, change- P.O.Box 1421, B0P 1X0 (902) 542-7498

Lerman, Sheina, Change- Box 411, (902) 542-0964

Udovin, Hymie, Delete, no forward

NEWFOUNDLAND

Potugal Cove

Hoenig, Nadine, moved to US



*On behalf of Halifax Regional Council and our citizens,
I welcome this opportunity to extend best wishes to
members of our Jewish Community.*

Shalom.

*Walter R. Fitzgerald
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality*

Dr. Elisabeth Maxwell, an acclaimed expert on the Holocaust and a member of the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, says it's important to get younger people involved in Holocaust study and research. "We want to ensure people are carrying the torch," she stressed in a Halifax interview after speaking to a public gathering and addressing students at Saint Mary's University.

"We want to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, to stop it from becoming fossilized as an historical event, as events become after a great many years. Research and discussion will keep it alive and negate the deniers."

The French-born and British-educated Dr. Maxwell, 76, has spent most of the past 17 years studying, speaking about and promoting conferences on the Nazi horrors of the Second World War.

Brought to Halifax, Fredericton and Saint John by the Atlantic Jewish Council and Atlantic Human Rights Centre, she confessed she feels guilt for what happened in Europe in World War II.

"I was a French Huguenot, a Protestant. We were persecuted as were the Jews but we stood by and did nothing as Hitler murdered millions of them. It wasn't really anti-Semitism. We were just totally ingrained in the Christian culture and I inherited that. We were never taught that there was a Jewish religion."

Prominent expert on Holocaust studies visits Maritimes

By Joel Jacobson

She didn't convert to Judaism, even though her husband, scientific publisher **Robert Maxwell**, was a Czechoslovakian Jew whose family was destroyed in concentration camps.

"Conversion would have been the easy way out, a way of getting rid of the guilt. As a Christian, I can say 'we' are guilty. I don't exclude myself from guilt."

Now lecturing extensively, Dr. Maxwell,

who holds two degrees including a doctorate from Oxford University, began her obsession with the Holocaust in 1980 when she tried to piece together the fragments of her husband's family tree.

She found 17 of his cousins in the United States and, in five years, expanded the tree to 1,250 names, including more than 500 close relatives who died in the Holocaust. Her effort led her to many academics researching the Holocaust.

"I told several mentors I wanted to learn. They helped me, and I helped them

produce the Journal through my husband's publishing company."

She helped organize "Remembering for the Future", the first major international conference on Holocaust studies in 1988 at Oxford. A second conference was held in Berlin in 1994 and she is planning "Remembering for the Future 2000", to be held at Oxford in July 2000.

"The press wasn't interested in 1988, but today everyone talks of the Holocaust," she said. "We made the Holocaust a world concern, not just a Jewish concern."

Benefits of her work include establishing university study chairs on the Holocaust, both in the United States and Europe.

"At long last, Europeans are coming to terms with the war. They were initially unwilling to accept their guilt but this has changed."

Dr. Maxwell, with honorary degrees from Temple University (Philadelphia) and Tel Aviv University, is unsure whether people have learned from the Holocaust but thinks it is so self-contained and well documented that we can learn much about how to stop other genocides.

"The Holocaust never happened before or since," she said. "Mass murderers have not aimed to destroy an entire people. The atrocities were dehumanizing, sadistic, cruel and brutal."



Dr. Elisabeth Maxwell delivering the Vigod Lecture at Dalhousie University, Halifax, October 1997

MACCABI CANADA - HISTORICAL TENNIS TRIUMPH WITH HALIFAX COACH NORMAN KATZ

By Frank Medjuck, General Manager

Canada made history at the 15th Maccabi Games in Israel this summer by winning medals in the Tennis competition for the first time. This is a personal triumph for Head Tennis Coach **Norman Katz**, son of **Shoshana Katz** and the late **Max Katz** of Halifax, brother to **Bonnie Katz-Webber**.

"It was a great mix of talent and experience," said coach Katz. "It takes a lot of guts to grind it out in that difficult heat. Jacquie (assistant coach **Jacqueline Feffer**)

and I are very proud of all the players."

Over 500 matches were played over 7 days in junior and open divisions, all of them in sweltering 38 degree heat. Competition was fierce, featuring NCAA and nationally-ranked players from over 15 countries competing in 10 categories.

David Abelson of Town of Mount Royal and **Charles Wright** of London, Ontario captured the Silver Medal in Men's Doubles. Bronze Medals were received in 4 other

divisions including Junior Mixed Doubles, Junior Boys Doubles, and in Women's Singles and Women's Doubles.

All 16 players on the Tennis Team came away with great memories and a great social and cultural experience in Israel. Many thanks to the Maritimers who donated funds in support of the team. Over 40 Maritimers responded generously when called upon and Norman is grateful for the hometown support.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

by Larry Riteman, Chairman

Since my last report to you as the chairman of AJC's Holocaust Remembrance Committee (Pesach April '96), a project that was addressed in the last article has now reached its finale.

It is my pleasure to report that the Department of Education has completed an integrated education package for the Holocaust subject with the cooperation of the AJC. This project has come to its completion with the invaluable assistance and participation of the following: **Mr. John Stone, Dr. Barry Fox, Ms. Sue Lebel, Mr. Bob LeBlanc, Dr. Owen Ferguson, Mr. Rick MacDonald, Evelyn Luner, Doreen Gordon, and Jon Goldberg**; also to be mentioned for an invaluable contribution is **Marsha Koven**.

It was regrettable that **Dr. Franklin Bialyastok's** proposals were, while appropriate for the Toronto area, were quite unsuitable for our region. However, Dr. Ferguson did produce an excellent pilot guidebook for the teachers which would accompany their kits. The kits are composed of novels, biographies, maps, sample primary documents, resource books, videos, CD-ROMs, music cassettes and completed with sample lesson guides. At the teachers' in-house session on November 18, the response to our kits was impressive in the excitement expressed. All seven kits that were prepared and on display at the session were snapped up and over the next few days the officials from the superintending districts ordered another 35 kits. Also, to our merit the Departments of Education in both Manitoba and British Columbia have been in touch with their counterparts and myself to assist them in their program development.

A further note is the recent Dignity Day commemoration. This event is now in its fifth consecutive year and holds all the promise of continuing in the years to come. This year, November 9th came about on a rainy Sunday evening. Despite this, about one hundred people participated, including His Honour the **Lt. Gov. John James Kinley**, the Mayor the Honourable **Walter Fitzgerald**, and several other MLAs and Councilmen, etc.

The quality of our future does depend on the Holocaust's critical lessons and we must all be willing to play a role in helping our fellow citizens to appreciate what the lessons are both for them and for us.

The Greenblatts honoured by Synagogue

By Joel Jacobson

A lifetime of dedication by a husband and wife team was recognized recently at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax. **Jayson and Ann Greenblatt** were honoured at a Chai Kiddush for service they gave willingly and unselfishly for more than 40 years.

Jayson Greenblatt, a retired defense scientist with the federal government, served a record 24 years on the synagogue's board of governors - as secretary, vice president and for an unprecedented three separate multi-year terms as president. He was either a member of, or chairman of, most shul committees over the years and a member of Chevra Kadisha.

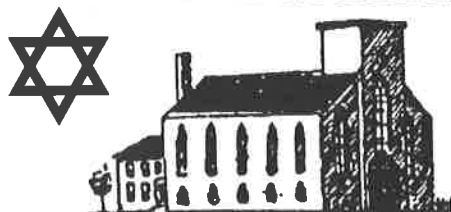
"No task was ever too complex or challenging and even the most menial and humble tasks are carried out with dignity and dispatch," long-time friend **Earle Bowman** told the congregation. "He has been an innovator and a genius for organization."

Dr. Greenblatt spearheaded some of the most successful UJA and Israeli Bond Campaigns in Halifax, and has been a leader in Canadian Jewish Congress and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Ann Greenblatt was instrumental in planning and equipping the kitchen of the new Beth Israel Synagogue when it was built in 1957. As president of Sisterhood, she took a major role in fund-raising for the synagogue, adding fresh ideas and special decorative themes to make the Sisterhood Bazaar one of the most successful events Sisterhood ran. She is also a member of Hadassah-Wizo and served as first president of the Tikvah chapter.

While in their early 70s, both continue to be active in synagogue affairs. Ann is still involved in Sisterhood, particularly on the past-presidents' committee. Jayson is on-call to do synagogue maintenance work and provide advice to the building committee which has been his pet involvement.

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By Rabbi David Ellis

As we enter the Chanukah season, we recall the small group of Jews in the Second Temple period who fought to preserve the Jewish religion. In fact, in the annals of wars and rebellions, the story of the Maccabees would not be a significant story. It would read as a minor territorial conquest and recapture. Yet Chanukah teaches that from the small sanctuary of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, an inspirational light would shine to influence world history.

The Jewish home is called by our Sages as a *mikdash m'at*, a small sanctuary. What we do in our homes is an imitation of the service of the Temple, and the sanctity of our worship enters our daily lives. Such was indeed the character of the home of **Mrs. Helen Brodie**, who passed away recently in Moncton.

Helen was a life-long resident of Moncton, the daughter of **Hannah Rive and Tzvi Zev Kirsh**. She resided in the same house on Wesley Street from her early childhood for the rest of her life. The Judaism she received from her home - the religion, the holidays and their cuisine, the hospitality and manners - Helen shared with husband **Jack** and son **Harry** for many years.

There have been many women talented at Jewish cooking in Moncton over the years. By unanimous opinion, however, the name of Helen Brodie and her recipes always came out somewhere in the top circle. I remember once calling the Brodies on a Saturday night, after Shabbat. I had expected that after the cleanup, they would be at leisure after the day of rest. Actually, I was told, I had caught them at their busiest time. They had already begun their baking and preparations for the coming Shabbat. The freezers in the Brodie kitchen were catalogued almost in library fashion, with deli-

Zichronah livrachah: Mrs. Helen Brodie



cacies stored away for desserts, Shabbat dinners or an upcoming holiday.

More than just the culinary expertise, the meals at the Brodie house were models of Jewish welcoming. Rabbis, cantors and visitors were often served at her table. The cycle of the Jewish year would be anticipated in advance with the preparation of specialities for Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Pesach or Shavuot.

We know that during the war women often took over jobs on the homefront. Helen performed a task ideally suited to her talents for hospitality. Moncton was a centre for military transport, with servicemen passing through en route to or returning from overseas. Helen was one of several women instrumental in working at the Jewish Servicemen's club. Hundreds of Jewish soldiers received a Jewish welcome, meals, and entertainment in an area where they might well be neglected due to the demands of the war effort. Helen saw that the Jewish young men might feel at home, while being away from home.

Helen was offered the presidency of the Sisterhood, but in her usual deferring manner, chose to remain less in the spotlight. She was, however, the treasurer for many

years. She had the unofficial role as chauffeur of the Sisterhood. Being one of the first women to drive in town, she always made her car available to drive others to Sisterhood meetings.

Everyone was aware that Helen was not in the best of health in her latter years. Yet she bore her pain quietly, not letting others be depressed by it. Her conversations were always of her pride for Jack and Harry, a new cooking hint, how our kids were doing - always something of concern and benefit.

Indeed the word which always comes to mind as one recalls Helen Brodie's household is fundamentals, a dedication to the simple, straightforward basics of Jewish life. She supported Jack in his contributions to the synagogue as President and chazzan. She saw that Harry always went to synagogue and learned the skills of the Jewish services.

Our Sages say of the book of Genesis that it is *maasei avot siman l'vanim*, the deeds of the fathers being signs for the children. Helen passed away in the week between the Torah readings of *Vayera* and *Chaye Sarah*. The former begins with an incident of the hospitality of Abraham's and Sarah's tent, which served as the model for what would be the welcoming home of Helen Brodie many centuries later. *Chaye Sarah* begins with the death of Sarah, leaving a husband and a son to mourn for her and beginning a time of rebuilding from their loss. We wish Jack and Harry should be comforted among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, as all of us recall fondly our memories of their wife and mother.

Ed. Note: Helen Brodie was also the sister of Mr. Leonard Kirsh, now of Toronto, Mrs. Sophie Sherman of Halifax, and the late Jacob Kirsh of Moncton and Max Kirsh of Halifax.

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ISRAELI AMBASSADOR VISITS ATLANTIC CANADA

By Joel Jacobson

Relations between Canada and Israel remain "good, based on a sound basis of friendship," despite the recent passport affair, the Israeli ambassador to Canada told a Halifax audience recently.

David Sultan was on a five-day visit to Atlantic Canadian centres, his first official visit to the region since his appointment a year ago. He spent two days in Fredericton and three in Halifax.

He stressed the volume of trade between Canada and Israel has jumped 45 percent over last year, since the implementation of a free trade treaty between the two nations. "And Prime Minister (**Jean Chretien**) will attend the lighting of the first Chanukah candle at Parliament Hill December 23 to mark the beginning of celebrations of Israel's 50th anniversary. In retrospect, the passport crisis will not harm the good relations between Canada and Israel."

Mr. Sultan met university and government officials in Fredericton and addressed

a Jewish community audience of nearly 60 people. In Halifax, the ambassador met government officials, the lieutenant governor, two university presidents, the editorial board of the *Chronicle-Herald and Mail-Star*, and addressed members of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation at a Shabbat dinner.

At a community reception attended by 75 people, Mr. Sultan updated the peace process for Haligonians. "We're not having the hoped-for progress we expected but difficulties are part of any process. We remain committed. Peace in the long range is the only viable option. It's certainly the biggest challenge."

Mr. Sultan, who served as ambassador to Egypt for four years prior to his Cana-

dian assignment, emphasized that Israel has to calculate carefully its every move in the peace process. "The tendency in the world is to support the Palestinians. They are perceived as the weak side but this is a misperception. They are part of an overwhelming Arab majority in the region and I'm confident we'll reach an agreement but only with more ups and downs and additional crises."

He discussed Syrian peace ("trying to find a formula to resume talks. We'll have peace but it's a long way off"), the conflict among religious sects in Israel, ("To face our challenges, we must unite and combine our efforts. We could all do with a little more tolerance. Religion must not be a dividing factor.") and the botched assassination attempt of the

Hamas leader ("The man is not a saint. We're at war with the Hamas and people don't understand that"). The newspaper editors heard that Israelis can't understand why the process of prosecuting alleged Nazi

war criminals takes so long. "Slow prosecution is certainly a concern for Israelis. They'd like to see things move more quickly and efficiently."

He stressed the importance of the People-to-People initiative between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We've organized meetings between students groups, teachers' groups, and established small collections of Israeli material in 100 Palestinian libraries and vice versa. It doesn't cost big money. Canada is participating in peace forces and multi-lateral talks but we'd like to see more in the People-to-People program. To a great extent, the peace process depends on it."



Mark Rosen, AJC Vice President (r) presenting a gift to Ambassador David Sultan on his recent visit to Halifax.

By Christina MacNeil, Webmaster

Yes, that is the AJC's web site address. Visit it. Use it. Give us feedback.

Since the launch of the website in early fall, we have had visitors from Venezuela, Texas, California, Israel and, of course, Atlantic Region. Former Maritimers, using search engines, were able to find us and now use the site to keep in touch. It is easy to see this is the communications tool of the new millenium.

The Internet committee met recently to determine how this site can be used for membership's needs. Holocaust Education, APJSF and the Historical Society all have (or will have) their own pages of information. Upcoming programs and events are listed well into 1998. Key information for members of the Jewish communities of Atlantic Canada and visitors to our region include candlelighting times, Shabbat services times and where to buy kosher products.

It is our intention that the website is to be interactive. That means that you can contribute to the site with your ideas, comments and stories. We would be happy to personalize the site with photos of events (either the actual photo or, preferably, a scanned image on disk). Eventually we hope to establish a chat room for the kids of Camp Kadimah.

Our e-mail address is listed at the bottom of each page. Feel free to respond and let us know what you want to see on the website.

We encourage the use of our internet computer for students researching projects for school or those individuals who do not have their own pc, to drop by and visit the Judaic sites. This is by appointment only. Our library is for your use - videos, books, internet.

www3.ns.sympatico.ca/ajc.halifax/main.html

Ruth Goldbloom wins award for restoring link to past

Reprint. *The Toronto Star*, November 7, 1997

Ruth Goldbloom has spent three years working on a project to link Nova Scotians to their past.

She's also a tireless volunteer who welcomes new immigrants to their future in Canada.

For that, the Nova Scotia native was honoured [Nov. 6] with the second annual National Harmony Award at a reception in Thornhill.

"It's an extraordinary award and I'm totally overcome that I was chosen for it," said Goldbloom of Halifax, who has devoted herself to her community for some 50 years.

Toronto doctor **Joseph Wong**, co-founder of the non-profit Harmony organization, said that Goldbloom brings endless energy and determination to every project she's involved in.

"I've only known her two years and I see she has an iron will to get things done," he told the 600 people who attended the awards banquet at Le Parc hall. "But she's down to earth and easy to work with."

Goldbloom is involved in numerous projects but the one she is most passionate about is the restoration of Halifax's Pier 21,

a heritage site due to open in July, 1999.

Between 1928 and 1971, Pier 21 was the gateway to Canada for 1.5 million immigrants, the place where they set foot on Canadian soil.

"I've been consumed with Pier 21 for the past three years," Goldbloom said. "We've had great support from the 50,000 war brides who landed there and from veterans who left to go overseas from there."

The project received \$4.5 million for the federal government. And with Goldbloom as a driving force, another \$2 million has been raised. By 1999, she hopes to see another \$2.5 million in the coffers.

Goldbloom envisions Pier 21, Canada's last standing immigration shed, not as a museum, but as a "high-tech activity centre" where people can get a sense of what it was like to be an immigrant in the past.

"Pier 21 will do for Canadian history what Ellis Island has done for the U.S.," she said.



The Harmony organization says it aims "to foster understanding and promote integration among all communities." It tries to promote positive aspects of Canadian life as an antidote to constitutional wrangling and economic hard times.

Goldbloom was the first woman to chair the Halifax Metro United Way Campaign. She has also helped raise money for Dalhousie and Mount Saint Vincent universities.

Goldbloom also said that one of the biggest thrills of her volunteer career has been time spent welcoming new citizens.

"It's the greatest privilege in the world to stand in front of new Canadians and tell them they are as much a Canadian as people who have been here for 10 generations."

Last year, the recipient of the Harmony Award was developer and philanthropist **David Lam**, a former lieutenant governor of British Columbia who gave \$1 million to the Universities of British Columbia and Victoria for management research and an Asian Pacific centre.

THE GIFT OF ISRAEL

AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD

The Gift of Israel is an exciting program to help you send your child to Israel for the experience of a lifetime. By opening a Gift of Israel bank account, you can start planning and saving for your child's Israel experience program. AJC and UJA Atlantic recognize the importance of this experience for your child, and will assist you by contributing funds to the program.

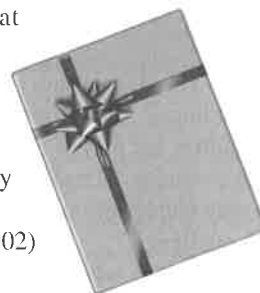
With the Gift of Israel, it's never been easier or more affordable to give your child the most precious gift of all. The Israel Experience is not just another vacation. Even if your child has been on a family trip to Israel, the student trip to Israel provides a magical blend of new friendships, camaraderie, personal explorations and sense of community.

The Gift of Israel is an extraordinary opportunity to help your child explore his or her heritage and mature into a self-aware, confident individual. By sharing the experience with Jewish youth from all over the world, your child will develop a sense of pride and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

It's not too soon to plan! Although your child may be years away from actually participating in an organized Israel experience, your community has created some exciting ways to begin the planning process. The anticipation of the trip alone will add a special excitement to your child's life! There are more than 200 organized Israel trips for high school and university students. Each trip brings its special brand of fun, excitement and learning to the Israel experience. For tips on selecting the best trip for your child and details about the wide variety of trips available, check out our Web site at www.israelexperience.org. The web site features travel entries from current Israel Experience participants and digital postcards.

At the time of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, you can allow the opportunity to have family and friends give a more meaningful Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift. Through the combination of gifts from UJA, AJC, family and friends, you can accumulate a substantial portion of the cost of an Israel trip by the time your child is ready to leave, in two or three years.

Enrollment forms may be obtained from the Atlantic Jewish Council. Contact Myra Freeman, Chair, at (902) 429-7523, or Christina MacNeil at the AJC (902) 422-7491, for further information



Pier 21 remembered

By Joel Jacobson

"Nothing has changed. It's absolutely gorgeous," gasps **Herman Newman** as we walk through Pier 21 on the Halifax waterfront. "I can come here and sit and walk for hours. I came from the most difficult area that existed and found solitude here," says a Holocaust survivor, who, as a 17-year-old, made his Canadian entry at this Halifax landmark that welcomed more than 1.5 million immigrants between 1928 and its closing in 1971.

Mr. Newman arrived in 1948, later married **Anna Clare**, a Halifax woman, raised three sons, became a successful real estate developer, and moved to Toronto two years ago to be closer to their children and nine grandchildren, but makes sure he spends part of every Remembrance Day at Pier 21.


"People like me get nostalgic. All I have left (of my youth) are memories and, like prayers, they strengthen your way of life." Mr. Newman has willingly shared his story of lengthy time spent in Auschwitz and


Dachau with thousands of men, women and children so it will not be lost. He tells people about spending two teen-age years in a British hospital, recovering his strength, before being offered the opportunity to settle in Canada. "I left there because I was tired of saying 'thank you'. I wanted to be on my own. I had a chance to be adopted in Toronto but refused. When I came down that gangplank in Halifax, my first thought was 'I'm a free man. I just want to stay and build my own life.'"

Herman Newman was only one of that large number of immigrants who first set foot on Canadian soil in Pier 21. The Pier 21 Society is in the midst of a \$9 million campaign to revitalize the immigration shed, to pay tribute and honour the legacy of those who passed through the historic landmark. "If the walls of Pier 21 could talk, they would tell my story and that of many others who came through here," says Canadian author **Peter Newman**, a member of the national


advisory committee which also includes The Honourable **Trevor Eyton** of Brascan, **Peter Herndorf** of TV Ontario, **Ann McCaig**, Chancellor, University of Alberta, Senator **Mira Spivak**, and **Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong**, honorary chair, United Way Greater Toronto. **Ruth Goldbloom**, Halifax, chair of the Pier 21 Society, is enthusiastic about the response to the fund-raising campaign to which federal, provincial and municipal governments have committed \$4 million. "Canadians from coast to coast are responding with offers of memorabilia and stories. We've already raised \$2 million from the private sector but need more to make the new Pier 21 a reality. People can find us at website <http://pier21.ns.ca/>.

Herman Newman looks from the pier to George's Island, a few hundred meters away. "I remember standing on the deck of the Aquitania and seeing that island from the mouth of Halifax Harbour. I knew I'd make my home in Halifax.





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All offerings subject to availability.

CJC MAINTAINS BUSY AGENDA AS PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S MANDATE NEARS END

By Michael J. Cohen, CJC National Director of Communications

Canadian Jewish Congress commended Federal Justice Minister **Anne McLellan** for her promise that an annual report on her department's War Crimes Unit will be introduced beginning this spring. CJC first called for such a public accounting at a meeting with Parliamentarians in Ottawa last March. The request was repeated in a closed door session with then Justice Minister **Allan Rock** in May and when a CJC delegation convened with McLellan in September. CJC also applauded plans by the Justice Minister to amend the Extradition Act to allow for suspected modern-day war criminals to be deported to the Hague where they could be tried before an international tribunal. A CJC delegation recently met with Ms. McLellan and Citizenship and Immigration Minister **Lucienne Robillard** to discuss the war crimes issue.

CJC Plenary: Plans continue for the 25th National Plenary Assembly of Canadian Jewish Congress. This much anticipated triennial event will take place at the Lombard Hotel in Winnipeg, from May 24 to 26, 1998. Several hundred delegates from

across Canada are expected. Fundraising is underway. Nine different categories have been developed, targeting individuals, organizations and corporations. They range in price from \$250 to \$40,000, offering companies the opportunity to sponsor everything from meals to programs. *Jewish Roots Meet 21st Century Realities* is the theme. Programming Committee Chair **Jack London** hopes that delegates from across the country will use this event as an opportunity to dialogue and debate the forces which will impact on and shape Judaism, Jewishness and Jewish institutions in the new millennium. The sessions will focus on the themes of: Jewish Continuity, Jewish Restitution and War Crimes, Issues Dividing/Coalescing the Diaspora and Israel, National Unity and Technology and Judaism, Religion/Secularism-What is Jewish? The closing session will focus on the future role and relevance of Jewish institutions, in particular.

Briefly Noted: CJC President **Goldie Hershon** was the guest of the Central Board

of Jewish Communities in Greece on November 23 when she traveled to Thessaloniki for the unveiling of a memorial in honour of the victims of those who perished in that town during the Holocaust. Before WWII Thessaloniki had a Jewish population of 50,000; less than 2,000 were saved...National Unity working groups created by the regions are getting ready to participate in provincial consultations of the Calgary Declaration, which recognizes Quebec's unique character...CJC intervened before the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of **Delwin Vriend**. He is a former employee of King's College in Edmonton who, under Alberta law, does not have the right to file a human rights complaint after he was fired because of his homosexuality...The CJC National Law and Social Action Committee presented a symposium entitled Social Cohesion Through Social Justice recently at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

For more information about CJC access our web site at www.cjc.ca

Visit the AJC on line

www3.ns.sympatico.ca/ajc.halifax/main.html

The beauty of our differences begins with our right to belong



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Camp Kadimah update

By Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director

Plans are already underway in preparation for Kadimah '98. Many new and exciting innovations to the program are in store for all. This summer we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel. This will be the theme of the summer and it will be focused in all Judaica Programs and special events.

On November 23, we had a very successful rally and reunion in Ottawa. Several new families were in attendance as were staff and campers from the past summer. Over forty attended

and enjoyed our memories video from 1997. It is so nice to see the Ottawa community join the Kadimah family.

On November 30 over one hundred and twenty attended the rally and reunion in Toronto. All had a great time and enrollment for the '98 season could be at an all time high.

We hope to have a rally in Halifax in February. We are in the process of hiring an excellent staff and are planning for yet another amazing summer.

Wishing all a Happy Chanukah.
Shalom.

Correction

In the last issue of *Shalom*, in the caption of a mural of Camp Kadimah, credit was given in full to **Belarie Hyman Zatzman**. Belarie, in fact, was assisted by a competent crew of 5-10 volunteers, who worked hard to ensure that the mural was ready that summer. Our apologies to all those who participated in the wonderful mural.

THE CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

The Canadian Jewish Book of Remembrance will honour the memory of the Jewish Canadian Veterans who gave their lives while on active duty with the Canadian Military Forces during the 20th century.

South Africa - 1899-1902

World War I - 1914-1918

World War II - 1939-1945

Korean War - 1950-1953

UN Peace Keepers

The purpose of the Canadian Jewish War Memorial Association is to raise the funds necessary to publish permanent Books of Remembrance to honour the Jewish Canadians who fought and died for their country, for freedom and for the survival of the Jewish people.

The goal is to raise an estimated \$70,000 to cover the cost of publishing and distributing the Books of Remembrance.

Why a Book of Remembrance? It is felt that the approximately 422 Jewish Canadians, who gave their lives in the service of Canada during the 20th Century world conflicts, have really never been adequately honoured.

How can you help? If you want to help honour the memory of the Canadian Jewish War Veterans that gave their lives serving their country fighting for freedom and the survival of Judaism, use the donor form below. All donors will be recognized in the Book of Remembrance. Make cheques payable to The Canadian Jewish War Memorial Fund and mail to Canadian Jewish War Memorial Association, 640 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 602, North York, Ontario, M2K 1B8. Telephone (416) 225-4276 for further information.

Donor Form

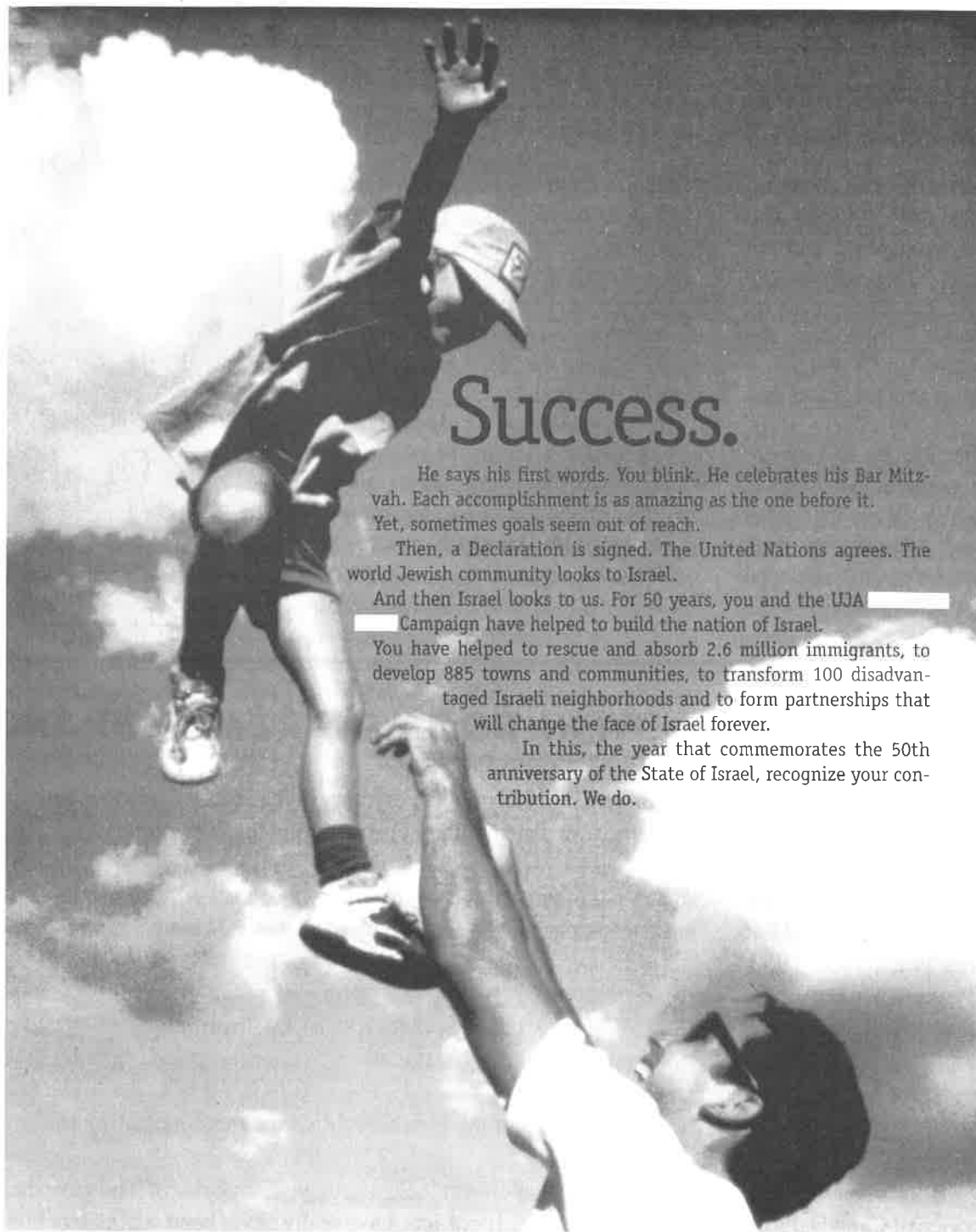
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Campaign have helped to build the nation of Israel.

You have helped to rescue and absorb 2.6 million immigrants, to develop 885 towns and communities, to transform 100 disadvantaged Israeli neighborhoods and to form partnerships that will change the face of Israel forever.

In this, the year that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, recognize your contribution. We do.



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