

Shalom!

Spring 1998 Vol. 23, No. 2

אביב תשנ"ח 5758

שלום!



יובל החמישים לישראל
ISRAEL AT 50
YOUR DATE WITH HISTORY



President: Victor Goldberg

The Atlantic Jewish Council Quarterly

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Cover:
 Jewish youngsters of Minsk perform and celebrate their Jewish life

President's message

By Victor Goldberg

Since winter is quickly fading and we are basking in unusually hot, springlike weather, I would like to welcome back all the snowbirds and the many others who traveled during March Break. As most of you know, my family and I were unable to go away during the March Break because of my father's passing. Although he had been ailing, his zest and vigour until almost the end have made it even harder to



Victor Goldberg presents Sarah with a parcel from the JDC.

accept that he is no longer with us. My brother, Jon and I were overwhelmed by the great number of you who supported us so graciously with your words, visits and your many good deeds. Thank you for the comfort that you have provided during a very difficult and emotional time.

Earlier in the winter, as President of the Atlantic Jewish Council, I had the very unique opportunity to participate in a JAFI (Jewish Agency For Israel) whirlwind tour of Israel and Belarus. The purpose of this "Voyage of Discovery" was to reinforce the continued need of Jews in Israel and in other disadvantaged areas, especially the Former Soviet Union, and words could not describe our 36-hour visit to Belarus, during which time we were accompanied by the former Prime Minister and Nobel Laureate, Shimon Peres to his former birthplace in that country. While in the capital, Minsk, where only 70,000 Jewish inhabitants remain in a city whose Jewish population was once more than 50% of the total, I had the privilege of accompanying the JDC (Joint Distribution Committee) on a home visit to an elderly Jewish lady, who was blind, immobile, practically deaf, and, having lost all of her family in the Holocaust, virtually alone except for the friendship and benevolence of the Jewish Agency and Joint Distribution Committee.

I visited her on her 80th birthday and her joy at the human contact was so palpable and

yet so sad. While she was obviously in her twilight years and very fragile, she seemed happy that she would die knowing that Hitler and Stalin had not succeeded, and that fellow Jews had founded a homeland and flourished to the point that their help could sustain her and others in her situation. This experience made me realize what quality of life a man like Morris Goldberg (Z'L) had in this Jewish community even into his mid-eighties. He lived in a

building where a number of the occupants were also Jewish. He had his synagogue, his daily contact with members of the Jewish Community, and of course, his family around his own Shabbat table. Circumstances and luck were the only factors that made the Belarussian lady's life different from my father's. They had families who called the same area of the world home, and their families felt the same pogroms and the same oppression. Even more chilling, the lady's name was Sarah, my late grandmother's name. When I looked into her shallow and forlorn eyes (it was the eyes of the Belarussian Jews that were most memorable) I felt that I could have been gazing at my grandmother.

I will carry this haunting thought etched in my memory and urge all who can, to bear similar witness, lest any of us forget where we came from, who we are, and what obligations we have to other less fortunate people. At the same time, we can only hope that future generations of Jewish people everywhere will feel as enriched and as rewarded by their Judaism as my late father felt, not only for his own sake but for the sake of his children and his children's children.

As Pesach nears, the theme of freedom looms ever larger and I hope that your Seder will be inspiring and fulfilling.

A kosher and healthy Passover to all!

From the desk of the Executive Director

By Jon M. Goldberg

Welcome to our special *Shalom* edition celebrating Passover and the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel. In addition to our regular features, we are presenting a special section as a tribute to Israel's 50th. It attempts to provide the reader with a wide array of archival material as well as insights from a varied group of experts and sources.



April 1998 will be a month to remember. Passover begins on the 10th, we read the Hagadah and learn of the flight of from Egypt to Freedom. On April 23rd we commemorate Yom Hashoah and remember all our martyrs who died in the futile attempt by the Nazis to exterminate the Jewish People, and on April 30th, which corresponds to the 5th day of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, we celebrate the establishment of a Jewish State in the Land of Israel - The State of Israel.

All our people wished and dreamed for at Passover, much of what our 6 million died for, became a reality on the 14th day of May 1948. I urge you to read the Declaration of Independence delivered to the world by **David Ben Gurion**. Proclaimed at a session of the Provisional State Council, held in the museum of Tel Aviv shortly after sundown on May 14th, 1948, it will always be for me one of the most stirring and meaningful documents ever written. It makes me proud to be a Jew.

As your Executive Director, I am pleased to say that during my almost six years in the position I have been part of a major expansion in the role the AJC does and will play in the life of Atlantic Jewry. Much has been done to try and meet our local needs with diminishing resources. Yet I can never forget my Zionist roots. I grew up with the State of Israel. My family inculcated in me an undying love for the Jewish homeland and I must try to pass this on to the younger

generations. I also must meet the Israel needs from our campaign. However, we at the AJC cannot do this alone. We must have the co-operation of our Jewish educators, our clergy and the parents. We must make better use of our winter programs and summer camp as learning tools. Oh, I know Israel at times can be frustrating and politically embarrassing, but we can overcome the odd disappointment so as to teach our youth what Israel has meant and will mean to the Jewish People.

Atlantic Canadian Jewry have been supporting the Jewish State since well before W.W.II. In the 20s and 30s, funds were raised, Young Judaea was active throughout our region 75 years ago. I know of at least two Cape Bretoners who went to Israel to fight in the War of Independence. **Lionel Druker** of Sydney, who served with distinction in the Israel Army and later became a successful businessman now living in Tel Aviv, and **Joseph Siegel** of Glace Bay, a W.W.II veteran who served with the Israel Air Force. There may have been others. Since 1948 hundreds of our people from Atlantic Canada have visited Israel, some many times over. We send a higher percentage of our youth to Israel every summer than any other region in Canada.

So, my friends, on April 30 stand proud. Attend a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in your community, or travel to one close to you. Israel's rebirth 50 years ago is one of history's great affirmations of the indomitability of the human spirit.

As we reflect on Israel's 50th Anniversary, let us therefore say: Blessed is G-d for having brought us to this great and glorious day!

Best wishes to all our readers for a Happy and Kosher Pesach and a wonderful Spring!

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YAKOV'S CORNER AND A HALF (WE'VE HAD LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON)

By Yakov Feig, Programmer

Never "Passover" an opportunity to write a *Shalom* article. Especially when you can "Spring" into action immediately. However, I would be remiss to deal with spring and Passover before summing up the winter's activities.

Events have been occurring at a hectic pace for all age groups. Our youth, teens and some of our adults were busy preparing for and performing in the *Wizard of Oz* (I was the Cowardly Lion), which took place on February 7th

and 8th in Halifax and on February 15th in Moncton. Meanwhile, on January 17th all grades 3 - 6 in Halifax enjoyed "Struggle For Survival" - a special laser tag game in honour of Israel's 50th Birthday. Our teens in Halifax had the opportunity to enjoy "Kartbahn" Go-Karting on February 2nd, thanks to the efforts of **Lauren Abrahams**, who helped scout out the place for us, and **Sharon Alexander**, who as usual provided us with our flyers to help advertise the event. It was also a pleasure to perform with many of our talented youth and teens at a Music Night in honour of Jewish Music Month, that was organized by our very own **Shirley**

Burnstein and Club Massada. The end of February saw Hectic Halifax/Camp Kadimah Rally, a wonderful opportunity for 38 teens from Grades 6 - 12 from around the region to get together for a weekend of learning,

and fun activities including a Shabbat Dinner/Program on Friday Night, Services/Lunch/Program on Saturday, a sleepover at Boomerangs on Saturday night, and a trip to Camp Kadimah on Sunday. Special thanks to **Sarah and Aviel Zwebner, Rosalie Simeone, Rabbi Aranov, Rabbi Hoffman, Kathy**

Beth Israel for Grades 1 - 6 on March 8th. Everybody enjoyed playing Purim games, refreshments, entertainment, prizes, and much more. Kudos to **Joanne Nozick, Susan David, Bassy Feldman, Sandy Greenberg and "Razmatazz", Erin Sperling, Colin Fox**, and a whole slew of volunteers, who helped make the event an annual success story. I also had the opportunity to participate in a weekend that was organized to help prepare our 12 teenagers from around the region that are participating in this year's March of the Living. We can definitely be proud that our teens are taking part in these endeavors, which we can only hope will strengthen their Jewish identity, their commitment to Israel, and to Jewish continuity.

As well, I have been pleased to have been

in many spots around the region in the past three months. Aside from being in Moncton for the *Wizard of Oz*, I have also had the opportunity to be in Newfoundland on the weekend of January 23rd - 25th and doing programs with the youth, teens, university students and the general community of St. John's. Special thanks to the **Noel family**, the **Salama family**, **WUJS Areva Ifaat Bassist**, and **Dr. Michael Paul**, for

their assistance in making the weekend an unqualified success. I was also thrilled to spend Purim in Fredericton with **Rabbi and Mrs. Samuels** who have brought their tre-

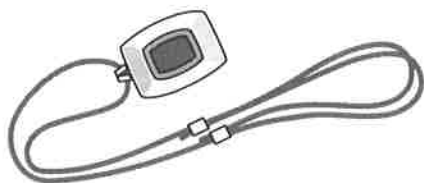


"We welcome you to Munchkinland", February 1998. L-r: Shira Tsinman, Diana Wolfson and Elana Rubinstein.



Having fun at the Purim Potpourri Soirree, March 1998. L-r: Barbara Gaum, Myrna Rubin, Carmi Rubin, Aviva Rubin, Heidi Lipkus and Genevieve Lipkus.

Zilbert, Natalie Cohen, Howard and Karen Conter, Colin and Cathy Fox, Michael Soberman, Sheldon Cohen, Howard Budovitch, and everyone else who helped make the weekend the success that it was. Another great success was Halifax's annual Community Purim Carnival at the



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mendous energy and vitality with them to the Fredericton community. I was very impressed with the turnout to the Megillah reading, the Purim Seudah with the children, and the turnouts to services/programs during my stay there. By the same token, I was equally impressed with the turnout of 14 children in Saint John to their Purim Carnival on March 15th. I was thrilled to do a program with the grades 1 - 8 and I am looking forward to my next visit back to the area. Special thanks to **Janet Holtzman** and **Marcia Koven** for assist-

ing me with arrangements and to **Moshe Granick** for allowing me into his class with very short notice. I also would like to take this opportunity to make special mention of **Rabbi Ellis**, our new AJC Chaplain, who has had the opportunity to visit many of our small communities during the past few months. I have only heard positive comments from the communities that he has been to and I feel very blessed that he is able to augment our service to our communities across the region. I have also been thrilled to act as a resource to WUJS Arevim Sarah and Aviel Zwebner in Moncton, and Ifaat Bassist in St. John's to help provide more and better resources to their respective communities.

At the university student level, we have had a wonderful winter as well. January began with a Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel with over 30 students in attendance. Our annual Ski Trip/RISE Convention saw over 38 university students from around the region take to the slopes of Keltic Lodge, enjoy programming on the theme of "The Jews of Cape Breton", enjoy a tour of Sydney, and the theme of "Israel at 50!". Special thanks to

David Ein, Martin Chernin, Max Lubetski, Ifaat Bassist, Rabbi Benjie Jacoby, Joanna Mirsky, and our trustworthy leaders **Ian Epstein, Viva Press** and

many others, who helped make the weekend a great success. March saw 35 students at a wonderful Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel featuring side-splitting comedienne **Ellen Steigman**, and an equal amount of students at Viva

Press's house for a Purim Party on March 14th. We also had wonderful get togethers in St. John's on January 24th (7 students) and Fredericton on March 14th (8 students). I am pleased with the results of the APJSF this year, and am looking forward to the election of a new executive from across the region to build upon our strong core for next year.

I must also make mention of some of the young adult, adult and outreach programming that has been going on in Halifax and around the region. A small segment of our Young Adult group got together to watch *Titanic* and to have coffee on Christmas Eve. On January 30th, over 16 young adults got together for a vegetarian potluck

Shabbat Dinner. As well, there were meetings of the Jewish Music Club and Jewish Book Club. Our communities should continue to support these "informal" and "low budget" means of bringing ourselves together as a community and enhancing our identity as a group. As well, over 100 people in Halifax got together to enjoy a "Purim Potpourri Soiree" featuring comedienne Ellen Steigman, and a silent auction to raise funds for this year's March of the Living. **Ray Ginsberg** can be credited with hustling both near and far to gather many auction items, as well as a dedicated group of parents and participants of the March, who also helped gather prizes.

Unfortunately, this winter (like so many others) has also been marked by the passing of many of the pillars of our various communities. Usually, these people have been actively involved in their various synagogues, UJA, Hadassah, State of Israel Bonds, the Chevra Kadisha, Jewish War Veterans, and many other worthy organizations. The best thing that we can do in their memory, is to continue to service and strengthen these organizations to build on the legacy that they have created for us

and for our future generations.

Wishing everyone a *Chag Kasher VeSameach*, a Happy and Healthy Passover!



Community Purim Carnival, March 1998.



Some APJSF members, December 1997. L-r; Rob Cohen, Jason Levitt, Michael Hollinger, Erin Sperling, Seth Bloom and Viva Press.



NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

By Claire Frankel-Salama

This past winter has been kind to us in many ways: no snow to shovel, no blizzards to survive and no excuse of not coming to Shul. At the end of January we were pleased to have **Yakov Feig** as our guest. He held an Oneg Shabbat programme for the community on Friday night and then met with the children, youth and student groups during the rest of the weekend. Our Community was pleased to present Yakov with a special Newfoundland gift for his upcoming wedding. We presented him with a spice holder for Havdalah, carved by a local artisan and made from the wood of the Libernum tree, a tree that only grows in Newfoundland and on Vancouver island be-

cause of our MILD winters. Read it and believe it.

On the Sunday before Purim, the members of the Beth-el Youth group gathered at **Yifat Basist's** apartment to make Hamantaschen. Instructions and patience were supplied by **Robin McGrath**, baskets by Auntie Crae's store, and candles by the youth group members. By the end of the afternoon, *Schlachmonos* baskets had been lovingly prepared and

On Wednesday evening we all arrived at the synagogue for a delicious turkey dinner cooked by **June** and **David Mercer** and **Ruth Noel**. After this wonderful Purim feast, we entered the Sanctuary where **Emie Mauskopf** did an excellent job of reading the Megillah. Truly a happy occasion!

On Friday, March 20, we celebrated Shabbat across Canada with a full course dinner, from Challah to Strudel, and a special service including explanations for all newcomers. Our fearless P.R. crew was able to negotiate a spot on NTV for Yifat to publicize this event. Unfortunately El Nino (who is obviously not Jewish), decided to turn off that night and allow our first winter storm since November to enter the Avalon Peninsula. Thanks go to Yifat, our WUJS volunteer and chief organizer, Robin, our resident gourmet cook, and many others who participated in this worthwhile effort. Next time we'll remember to issue a special invitation to this Mr. Nino, whoever he is.



Purim Party Revellers. L-r 2nd row, Miriam Noel, Rufina Litvak, Arielle Salama, Daniel Salama, Yifat Basist, German, and Judy Wilansky. Front row, l-r, Ruthie Rifkin, Hannah Rifkin. Absent were Jimmy and Jacob Klein.

distributed to the elder members of the St. John's community.

Previous to that activity, all the Hebrew school students and youth group members had participated in a swimming party.

What's New on the Island?

Excerpted from HA-EE, Newsletter of the PEI Jewish Community

Rabbi David Ellis conducted High Holyday services for us, for which we are most grateful. His family joined us and helped to make the event so special. We are pleased that Rabbi Ellis has taken up the position of regional chaplain for the Atlantic Jewish Council. We are also thankful to those who contributed so generously towards the expenses of the High Holyday services.

Clive & Joyce Pickles hosted a very enjoyable Sukkot celebration. **Yakov Feig** of the AJC, and **Yoram Abisror** of Canadian Young Judaea, during their stimulating visit to our Community, provided us with a very special Shabbat evening and worked with our youth. Thanks to them for their contribution, and to the AJC for making their visit possible.

Perry & Anne Neatby hosted a meeting of our Community with the participants in the "Holocaust and Hope" student tour. **Leslie Smith & Maureen McIlwain** hosted an enjoyable Chanukah party in their home on December 28th.

REPORT FROM MONCTON

By Nancy Cohen

Children in the Hebrew school, their parents and friends celebrated Tu B'Shevat at Tiferes Israel Synagogue with a special Tu B'Shevat Seder led by **Aviel** and **Sarah Zwebner**. Participants shared many different types of fruit, learned some new songs, and made origami flowers.

Several weeks before Purim the children dressed up as characters in the Book of Esther and were photographed in different poses illustrating the story. On Purim, Aviel's reading of the Megillah was accompanied by a slide presentation of these pictures. On the Sunday following Purim, a carnival and dinner were held at the shul. Costumes were donned again, and both children and adults tried their hand at the various games set up by Aviel and Sarah. The favorite by far was Aviel's "Shoot out Haman's eyes", which required players to put out two candles behind Haman's eyes using a water gun. Following the carnival a dinner prepared by Sisterhood was served to over one hundred people. During the dinner **Miriam Naylor** played beautiful Jewish music on her flute.

Several memorial funds have made possible the purchase of a Tree of Life for the synagogue's foyer. Members and friends of the community are invited to dedicate foot stones and/or leaves; prices will be available shortly. Anyone who is interested in participating should call 858-0258, Fax 858-0259 or e-mail tifisrl@nbnet.nb.ca.

Marissa Attis and **Leyla Attis** are excited to be leaving soon for the March of the Living. **Sandy Attis** will be accompanying them as a chaperone. We wish them a safe trip and are sure it will be a fantastic experience for all of them.

Preparations are under way for a gala Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. We look forward to celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary with our Areivim, Aviel and Sarah, who will bring a uniquely Israeli perspective.

Our sincere condolences to **Evy Carnat** and her entire family on the loss of her mother **Esther Dubinsky**.

On behalf of the community I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Passover.

Making his mark in Hollywood

By Rhoda Whittaker. Reprint. Moncton Times & Transcript, March 24, 1998

Lorne Gorber thought he might have an 'in' with *Titanic* director **James Cameron**.

Three weeks ago, the 24-year-old scored tickets to the Blockbuster Awards, one of a plethora of awards schmoozefests happening in Gorber's adopted home of Los Angeles this winter.

Gorber, who was born and raised in Moncton, got the tickets from fellow New Brunswicker **Joe Medjuck**. Medjuck is part owner of Northern Lights - the production company whose most recent work includes *Private Parts*, shock jock **Howard Stern's** film autobiography.

Gorber was actually at the Blockbuster Awards to see his media hero, Stern - but also managed to catch up with Cameron during the gala.

Cameron was "a little bit" stuck-up, Gorber reports. After telling the Kapuskasing, Ontario-born director that Gorber, too, was from Up North, "the Canadian (connection) didn't do much for him."

But you never know - someday it could be Cameron seeking Gorber out at a tony La-

La Land party.

That's because Gorber is making connections of his own. Earlier this year, he was granted permission to write, direct and produce a short film based on a story by Montreal author, **Mordecai Richler**.

The story is an excerpt from Richler's novel, *The Street*, called "The Summer my Grandmother was Supposed to Die". It's a somewhat autobiographical tale about a young boy who, while sharing a bedroom with his sister, longs for his grandmother's death so she will vacate the room he thinks should be his.

Gorber says he's been working with Richler's lawyer, **Michael Levine**, and they've hammered out an agreement which gives Richler final script approval rights. Gorber has already sent off his script, and is now waiting for word of any changes.

The young writer is hoping Richler - whose work he admires greatly ("I'm now reading *Barney's Version* for the second time," Gorber says) - will agree to a cameo appearance in the 30-minute film.

"I'd love to also use him for the voice-over," Gorber says.

It was a professor at the University of Southern California, where Gorber is studying film who suggested that "a good way to get a short film off the ground was to get the rights to a literary work."

Gorber first found himself in Hollywood three years ago when he won a student internship to Columbia-TriStar pictures.

That's when the screenwriting bug bit him.

Gorber had always been interested in writing, says his mother, **Ann**, who lives in Moncton's West End. "Lorne always said, 'You influenced me by reading to me.'"

Gorber also credits McNaughton Science and Technology teacher **Andrew Campbell** - who taught Gorber while he was at Moncton High School - for igniting his love of words.

Gorber doesn't count on making his fortune in L.A., however; he plans to get back to Montreal in June and begin pre-production and casting. He'll be shopping for funding until the last minute, and if all goes well, "The Summer My Grandmother Was Supposed to Die" could start making the film festival circuit by 1999.

He's looking forward to leaving L.A., partly because of the high crime rates - "I get to watch police chases on TV while they're happening" - but also because "everyone here's a liar." A return to the Maritimes is not in the cards, he says; he's more at home in a bigger city.

"And I miss Montreal badly."



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TRIPLETS!

Alexander, Marieke, Theo, Sebastian, Michaela, Aidan, Kendra, Jacob (Canada), Morgan and Ashley (Australia); welcome with joy the safe arrival of their newest cousins: **Spencer Simon, Ariella Charlotte and Elijah Maurice**. Born to **Uncle Stephen and Aunt Michaela (Lincoln)**, October 7, 1997 at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

Grandchildren to **Gar & Jackie Meltzer** of Saint John, NB, and **Susan & Maitland Lincoln** of Melbourne, Australia. Great grandchildren to **Toni Wolfe (Australia)** and **Rose Lincoln (England)**.

Fredericton News

By Jenny Brown

The late **Ilsa Greenblatt Shore** was honoured by the Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick, who named her their Distinguished Graduate. This was the first time the award has been presented; henceforth the award will be known as the Ilsa Greenblatt Shore Graduate Award. The award was presented to Ilsa's parents and brother by **Ann La Forest**, the Dean of the Faculty, at a moving and elegant ceremony at the University. In addition to Dean La Forest, **Professor Wade MacLauchlan**, former Dean of Law and **Mrs. Judy Budovitch** paid tribute to Ilsa. All the speakers made reference to Ilsa's selflessness, courage, compassion and how she touched everyone she met.

Ilsa was born in Moncton in 1949, she graduated in Education and Law from the University of New Brunswick. She was a partner in one of Canada's most prestigious law firms, Borden and Elliot. Ilsa made many contributions to, and was serving as, Chair of the Board of Governors of the University at the time of her death in 1996.

Anniversary Greeting to the following: **Edith & Harry Levine**-54 years; **Jennie & Joe Chippin**-49 years; **Sue & Louis Levine**-49 years; **Linda & Marty Payne**-40 years; **Carol & Rabbi Yochanan Samuels**-29 years; and **Anita & Dave Adilman**-24 years.

A combined meeting of the Lillian Frieman Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo and the Sisterhood of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue was held at the home of **Amelia Goldman**. **Sydelle Grobe**, president of Hadassah opened the meeting with a prayer and the minutes were read by the

secretary, **Marisa Blanchard**. A financial report was given by the treasurer, **Marlene Unger**. Eleven new members were welcomed by **Daisy Budovitch**, Chair for membership. Rabbi Yochanan & Carol Samuels were guests at the meeting. **Doris Rauch** gave a financial report for Sisterhood and spoke on the budget for the year 1998. Anyone wishing to donate to the library at the synagogue should get in contact with Doris Rauch. Cheryl Abrams and **Miriam Cohen** are in charge of Kiddushes. Hostesses for the evening were Daisy Budovitch, Doris Rauch and Amelia Goldman.

Condolences to the family of the late **Sam Sneider** of Montreal. He is survived by daughter Linda Payne (Marty) of Fredericton, son **Lawrence Sneider (Peggy)** of Hong Kong, and four granddaughters **Robyn Payne** of Toronto, **Barbara Payne** of New York, **Bonnie & Amy Sneider** of Hong Kong. May the mourners be spared further sorrow.

Condolences to the family of the late **Bessie Brown** who passed away after a lengthy illness at the Pine Grove Nursing Home in Fredericton. Survived by husband **Harry**, two daughters, **Florence Goldstein (Dr. Stanford)**, Rochester NY, **Sylvia Chrisman (Myles)** of Las Vegas, five grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. May the mourners be spared further sorrow.

Speedy recoveries to **Lil Chippin** and **Frank Budovitch**.

Mazel Tov to **Rita & Sid Tobin** upon the birth of their grandson, **Jarred Lev**, son of **Aaron & Judy Tobin**, Rochester, Minnesota.

Mazel Tov to **Amelia Goldman** who has returned from Jerusalem where she attended the wedding of her grandson **Yacov**, son of **Dr. Malcom & Barbara Goldman** of Israel, to **Tova Waldman** of Toronto. **Jeffrey**, his son, **Barry** and daughter-in-law **Debbie** accompanied their mother to Israel.

Mazel Tov to **Amelia Goldman** on the birth of her great grandson, **Zalman Chaim**, son of **Zalman & Naomi Goldman**. Proud grandparents are **Jeffrey & Ruth Goldman** of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Stephanie (Meyers)** and **Michael Dorchik** of Calgary, whose daughter **Arielle** celebrated her Bat Mitzvah. Granddaughter of **Sylvia & Irving Meyers** and **Esther Dorchik** of Calgary. Great granddaughter of **Jennie Brown**.

Best wishes to **Harry Lang** upon his retirement. The community wishes him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Best wishes to **Kevin Besner**, son of **Dr. David & Edye Besner**, who has accepted a position in Toronto with Lipton Co., as a computer programmer.

On December 28th, the fifth day of Chanukah, the Fredericton community held a party in the social hall of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue. The new Rabbi Yochanan and Rebbitzin Carol Samuels went all out with entertainment, dinner and games. The program opened with entertainment from the Talmud Torah students, **Jason and Barbara Airst**; **Rachel and Natasha Fransblow**; and **Jacqueline, Phillip and Daniel Soicher**. The students sang Chanukah songs, lit candles along with other members of the community who

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had brought menorahs for the occasion, all sang the blessings.

Rose Eusler, Shelly Stephens and **Shelly Desruisseaux** peeled, mixed and fried 50 pounds of potatoes to make fresh latkes for the over 90 people in attendance.

Roz Brown, Leona Brown, Cheryl Abrams, Carol Samuels, and Carol Airst prepared a buffet of salads, bagels, hot and cold drinks and desserts. **Rhoda**

Fransblow prepared and distributed treat bags full of Chanukah goodies to the children. Jennie Brown, assisted by **Eta Berk,** Edye Besner, **Sarah Jacobson** and Amelia Goldman called everyone in the community to invite them to the party; it was a huge success with everyone going home in a festive mood.

On January 18th, a beautiful, sunny day, the Fredericton community went on a sleigh ride. The event was organized by **Sydelle & Cary Grobe.** The children had a great time jumping off (or falling off) the sleigh and then trying to get back on. They also took turns assisting the driver and the horses were well behaved. Following the ride, Sarah and Harry Lang, Daisy Budovitch and **Miriam Cohen** served hot chocolate and cookies.

A gala fundraising and auction was held at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in support of *Arts Atlantic*, the region's only art magazine. "Arts Atlantic has built up a rich archive of exhibition reviews that otherwise would have no record," said **Joseph Sherman,** editor of *Arts Atlantic* for the past 18 years. Joseph, the son of **Bea & Dave Sherman** came from Charlottetown to attend the auction.

Sixty wooden deck chairs were painted, decorated and reconstructed by artists from Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. Beaverbrook Art Gallery director **Ian Lumsden,** who is on the board of *Arts Atlantic* and who headed the provincial fund raising drive, was pleased with the result and most impressed by the extent of contributions by artists to guarantee the future of *Arts Atlantic*, which celebrated twenty years of publication this year.

Wishing all the readers of *Shalom* a healthy and happy Passover.

Additional reporting by Rabbi Yochanan Samuels.

Wednesday evening, 11 March, was the scene of a great "tummel" at Sgoolai Israel. Many different personae were repre-

Seventeenth Century Seder comes into the Twentieth Century

by Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

"Let's see. What do we need for our seder? Four cups of wine? Check. Haggadahs? Check. Dates, almonds, olives, figs, and ...? Wait a minutes, what are we talking about here?

What we are talking about is Tu B'Shevat Seder held at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue on Sunday, 8 February, at 3:30 pm. Forty children and adults gathered in the social hall to participate in a seder based on Sheva Minim-Seven Species of fruit, nuts, and grains connected with Israel in the Torah. Today, Tu B'Shevat also has an ecological meaning. It is a time when Jews throughout the world participate in the Mitzvah of helping to rebuild Eretz Yisroel by contributing money to plant trees in the Holy Land. The Jewish National Fund, or as many of us "elder statesman" remember it "Keren Kayemet L'Yisroel", sends out materials to educate Jews on the link between Israel, Tu B'Shevat, and trees.

Besides drinking four cups of wine (grape juice) and eating of Seven Species, readings and songs praising the produce of, and extolling the love a Jew has for Israel, were read and sung. Although the Seder was a first for most participants, everyone enjoyed the learning experience. After reciting the traditional "Next year in Jerusalem", many were heard to say "Next year at Sgoolai Israel".

sented, from the traditional Mordechai, Queen Esther, and Haman (boo, hiss), to Robin Hood with a band of not-so-merry men (uncostumed slackers, all) and a rabid football fan (team unremembered at press time). Decorum was well-maintained throughout Minchah and most of Ma'ariv, but at the halachically mandated times, all "H " (I Jaman) broke loose, as each person tried to outdo their neighbour in drowning out the hated name.

An extra added attraction was provided by **Yakov Feig,** from the AJC. He was our scholar-in-residence (who also doubled in brass by reading an aliyah from Torah, laying the Haftarah, and davening Musaf) for Purim and Shabbos. The programs he gave, on Jewish identity; the ritual is important, not just the trappings; and that being Jewish is more than the sum of the Kosher foods we eat, were well received by the congregation.

All in all Purim and Shabbos motzei were "days of gladness... and days of learning" at Sgoolai Israel.



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Remembering Glace Bay

By Philip Simon, Past President, Congregation Sons of Israel (Glace Bay),
President of Cape Breton Jewish Club (Toronto)

Much has been in the media about the final days of the Glace Bay Jewish community. The picture is depressing since the burden of phasing out is left to so few. What is to be done with the Shul, the Talmud Torah, the Torahs, the Shul rituals, the care of the cemetery are all matters to be addressed.

What displeased me about the documentaries on the dying community of Glace Bay was the neglect to tell about the glorious days when one could call it a model in maintaining and perpetuating Jewish values and traditions. Even when a person has passed away, a eulogy will tell of the positive things one has achieved in his life time.

Coming to Glace Bay in 1935 from a small village (Birch Grove) which is five miles away, the town had a general population of twenty-three thousand and the main industry was coal mining.

At that time the Jewish community, had about eighty families. There was a Shul, a Talmud Torah, a Rabbi, a Teacher and shochet and a lot of organizations were present - Congregation, Zionist organizations, Ladies' Aid, Hadassah-Wizo, Young Israel, Young Judea, Habimah players. Most of the Jewish community kept kosher, in fact, at one time there were three kosher butchers there and the slaughtering was done locally.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt, who is 92 and living in Toronto, serviced the Jewish community from 1932 to 1941. He attests to the vibrancy and dedication of Jewish life both in the Shul and Talmud Torah.

We remember the many Chanukah and Purim plays as well as other productions. There guest artists who were brought in, especially **Yitzhak Perlman**, who was brought in by the State of Israel

Bonds. We had a young Israel organization which held separate youth services, with our own members officiating.

Many have made a contribution to the community. I will mention three Presidents in my time. The late **William Chernin** rendered dedicated services. His efforts to construct the Talmud Torah, his appeals for the downtrodden at the time of the World War II, and his strong leadership in the community made his mark as President.

Saul Shore, a long acting President and Secretary, was always in the forefront of maintaining the Congregation. His efforts to lure Rabbis to Glace Bay, so far from the market, were always frustrating.

And, yours truly, served as President for seventeen years - dedicated to Shul services, worked with youth, directed plays, renovated the Talmud Torah, set up a cemetery fund and donated an Aron Kodesh to the Coat of Many Colours which was viewed across Canada, New York and Israel.

I suppose the sun is setting on our proud community but we who lived there, and we who helped in its maintenance, will share in a beautiful dream of yesteryear.

We have formed a Cape Breton Jewish Club in Toronto. We meet once or twice a year with a focus on the Cape Breton scenario. Probably through this medium we will bring back memories, stories and humor of those recaptured days.

The Two Stones

By Lawrence I. Gaum

They were lying about three inches from each other and looked almost identical. There were subtle differences however, when you examined them closely. They were both light brown in colour with small speckles of shiny, pink substance embedded in their surface. The larger one was about two inches in diameter, and was shaped like a triangle. The smaller one was about a quarter of an inch less in measurement. It was rounder in appearance and shaped more like a coin. As well as a pinkish cast, it displayed a lighter blue hue to its overall colour. Despite their slight differences, they were virtually the same material and came from a much larger rock that may have first formed hundreds, if not thousands of years before. They did not appear shiny, however, as they were embedded in a rich, dark soil that seemed to be characteristic of the earth seen all over this tiny, beautiful island. The island lay majestically on the eastern tip of Nova Scotia and had its official tartan, the colours of green, yellow and grey. Cape Breton became the home to so many people of a wide diversity of ethnic backgrounds, that lived side by side

in peace, harmony and prosperity.

The two stones witnessed numerous events over many years. They saw youngsters growing into young men and women and young men and women growing into adults and seniors. They watched seniors grow old and feeble and slowly, over more time, mourned as they passed away. It was this last event that they witnessed the most, for they sat, embedded in the dark, rich earth, in a cemetery, at the end of a long inclining road.

The Jewish community began to settle on Cape Breton Island before the turn of the 20th century. They arrived primarily from Eastern Europe and flooded the ports of entry in Quebec and Halifax from Belarus, Poland, Ukraine and Russia. They were industrious and hard working people and established small settlements in Whitney Pier and Sydney. They prospered in the shadows and pungent odour of the steel plant that belched out smoke in colours that matched the Cape Breton tartan - green, yellow and grey. In 1913, they built a synagogue in Whitney Pier and prayed freely and fervently without fear

of oppression, within its doors. They also set aside a piece of property to serve as the last resting place for members who had lived out their lives. Some were old, some were too young and others had barely begun to live.

The stones witnessed the sad but dignified burials with much interest. The grave site was prepared and as the body was slowly lowered to its final resting place, the Rabbi's lament and prayer, in the ancient tradition of many generations, was lifted from the interment site to the vast heavens above. Thus was the way for Yankel, Shaiya and Frataka.

Several months following the burial, the stones witnessed the erection of a marker or headstone at each gravesite that told of the one interred below. Relatives and friends came to pay their respects from time to time and especially before the beginning of the Jewish Holy days. When it was time to leave after the visit, an ancient custom was performed by the visitors. They would pick up a stone from the ground close by and place it gently on the headstone. They believed that they were leaving behind a sign to the departed that one of their loved ones had come

to visit. This was an indication of a visit filled with remembrances, laughter, tears and prayers. Prayers that pleaded with the almighty to grant the departed everlasting peace.

Not all of the Jewish inhabitants remained in Cape Breton. Many young members of the community left to look for a brighter future in other parts of Canada and U.S.A. Other members, because of sickness and ill-health, left their beloved Island to join members of their family in various other cities and towns.

The young man that entered the gates of the cemetery had made his parents' move to Toronto as easy and as painless as possible. They were reluctant to leave a community in which they had spent the better part of their lives. His father came to Canada from Belarus at three years of age, and other than the infrequent visits to Boston and Toronto over the years, he never left Cape Breton. He was a true island man, contented to remain in the old home he built for his wife and four sons. He was also very realistic and spoke of God giving him "four score and ten years". The rest, if God spared him, was "living on borrowed time". However, he realized that this did not come with any written guarantees. There were no guarantees in life and Maurice knew it. His basic philosophy was work hard, feed, cloth and educate your children, worship God not the dollar bill, live an honest life, and when the time comes, that's it, it's over. He knew the time would come someday for us all, but he didn't dwell on it. He lived every day, one at a time and was happy to remain where he felt love and contentment... in Cape Breton Island.

His wife, Sarah was born in Glace Bay in 1914, lived through both wars, the last one taking her younger brother, Tommy who served proudly in the R.C.A.F. Her roots as well were deeply planted in Cape Breton. She knew and lived one simple life and sought no other. Her daily activities revolved around her husband and her four boys. No thoughts of any luxuries, cruises or vacations in exotic places. That was for other people. Sarah and Maurice wanted to be with each other, at home, in Sydney. And that's where they remained.

As the years fled by, their health deteriorated rapidly and the boys decided that they must make a very drastic decision. The decision was to bring them to Toronto, where they would be cared for in the last declining years of their lives. With reluctance and much sadness, they agreed, and left Cape Breton and their home forever. They were never to return to that small parcel of land that sat on the edge of the beautiful Atlantic where they lived for so long. Maurice lived until his eighty-third year and even as the end approached, his final words spoke of Cape

Breton and his home. Sarah outlived her husband by five years and departed at eighty-one. She never considered her house in Toronto as her "home". This place of love, joy and contentment was and would always remain in the peaceful island by the sea. They were both buried in a cemetery on the outskirts of Toronto.

The good times, the happy times with his parents and their old house on Tain Street was what went through the young man's mind as he stood in the old Whitney Pier cemetery and cast his eyes around at all of the headstones. Some were names he barely remembered as they were in the older section. There were other names his eyes focused on that he recalled perfectly, as he scanned the memorials from side to side. Shaiya, his grandfather, with the great sense of humour and Fratka, his grandmother who was such a wonderful cook. Strange, he could taste her delicious cabbage borscht as he read her headstone. "Fratka, daughter of Yankel and Esther Sheindel, born in Belarus, 1883 and died in Sydney in 1975." What memories and stories. What lives were lived and then disappeared as if they hadn't even been. Only memories now and no more of Fratka's borscht. Only a lingering taste on the back of his tongue and in his nostrils that now filled with tears from his misty eyes.

The two stones watched intently in their silence as the young man stood motionless. It was a hot, sticky day and the dark earth formed a dry crust around them. The good, rich earth that became part of the people that settled and lived on this tiny island. The stones understood the young man's sadness but they could do nothing to ease the pain. They could do nothing to ease the pain of others who also came to visit for a short while and remember their precious past. They witnessed everything but could do nothing.

They were now aware of the young man approaching them slowly but with a great intensity. He peered down at these two small objects and stood over them for what seemed like eternity. He bent slowly and very gently picked up the largest one. Without brush-

ing off the rich soil, he placed it carefully in a small, white plastic bag. The second, smallest one was now loosened from its place in the ground and placed side by side with the other. "What is happening?" the larger stone thought. "What is he doing?" "Why has he disturbed us from our resting place where we have been for so many years?" "Can't you see?" the smaller stone exclaimed. "He is going to place us on his grandparent's headstones." "We will now have a place of honour as they were good people."

But something strange took place and even though the stones could not see, they felt it. The young man folded the small, white bag and placed it in his pocket. He walked slowly out of the cemetery.

The young man sat in the seat by the window, fastening his seatbelt as the large plane lifted from the ground. As it proceeded in a westerly direction, he could see the outline of Cape Breton Island below. It was a beautiful, bright and warm day and as he studied the outline of the terrain below that resembled an eagle with outstretched wings, he could distinguish the colours of the Island's tartan, green, yellow and grey. The stones, packed in the small, white bag, could feel the rumbling of the powerful engines and knew they were taking a very long journey. To where, they did not know but they felt an importance in this mission and knew that they

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would soon discover the purpose of their flight.

The large, spacious car came to an abrupt stop as it passed through the gates of the Pardes Shalom cemetery, on the outskirts of Toronto. The young man picked up the bag containing the two stones, stepped out of the car, closed the door softly and began to walk. The sun shone brightly through the tall, majestic trees as he proceeded toward the small group of headstones. A slight breeze could be felt as he placed a white skullcap on his head, causing the small bag to rattle and vibrate. He opened a prayer book he held in his left hand and began to recite the Kaddash, a prayer for the departed. The two stones could hear the words he uttered as he continued to read "yishgadal vayis kadash" and a serenity and calmness took place. This was a kaddish they were very familiar with, having heard it many times in their small cemetery in Whitney Pier. The young man's voice was filled with sadness but there was a strength to his praying, a purpose and a determination. There was a feeling of an accomplishment...of a special mission.

Bright light filled the small, white plastic bag as the young man's hand groped in the darkness. His fingers found the larger stone and he removed it with considerable care and gentleness. He placed it on a dark, grey headstone and then, replacing his hand in the bag found the smaller stone, with the blue color. This one he placed on the headstone next to the first. The larger stone could see the writing on the two memorials. The one it sat on was older and had inscribed on its front panel the name "Maurice". The smaller stone sat on the newer one and on it was written "Sarah". The rich and dark Cape Breton earth, caked dry, was still adhering tenaciously to both stones. They lay majestically on the cold slabs of greyish-black marble.

The young man continued to pray, directing his voice to the two headstones that stood silently in front of him. His voice, quivering from emotion, rang out

to his parents as if they were standing and listening close by.

"Mom and Dad." "Forgive me for the things I did to displease you." "Give me your blessing and your forgiveness so that one day, when I depart these earthly bonds, I will earn the right and the privilege to see you again." "I hope and pray that these small stones, from a place that you loved and were loved, will give you comfort and peace."

A soft rain began to turn the earth, adhering to the stones, a wet, dark liquid. The liquid began to run down onto the headstones and as they reached grass and flowers below, disappeared from view. The stones began to sparkle and the pink substance in both began to shimmer like stars. The smaller one, with its additional bluish hue, took on a brightness that resembled a precious stone.

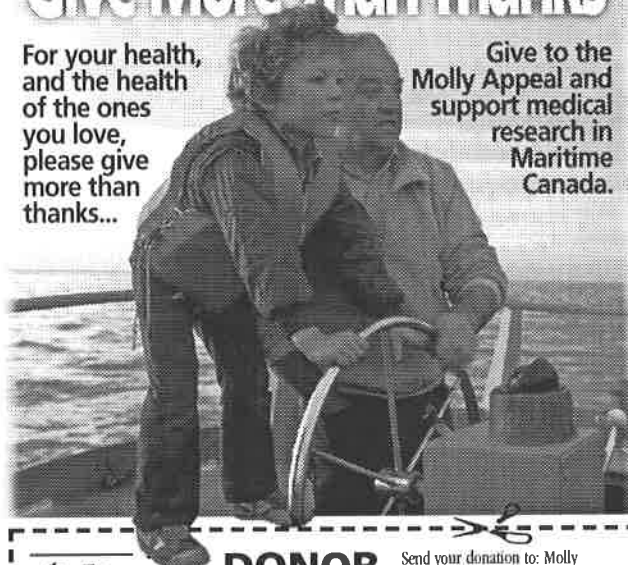
The young man lifted his head and as he saw the stones glisten, began to smile. He folded the small, white bag, placed it in his pocket and walked slowly out of the cemetery.

Editor's Note: Lawrence I. (Larry) Gaum is an Oral Surgeon who practices in Toronto. He is a freelance writer and has recently published a book about Belarus, Eastern Canada and his family. The title is "From Belarus to Cape Breton and Beyond". He has published several articles in numerous papers and scientific journals. His most recent, "The Art Mandibular Block" was published in the *Journal of the Canadian Dental Assoc.*, June/1997. "Fratka and the Priest" a story he wrote about his grandmother, was published in the *Cape Breton Post* in the spring of 1997.

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SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

By Marcia Koven and Janet Holtzman, Saint John Representatives

We are now in the process of organizing our displays for the upcoming season. We will be focusing on Israel's 50th Anniversary and we anticipate our displays to be very exciting.

We continue to lend our Jewish Educational Outreach Kits to schools and churches and the comments are always very favourable.

We are joining forces with our Sisterhood on a very special outreach program for "Partners of Two Backgrounds". This upcoming program will focus on Kashrut and preparing for Passover. This is the third in this series of outreach sessions, and they are being well received.

We are in the process of going on the internet and at this writing we are in the infant stages. More on this at a later date.

Our Holocaust Program is in the final stages of organization and we are pleased to report that **Dr. Israel Unger** will be our Guest Speaker. This should prove to be a very meaningful event.

We extend congratulations to **Senator Erminie** and **Mr. Edgar Cohen** on their 50th Wedding Anniversary; to **Mr. Ben Cohen** on his 85th Birthday; to **Rose Cornblat** on her 92nd Birthday; and to **Herzl Kashetsky** as the first recipient of the New Brunswick Red Cross Humanitarian Award.

We expect to have a Jewish City Tour organized and ready to receive the first cruise ship that arrives in port this summer.

We expect to have a very busy summer season and we hope that many of our friends from the Atlantic will make an effort to visit our Museum because, not only are we the only Jewish Museum in the Atlantic, we are now a special world famous museum. We look forward to greeting you !!!

Best wishes for a Healthy and Happy Passover to all in the Atlantic Provinces.



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DATELINE HALIFAX

Mazel Tov: to **Craig Fox** on his Bar Mitzvah on November 15, son of **Cathy & Colin Fox**, and grandson of **Shirlee & Max Fox**; to **Andrew LeVine** on his Bar Mitzvah April 4th, son of **Edna & Lennard**; to **Mani & Linda Suissa** on the birth of their son **Jacob**; to **Gali & David Brock** on the birth of their son **Yishai**; to **Lou Newman** on the birth of his first great-grandchild, born to his grandson **Wayne & Mona Holtzman**, Toronto, proud grandparents are **Norman & Janet Holtzman** of Saint John.

Congratulations: to **Matthew McKnight**, son of **Jim & Lea McKnight**, upon winning gold, silver and bronze medals in recent fencing tournaments.

Special Birthday congratulations: to **Ralph Medjuck**, on his 65th; **Lily Mosher** on her special birthday.

Condolences: to **The Goldberg Family** on the loss of their father and brother **Morris Goldberg**; to **Sophie Sherman** on the loss of her sister **Helen Brody**; to **Louis Wagner** on the loss of his father **Hyman Wagner**; to **Bertha Newman**, grandmother, and **Barbara Yablon**, aunt, on the loss of **Robert Thompson**; to **George Mencher** on the loss of his wife **Lenore Mencher**; to **Marcus Merovitch** on the loss of his brother **Mortimer Merovitch**; to **Thomas Gaum** on the loss of his mother **Reta Gaum**; to **Rita Pink** on the loss of her mother **Rosa Grabina**.

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The exceptional contribution of the Jews in the Second World War

An address composed by Sam Pasternack, National Commander of The Jewish War Veterans of Canada

Chairperson, Fellow Veterans, Ladies & Gentlemen.

What I intend to speak to you about today is a message I deliver many times in the course of the year to various synagogues, churches, service groups, brotherhood breakfasts and interfaith meetings. I have also addressed over 3000 people during Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah outside the Ontario Legislature Buildings. Present were the Lt. Gov., the Premier, his Ministers and both leaders of the opposition as well as clergy of all denominations.

Last year I was called on to deliver this message to the inaugural convention of the Jewish War Veterans of America in Washington. This international forum had representatives from Israel, the UK, Russia, and France, as well as senators and congressmen. While in Fort Lauderdale I spoke to nine US posts of the Jewish War Veterans of America. The brief speech I make is one that causes me both anguish and concern and one I feel that everyone should be familiar with, both Jew and non-Jew — particularly Jews.

It is important — vitally important — that the heroic role played by Jewish soldiers, sailors and airmen in World War II

be known to all.

It is important, — vitally important — that the heroism displayed by our partisans and resistance groups be known to all.

It is important, — vitally important — that the role played by our survivors just to survive is known to all.

Almost any Jew who admits to being a Jew is familiar and knowledgeable about the Holocaust.

I want to speak with you about the other side of the coin, — "Hagvura" — Resistance, Defiance and N'kumah.

We Jews remember with reverence and respect our 6 million who perished Kiddush Ha Shem - as we should.

We Jews remember with honour and pride the trials and tribulations of our beloved State of Israel, - as we should.

Are the sacrifices by our Jews who fought ably, nobly and well in the Allied Armed Forces through six long years of Hell in Europe and the Far East not worthy of the same respect, reverence and remembrance?

One of our executive members mentioned to me an honest concern he has for the fact that when the "Kel Mole Rachamim" is recited in our synagogues dur-

ing Yiskor, mention is made of the Holocaust, the 6 million, the death camps, Israel. Are our Jewish servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice if World War II not worthy of inclusion in the "Kel"?

When I hear a non-Jew say "What did the Jews do in World War II, They went to the death camps like sheep". I tend to bristle.

When I hear our racists try to stir the pot of hatred by saying "Jews did not fight in World War II, our white Christians did the fighting," I become livid. — But then my reason takes over and I say to myself - if I stop the next 10 Jews I meet and ask them about the contribution of Jews in World War II I will get a blank stare, - so how can I fault a non-Jew.

I want to share with you facts that every Jew should be acquainted with so you can counter the anti-Semitic lie that Jews did not serve and Jews did not resist.

Three of the great myths of the Second World War;

1. That the Holocaust never happened;
2. Jews went to their death like sheep to the slaughter; and
3. Jews did not serve in the

Armed Forces.

These remarkable utterances are usually made by those brave heroes, who never donned a uniform, and the closest they came to any danger was listening to the radio or reading their daily newspaper about the hostilities.

I would like to enlighten you about those Jews who served in the regular Allied Forces.

How many Jews served in the Allied Forces? - A little over one and a half million. These we know of because they registered as Jews. It is estimated that many more enlisted and gave their faith as other than Jew because of fear of the consequences if captured.

From the USA over half a million Jews served.

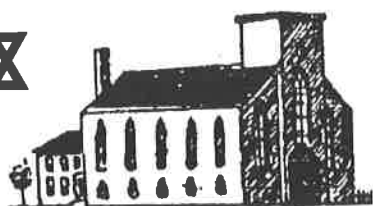
From the Soviet Union over half a million Jews served.

From Great Britain 62,000 Jews enlisted. From Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, India, etc. thousands of Jews joined the armed forces.

Many thousands of Jews served in the French Armed Forces and the Free French army in exile. Historians differ on the number of Jews who served in the army of Poland. But taking a mean average it is estimated that

Continued on page 31

SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM



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March 26, 1998
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Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes on behalf of the State of Israel to the Atlantic Jewish community on the eve of Pesach and on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel.

Israel's jubilee marks a special milestone in Jewish history. Within a short period of fifty years the Jewish nation has risen from the depths of the Holocaust to renewed and consolidated Jewish sovereignty in our historic homeland. Since 1948, the Jewish population of Israel has grown from less than 600,000 to almost 5 million today. Israel is no longer a small mini-state hanging by a thread.

The State of Israel has also provided the basis for the cultural, social and religious revival of the Jewish people. The Hebrew language is alive again, reopening the vast riches of Jewish literature, civilisation and culture to the majority of the Jewish people for the first time in 2000 years in the land and environment where the language flourished thousands of years ago.

In the economic sphere, the Israeli economy has grown significantly, particularly in the past decade. During the past twenty years, Israel has transformed its low tech and agrarian based economy into one of the fastest growing high-tech economies in the world. From this perspective, fifty years of statehood has been an overwhelming success.

In context of Jewish history, 50 years is a very short time, and only the first stage in the revival of the Jewish people. Satisfaction in the accomplishments should not obscure the difficulties and the work that remains. As Israeli and Jews around the world celebrate 50 years of renewed Jewish sovereignty in our homeland, we have every reason for looking back with satisfaction and pride and for looking forward to the future with confidence.

Best wishes, Hag Sameach
and a Pesach Keshet,



David Sultan
Ambassador



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CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL D'ISRAËL



CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL



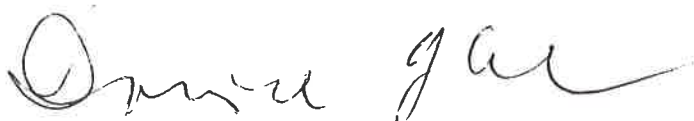
קונסוליה כללית של ישראל

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN MONTREAL

As we approach the eve of the State of Israel's 50th anniversary, It is my distinct honour to extend greetings to the Atlantic Jewish Community and its leadership.

From the time of the establishment of the State, the Jewish communities of the Maritimes have always been extraordinary supporters in Israel. In fact, the undying devotion you continue to display, undoubtedly strengthens the unbreakable bond between Canadian Jewish society and its brethren in Israel. I express my deepest gratitude for your fifty years of commitment to Israel and I look forward to your celebration of its historic anniversary.

As the representative of Israel in the Maritimes, it is my pleasure to wish the entire Atlantic Jewish community a happy and healthy Pesach. This Pesach does not only celebrate our freedom as Jews, but also celebrates fifty years of independence as a nation state.



Daniel Gal
Consul General



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The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel

May 14, 1948

On May 14, 1948, on the day in which the British Mandate over a Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum, and approved the following proclamation, declaring the establishment of the State of Israel. The new state was recognized that night at 11:00 AM Israel time by the United States and three days later by the USSR.

ERETZ-ISRAEL (Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim (Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, **Theodore Herzl**, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the community of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in

their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.



David Ben Gurion Reading the Declaration of Independence at the Tel Aviv Museum, 14 May 1948

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL. WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the

resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY, WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion

Daniel Auster
Mordekhai Bentov
Yitzchak Ben Zvi
Eliyahu Berligne
Fritz Bernstein
Rabbi Wolf Gold
Meir Grabovsky
Yitzchak Gruenbaum
Dr. Abraham Granovsky
Eliyahu Dobkin

Meir Wilner-Kovner
Zerach Wahrhaftig
Herzl Vardi
Rachel Cohen
Rabbi Kalman Kahana
Saadia Kobashi
Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin
Meir David Loewenstein
Zvi Luria

Golda Myerson
Nachum Nir
Zvi Segal
Rabbi Yehuda Leib
Hacohen Fishman
David Zvi Pinkas
Aharon Zisling
Moshe Kolodny
Eliezer Kaplan
Abraham Katznelson

Felix Rosenblueth
David Remez
Berl Repetur
Mordekhai Shattner
Ben Zion Sternberg
Bekhor Shitreet
Moshe Shapira
Moshe Shertok
* Published in the Official Ga-

zette, No. 1 of the 5th, Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

The Prime Ministers of the State of Israel



David Ben-Gurion
(1948-1954, 1955-1963)



Golda Meir
(1969-1974)



Yitzhak Shamir
(1983-1984, 1986-1992)



Moshe Sharett
(1954-1955)



Yitzhak Rabin
(1974-1977, 1992-1995)



Shimon Peres
(1984-1986, 1995-1996)



Levi Eshkol
(1963-1969)



Menachem Begin
(1977-1983)



Benjamin Netanyahu
(1996-present)

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

HALF A CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE 1948-1998

- 1948**
- * **David Ben-Gurion** declares the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14
 - * Israel is immediately recognized by the US and the USSR
 - * War of Independence begins on 15 May) as the armies of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and a contingent from Iraq invade
 - * The first census shows a population of 872,700 - 716,700 Jews and 156,000 non-Jews
 - * **Count Bernadotte**, UN-appointed mediator, is assassinated in Jerusalem
 - * The *Altalena* is sunk off the shore of Tel Aviv
- 1949**
- * First Knesset elections are held on 25 January. David Ben-Gurion heads a Labor-led coalition government. (Until 1977 all governments will be headed by the Labor Party)
 - * **Chaim Weizmann** is elected Israel's first president
 - * Jerusalem is declared capital of Israel, but the city is divided.
 - * Armistice agreements are signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon
 - * The aliyah of the Jews of Yemen begins in Operation Magic Carpet
 - * **Theodor Herzl**, the father of Zionism, who died in 1904 and was buried in Vienna, is reinterred in Jerusalem
- 1950**
- * The rescue of the Jew sof Iraq begins in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah.
 - * The Law of Return is passed
 - * The Eilat port is opened
 - * The first *ma'abara* (temporary camp for new immigrants) is established.
- 1951**
- * The Hula valley reclamation project begins
 - * Elections to the Second Knesset
 - * The Zionist Congress convenes in Jerusalem for the first time
- * Egged bus transport cooperative is formed
- 1952**
- * Reparations agreement with Germany is signed, despite protest demonstrations
 - * **Yitzhak Ben-Zvi** is elected Israel's second president, after the death in office of Chaim Weizmann
 - * Israel participates in the Helsinki Olympic Games for the first time
 - * Operation Coresh - immigration of Iranian Jewry - begins.
- 1953**
- * Yad Vashem established
 - * Security situation on border with Jordan worsens
 - * Diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR are broken off
 - * **Moshe Dayan** is appointed Chief of General Staff of the IDF
 - * The Academy of the Hebrew Language is founded
 - * The Society for the Protection of Nature established
 - * Gurion retires to Kibbutz Sde Boker
- 1954**
- * **Moshe Sharett** becomes prime minister
 - * Israeli intelligence fiasco in Egypt causes a scandal and forces Israel's Minister of Defense, **Pinchas Lavon**, to resign
 - * Immigration from North Africa accelerates amid growing anti-Semitism in
 - * Infiltrators from across the Jordanian border attack a bus at Ma'ale Akrabim in the northern Negev and murder 11 passengers
- 1955**
- * The four remaining Dead Sea Scrolls, acquired by **Prof. Yigael Yadin**, arrive in Israel
 - * Elections for Third Knesset; David Ben-Gurion again becomes prime minister
 - * Bar Ilan University is opened in Ramat Gan
 - * Two Egyptian Jews are hanged in Cairo after being convicted of spying for Israel
- 1956**
- * Prime Minister of Burma, **U Nu**, pays an official visit to Israel, the first by any state leader
 - * Bulgarian fighter planes down an El Al civilian airliner over Bulgaria; 58 killed
 - * Incursions of armed infiltrators across the border with Egypt increase, resulting in many casualties
 - * The National Religious Party is established
 - * France gives Israel military aid
 - * Sinai Campaign is launched by Israel, parallel to a British and French military operation
 - * Tel Aviv University is opened
 - * IDF soldiers, contravening orders, open fire on Arab villagers in Kafr Kassem violating the curfew, killing 49
- 1957**
- * Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, captured during the Sinai Campaign
 - * The draining of the Hula swamp is completed
 - * The Mann Auditorium is inaugurated in Tel Aviv
 - * Immigration from Eastern European countries increases
- 1958**
- * The cornerstone for the Knesset building is laid in Jerusalem
 - * The Supreme Court finds **Israel Kastner** innocent of collaboration with the Nazis. Kastner, a wartime leader of Hungarian Jewry, had been convicted of collaboration in 1955.
 - * The Hebrew University campus at Givat Ram is inaugurated
 - * Israel's population exceeds two million
- 1959**
- * **Heichal Shlomo**, seat of the Chief Rabbinate, is inaugurated
 - * Elections for the Fourth Knesset
 - * The Navy's first submarine arrives in Haifa
- 1960**
- * Habima is declared the national theatre of Israel
 - * Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University Medical School is inaugurated in Jerusalem
 - * Letters from the Bar Kochba archive are discovered in the Judean desert
 - * The National Commission for Space Research is founded
- 1961**
- * Operation Yachin, bringing immigrants from Morocco to Israel, commences. *The Egoz*, a ship carrying immigrants from Morocco, sinks; 43 passengers drown
 - * **Adolf Eichmann** is brought to Jerusalem to stand trial for crimes against humanity and the Jewish people. He is convicted and hanged in 1962
 - * Elections for the Fifth Knesset
- 1962**
- * An economic program which includes a large devaluation of Israel's currency and the cancellation of subsidies on basic commodities leads to inflation and a rise of the deficit in the balance of trade
- 1963**
- * President Ben-Zvi dies in office; **Zalman Shazar** elected Israel's third president
 - * **Levi Eshkol** becomes prime minister after the resignation of Ben-Gurion
 - * Haifa University is opened
 - * Archeological excavations begin at Masada, under the direction of Prof. Yadin
- 1964**
- * **Pope Paul VI** visits Israel; Shazar receives him in Megiddo
 - * The Palestine Liberation Organization is founded
 - * The National Water Carrier bringing water from the north to south, is completed
 - * **Ze'ev Jabotinsky** is reinterred in Jerusalem
 - * The Nature Reserves Authority is founded

1965

- * The PLO's first terror attack - on the National Water Carrier - takes place
- * **Eli Cohen** is hanged in Damascus
- * The Israel Museum in Jerusalem is founded
- * **Teddy Kollek** becomes mayor of Jerusalem; his term of office lasts 28 years
- * Elections for the Sixth Knesset
- * Israel and Germany establish diplomatic relations

1966

- * The Knesset building is inaugurated in Jerusalem
- * **S.Y. Agnon** is co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for literature
- * Coca Cola announces its plans to open a plant to produce Coca Cola in Israel, despite the Arab boycott

- * Educational television broadcasts begin

1967

- * National unity government is formed to face grave security situation
- * The Six Day War results in the reunification of Jerusalem and the capture and control of Judea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and The Golan Heights
- * Open Bridges policy across the Jordan River bridges is instituted
- * Sea-to-sea missiles fired from Egyptian boats sink the Israeli destroyer *Eilat*; 47 are killed
- * UN Security Council Resolution 242 is adopted, providing an agreed framework for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict
- * Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is opened

1968

- * The submarine *Dakar* disappears on its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean
- * Mapai, Ahdut Ha'avoda and Rafi join together to form the Israel Labour Party
- * Israel Television broadcast begins
- * The PLO formulates its covenant, which negates the existence of Israel
- * Jews return to Gush Etzion and

Hebron

- * Palestinian terror attacks intensify, an El Al plane from Rome to Algeria is hijacked; a car bomb in Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem kills 12, injures 70

- * War of Attrition is initiated by Egypt and Jordan

- * National Insurance Law is passed

1969

- * Eshkol dies in office; **Golda Meir** becomes prime minister
- * Five French-built torpedo boats, purchased and paid for by Israel, are successfully brought from Cherbourg to Haifa despite French arms embargo

- * Elections for Seventh Knesset; Meir remains prime minister

- * The War of Attrition escalates

1970

- * Twelve children from Moshav Avivim are killed by terrorists
- * Black September clashes between Jordan and the PLO result in the reorganization of the PLO in Lebanon

- * Israel's population exceeds three million

1971

- * Black Panthers, a social protest movement, rises in Israel
- * Israel's consul-general in Istanbul killed by terrorists

1972

- * The IDF frees the hostages on a hijacked Sabena plane at Lod
- * Three Japanese terrorists open fire at Lod airport, killing 25 and injuring 72

- * Eleven Israeli athletes are murdered at the Munich Olympic Games

- * Immigration from the USSR increases; more than 100,000 people have arrive in the last three years

1973

- * A Libyan civilian plane is erroneously downed by the IDF in the Sinai

- * **Ephraim Katzir** becomes Israel's fourth president

- * The Herut Movement and the Liberal Party join to form the Likud

- * The Yom Kippur War: Israel

- ultimately repulses the attacks but suffers heavy casualties

- * UN Security Council passes Resolution 338, calling for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Resolution 242

- * David Ben-Gurion dies

- * Elections for the Eighth Knesset

1974

- * Golda Meir forms new government

- * The Agranat Commission the "failures" of the Yom Kippur War; concluding that the military leadership was responsible for lack of preparedness. Meir resigns.

- * **Yitzhak Rabin** becomes prime minister

- * Twenty-one youths are killed in terrorist attack in Ma'alot

- * Separation-of-forces agreement signed with Egypt

1975

- * UN General Assembly Resolution 3375 equates Zionism with racism

- * A disengagement agreement is signed with Syria

- * Israel signs partial free trade agreement with European Community

- * Terrorists landing by sea attack the Savoy Hotel in Tel Aviv; 3 IDF soldiers are killed

- * Israel exhibits the Kfir, an aircraft designed and produced in Israel

1976

- * Jewish hostages are rescued at Entebbe, Uganda

- * Prime Minister Rabin resigns over domestic scandal

- * The Good Fence policy instituted between Israel and Lebanon

- * Yigael Yadin establishes the Democratic Movement for Change

1977

- * Elections for the Ninth Knesset; Likud party wins elections, ending 29 years of Labor party rule; **Menachem Begin** becomes prime minister

- * Egyptian President **Anwar al-Sadat** visits Jerusalem

- * Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team wins European Championship

- * Vietnamese boat refugees arrive in Israel

- * Project Renewal, to improve the quality of life for inhabitants of distressed urban neighbourhoods and towns, commences

1978

- * A bus is hijacked by terrorists on the coastal road; 35 passengers are killed

- * Operation Litani is launched against terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon

- * The Peace Now movement is founded

- * The Diaspora Museum is opened in Tel Aviv

- * **Yitzhak Navon** becomes Israel's fifth president

- * Camp David Accords are signed

- * Begin and Sadat awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to bring peace to the Middle East

1979

- * A Peace Treaty is signed with Egypt

1980

- * Embassy of Israel is opened in Cairo

- * The basic law, "Jerusalem Capital of Israel" is passed by the Knesset

- * Inflation rampant in Israel

- * The number of tourists arriving annually exceeds one million for the first time

1981

- * Iraqi nuclear reactor is destroyed by the Israeli Air Force, weeks before it is due to become operative

- * Elections for the Tenth Knesset; Begin remains prime minister

- * Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball team wins the European championship for the second time

- * The Golan Heights Law is passed

1982

- * Attache at Israel's embassy in Paris killed by terrorists

- * Israel completes withdrawal

from Sinai

- * Israel's ambassador in London severely wounded by terrorists
- * Operation Peace for Galilee is launched against PLO strongholds in Lebanon
- * The Sabra and Shatilla camp massacres are carried out by Christian Phalangist forces in southern Lebanon
- * The IDF headquarters in Tyre is bombed; 75 killed
- * Israel's population exceeds four million

1983

- * Peace Now activist, **Emil Grunswieg**, is killed by a Jewish extremist at a Peace Now demonstration
- * **Chaim Herzog** is elected sixth president
- * Begin resigns; **Yitzhak Shamir** forms a new government
- * A major stock exchange crisis threatens the economy as a whole
- * A truck loaded with explosives in Tyre kills 60 Israelis and Arabs

1984

- ** A Jewish underground is uncovered in the territories; members are convicted and given prison sentences
- * Elections for the Eleventh Knesset; a national unity government is formed with the rotation of prime ministers between Shamir and **Shimon Peres**

- * the ingathering of some 7,000 Jews from Ethiopia begins with Operation Moses

1985

- * The Lavi prototype is unveiled
- * Free trade agreement is signed with the United States
- * Israel withdraws from Lebanon, retaining a narrow security in the south of Lebanon
- * An emergency stabilization program succeeds in lowering annual inflation from 445% to 20%
- * Israeli attache in Cairo killed by terrorists
- * The New Israeli Shekel replaces the shekel
- * An Egyptian soldier opens fire on a group of Israeli tourists in Sinai, killing 7

- * Eilat becomes a free trade zone
- * **Jonathan Pollard** is convicted in the US of spying for Israel sentenced to life imprisonment

1986

- * **Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky** arrives in Israel
- * Peres meets with **King Hassan II** in Morocco
- * **Ron Arad**, Israeli Air Force navigator, is captured in Lebanon; his fate is still unknown
- * Shamir becomes prime minister as part of the rotation agreement of 1984
- * An Israeli interest office is opened in Warsaw

1987

- * The trial of **John Demjanjuk** opens in Jerusalem; he is found guilty but later acquitted on appeal
- * The Intifada erupts in the territories
- * The first heart transplant in Israel takes place

1988

- * Memorandum of Understanding is signed with the US
- * Elections for Twelfth Knesset; Shamir remains prime minister of national unity government
- * An Israeli Consulate is opened in Moscow

1989

- * Taba is returned to Egypt
- * Sixteen bus passengers are killed on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway as a terrorist gains control of a bus and drives it over a cliff
- * A Syrian pilot defects to Israel, landing a MIG-23 at Megiddo

1990

- * Mass immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union begins
- * The national unity government falls; a new government is formed without Labor party ministers
- * The Ofek 2 satellite is launched
- * A terror attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt kills 10

1991

- * Israel is attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during Gulf War
- * Operation Solomon brings to

Israel 15,000 Jews from Ethiopia, most of the Jews living there

- * Middle East Peace Conference convenes in Madrid, bringing together representatives of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians
- * UN General Assembly rescinds the resolution equating Zionism with racism
- * Israel's population exceeds five million

1992

- * Israel and China establish diplomatic relations
- * Knesset passes a law providing for direct election of the prime minister, to take effect in 1996
- * An attack on Israel's embassy in Buenos Aires leaves 29 dead and dozens wounded
- * Elections for Thirteenth Knesset; Rabin becomes prime minister

- * **Benjamin Netanyahu** is elected chair of the Likud party
- * Israel wins its first Olympic medals, silver and bronze in judo
- * The new Supreme Court building is opened

1993

- * **Ezer Weizman** is elected Israel's seventh president
- * In Operation Din V'Cheshbon, the IDF attacks Hizbullah bases in southern Lebanon
- * The Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements is signed by Israel and the PLO
- * Diplomatic relations are established between Israel and the Holy See

1994

- * **Baruch Goldstein** kills 29 Muslim worshippers in Hebron
- * A terrorist suicide bomber blows up a bus in Tel Aviv, killing 24 and wounding dozens
- * The Gaza-Jericho Agreement is signed in Cairo between Israel and the PLO
- * Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty
- * Morocco and Tunisia interest offices are opened
- * Rabin, Peres and Arafat are awarded Nobel Peace Prizes

1995

- * Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated; Peres becomes prime minister
- * Ofek 3 satellite is launched
- * Interim Agreements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are signed
- * Treaty of Association is signed with European Union
- * The number of tourists arriving annually exceeds two million for the first time

1996

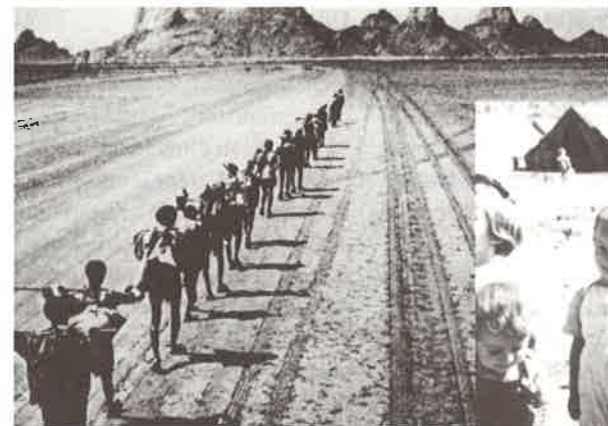
- * A series of suicide attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv kills over 60 Israelis
- * Operation Grapes of Wrath against terrorist bases in Lebanon is launched
- * IDF redeploys in the territories
- * Trade offices are established in Oman and Qatar
- * Elections for Fourteenth Knesset and first direct elections for prime minister; Netanyahu is elected
- * The Western Wall Tunnel exit is opened; violent Palestinian riots follow

1997

- * The IDF redeploy in Hebron
- * The crash of two helicopters in northern Israel kills 73 soldiers
- * Seven schoolgirls are murdered by a Jordanian soldier at the border recreation spot Naharayim
- * Suicide bombers in Jerusalem kill 21 in two separate attacks

1998

- * Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary



(above) Jewish Ethiopian refugees crossing the Sudan desert, November 1984



(above) Children of the immigrants at Moshav Ein Ayala, standing by their tents, 1949



(above right) A young girl carrying her brother through the mud at Beit Lid immigrant camp, January 1950



(above) Signing peace agreement between Israel & Egypt. President Carter, Prime Minister Begin & President Sadat, April 1979, Washington

(below) PM Golda Meir at a press conference August 1969



(above) Benjamin Netanyahu, his wife Sarah, Mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert at the Mimouna Festival, May 1, 1997



(above) Ben-Gurion Meeting with olim at an immigrant camp, 1949



(left) The Six-Day War: Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin & General Uzi Narkiss entering the Old City of Jerusalem via the Lions Gate, June 1967

(right) Nobel Prize for Peace award ceremony, Oslo, December 1994

(left) Young girls from the FSU, awaiting flight to Israel, 1991



יובל התמישים לישראל
ISRAEL AT 50
YOUR DATE WITH HISTORY

(right) Eliezer Ben Yehuda, reviver of the Hebrew Language



יובל התמישים לישראל
ISRAEL AT 50
YOUR DATE WITH HISTORY

(left) Emigrants from Ethiopia at Addis Ababa, May 25, 1991

(below) Youth Aliya children at an olim camp in Natanya, 1948



יובל התמישים לישראל
ISRAEL AT 50
YOUR DATE WITH HISTORY





United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada
המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה



United Israel Appeal of Canada salutes Israel on the occasion of her 50th anniversary.

Since 1948, through the Jewish Agency, the UJA/CJA/UIA Federation system has helped bring over 2.8 million Jews on Aliyah to Israel.

Since 1990, our help has assisted over 800,000 Jews from the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and other countries of distress, to find a new life of freedom in the Jewish State.

We, Canadian Jewry, remain committed to our covenant to "ingather the exiles" and to rebuild the land and nation of Israel.

Harvey Wolfe

President

United Israel Appeal of Canada

Steve Ain

Executive Vice-President

United Israel Appeal of Canada

March of the Living 1998

Atlantic Jewish Council congratulates this year's participants, who in the Spring of 1998, through the efforts of UJA of Canada, will join thousands of Jewish youth from all corners of the world in Poland and Israel for an experience that will last a lifetime.

In Poland the group's visit will culminate with the "March of the Living" on Holocaust Remembrance Day, as they march together the 3-kilometre distance separating Auschwitz from Birkenau. In Israel participants will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel on Independence Day along with thousands of other teenagers from Israel and other parts of the world.



March of the Living participants, during their Orientation Weekend, Halifax, March 27-29. Front row, l-r, Chaperone Sanford (Sandy) Attis, Moncton; Marissa Attis, Moncton; Laura Gergely, Dartmouth; Lauren Abrahams, Halifax; Sarah Barkow, Halifax, Chaperone Tobi Nathanson, Toronto. Back row, l-r, Daniel Schroeder, Halifax; Brian Altman, Westbury, NY; Leyla Attis, Moncton; Jessica Rappaport, Halifax; Sari Zelenietz, Dartmouth; Jennifer Winn, Dartmouth; Debra Freeman, Halifax; and Aaron Ginsberg, Halifax.

50 Years of Rescue

By Dr. Baruch Gur, Keren Hayesod Director General

"The long arm of the State of Israel and the Jewish people will reach Jews in trouble and needing assistance, no matter where they reside, and rescue them from their plight."

The Talmudic principle that every Jew is responsible for every other Jew has echoed throughout Jewish history, but with the establishment of the State of Israel, that principle became national policy, writes Baruch Gur, Keren Hayesod Director General.

As the first Director General of the Jewish Agency's Unit for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Gur himself was a central participant in one of the most glorious chapters of modern Jewish rescue, the mass aliyah of Soviet Jewry that began in late 1989 and still continues today.

In this article, Gur describes some of Israel's most outstanding rescue operations over the past 50 years, from the rescue of Jewish communities in European countries and Arab lands in the early years of the state to the Soviet and Ethiopian rescues of the last decade.

One of the most important lessons to be learned from the Holocaust, and one that has been a principle motif throughout Jewish history, is that no Jew should ever be abandoned, either in countries of distress or in situations of distress.

The Jews of Israel, fighting for their independence and sovereign existence over the past 50 years, have nevertheless been prepared to risk their lives to rescue those of their brothers and sisters around the globe living in areas of danger.

This brief overview does not allow me to go into the details of each and every operation; nevertheless, the principle whereby "all Jews are responsible for one another" is no empty phrase but underlies every rescue operation - both big and small, some of which are still confidential.

Immediately after the Second World War, during the years 1944 - 1948, an entire underground rescue for Jewish Holocaust survivors was organized throughout Europe. This partly spontaneous and partly organized effort by young emissaries of the pre-state Yishuv who had spread out across Europe was, from a Jewish perspective, the measure of a people. Many of them were unaware that they were part of a network directed from Eretz Israel to assist in organizing those who would be traveling from country to country along the way.

Even the small-scale attempt to smuggle out Soviet Jews, some of whom were Zionist activists, from the Balkan countries to Poland was an illegal operation. These were active members of Zionist youth groups who wandered throughout the Soviet Union during World War II, unable to leave the country.

Taking advantage of the Law of Repatriation, which, in 1946, allowed Jews of Polish extraction residing in the Soviet Union to return to Poland, youngsters from the Netzach and Hashomer Hatza'ir movements made concerted efforts to rescue their members scattered throughout the Soviet Union, including camps in the Far East and Asia, but smuggling them out to Poland.

Although Palestine was the goal, British policy, which closed

the Yishuv to the refugees, prevented them from reaching that destination. Thus, the rescue and escape of European Jewry was at the same time a constant attempt to smuggle refugees to Palestine by land and mainly by sea, in the rickety ships of the Ma'apilim (the so-called Illegals) and the Haganah, the Yishuv's major political and underground forces.

Smuggling "illegals" into Palestine was a "cat and mouse game" between the mighty British Empire and the small Jewish Yishuv in Palestine. Generally, the British succeeded in preventing a massive penetration of refugees into the country. The closed detention camps on Cyprus filled up rapidly with refugees who, having failed in their attempt to reach Palestine, were brought there by the British. From time to time, however, boats did manage to break through the British blockage; and there were even successful attempts to enter Palestine on foot via Syria and Lebanon.

In the summer of 1947, a plane landed in Yavniel, bringing Jews who had been smuggled out of Iraq. During the War of Independence in 1948, there was growing fear for the fate of Jews in Arab lands, especially Iraq. This situation made the need to rescue them all the more acute.

Shlomo Hillel was sent to Iraq to organize the rescue of Iraqi Jewry. He conceived the idea of smuggling them into Iran, whence they would be brought to Israel. Hillel traveled to Teheran on a forged passport and for over a year organized the rescue of hundreds of youngsters, mostly Zionists, who risked their lives by illegally crossing the border between Iraq and Iran.

In 1950, he returned to Baghdad to negotiate with the Iraqi authorities for Operations Ezra and Nehemiah, designed to bring the Jewish community out of Iraq legally. Accordingly, 104,000 Iraqi Jews were flown to Israel within a year and a half (1950-1951) in one of the largest airlifts of the years immediately following World War II. The Zionist underground in Iraq fully mobilized for this overt operation by organizing the transit of Jews from all over the country to Baghdad and preparing them for the rigors of the journey to Israel. Masses of Iraqi Jews left the country, giving up their property and Iraqi citizenship.

Having come out into the open during Operation Ezra and Nehemiah, the Zionist underground was once again banned by the Iraqi authorities upon its conclusion. Heading the Zionist activists were **Robert Rodney**, **Ben Porat** and others. Another underground network was banned in 1969 and its leaders were executed. In 1954, the plight of Moroccan Jewry made the headlines. The struggle between the Moslem nationalists and the Sultan intensified during the summer, causing much harm to Moroccan Jewry especially to the Jews of Fez. On August 5, a pogrom broke out in the town of Petit Jean.

Some 25,000 Jews were registered for aliyah. Encouraged by the Israel-Zionist underground, many Jews began to wander throughout Morocco. On the way to Casablanca, aliyah transit camps were established. The Jewish Agency and the Mossad launched an emergency operation to evacuate those Jews wishing to immigrate to



Young immigrants from Europe, making their way by boat to Israel, early 50's

Israel.

In mid-1956, by order of the Moroccan government, the Aliyah Department was closed in Casablanca and the Jewish Agency emissaries were expelled from the country, and the exit of several thousands of Jews was delayed. Both the Mossad and the Jewish Agency organized rescue operations for these Jews, smuggling them out to Spain and France, and from there, to Israel.

The most tragic incident was the sinking of the ship Egoz in January 1961, carrying Jews from Morocco to Spain. Twenty-three Jews perished (their remains were brought to Israel with the approval of the King of Morocco in 1991 - thirty years later).

In October 1956, during the Sinai Campaign, while the combined military forces of Israel, Britain and France were fighting in the Sinai and at the Suez Canal, a rescue team, headed by **Lyova Eliav**, set out by sea for Port Said to rescue and smuggle out the local Jewish community and bring them to Israel.

During 1959, thousands of new immigrants arrived from Romania, including members of the Zionist underground. The Jewish immigration from Romania is better known for its successful integration into Israeli society. However, during the 1970's, the only way to assure the continued immigration of the Romanian Jewry was through bribery. The Ceausescu regime established a price list for its Jews which the State of Israel was forced to pay in cash each year until Ceausescu's fall.

Most of Yemenite Jewry immigrated to Israel at the end of the War of Independence in the Magic Carpet airlift. In December 1959, eleven Jews were killed on their way to Israel in an operation whereby Jews were to be smuggled out of Yemen to Israel, via Africa and Southern Europe.

The rescue operation which gained international acclaim and became a myth in itself was the Entebbe Rescue. An Air France plane was skyjacked on June 27, 1976 on its way from Israel to Paris by hijackers who boarded the plane at Athens Airport and forced the crew to fly to Uganda, where its ruler, **Idi Amin**, collaborated with the hijackers.

In a daring military operation on July 4, the IDF raided Uganda's Entebbe airport, 4000 kilometres from Israel, and freed more than 100 hostages. During the raid the commander of the Israeli commando unit, **Yoni Netanyahu**, was killed.

Operation Entebbe became a symbol of courage and daring for Israeli soldiers, a hallmark of Israeli perseverance and commitment to the rescue of Jews and Israelis in danger.

During 1984 - 1985, Operation Moses brought to Israel thousands of Jews from Ethiopia. This action was veiled in secrecy, owing to the political sensitivity of the Israel-Ethiopian relations.

In 1977, Foreign Minister **Moshe Dayan** had declared that Israel was supplying arms to the Ethiopian government and that Israeli experts were aiding the regime in its war against the rebels. This statement elicited an angry reaction from Ethiopian ruler **Mengistu**, who expelled all Israelis from the country.

As a result, the plight of the Ethiopian Falashas, as they were then called, worsened. Ethiopian representatives in Israel and Jewish organizations world-wide related that thousands of Ethiopian Jews were killed during the civil war and tens of thousands were expelled, becoming refugees. Most fled to Sudan, where they were

concentrated in special camps.

Israel's Mossad, in co-ordination with the Sudanese authorities and the American CIA, planned the evacuation of Ethiopian Jews from Sudan. The code name was Operation Moses. From November 21, 1984 until January 1985, Hercules airplanes airlifted Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Once the operation was leaked to the Israeli press, all activities were ceased, by order of **Numeri**, the Sudanese ruler. Some 5000 Jews remained in Sudan under abominable conditions.

On March 28, 1985, these Jews were flown out on American transports in a secret operation, under the guise of bringing aid to hunger victims in Sudan. Before this operation, Israeli Mossad, Air Force and naval commando personnel carried out many rescue missions, bringing Jews in small groups from Sudan to Israel. This sea evacuation was uncovered in the wake of an incident with Sudanese soldiers and was brought to a halt. Only recently have tales of the bravery and raw courage exhibited by Israel's navy and Mossad begun to be made public.

The situation of the Jews remaining in Ethiopia continued to deteriorate during the years of civil war. In 1991, a decision was taken to bring the remainder of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel, after news of severe clashes between the rebels and the Ethiopian government reached Israel.

Senior Israeli official **Uri Lubrani** conducted feverish negotiations with Mengistu, who demanded an exorbitant price for the exodus of Ethiopia's Jews. The American administration applied heavy pressure on the Ethiopians to agree to the evacuation of the country's Jews, who had been concentrated in a transit encampment close to the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Once final approval was given, planes left Israel. After 35 consecutive hours and four sorties, involving 36 El Al and Air Force aircraft, Operation Solomon, which ended on May 25, 1991, had brought 14,000 Jews to Israel. In its scope and precision, this historic feat has no parallel in Israel's history.

For years, Mossad operatives rescued individual Jews from Syria and brought them to Israel, via Lebanon, Turkey, Europe and the United States. Many Jewish volunteers such as **Judy Feld Carr** of Toronto were recruited to rescue Syrian Jews.

Jews were smuggled out of northern Iraq - Kurdistan - to Turkey and then to Israel.

A major operation was the rescue of Iranian Jews from **Khomeini's** overthrow of the Shah, in early 1979, when Israeli planes flew to Teheran to evacuate

the many Israelis in Iran and those local Jews wishing to leave.

With the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the evacuation of Jews from the two major centres of Belgrade and Sarajevo was launched, mainly via Budapest. When Sarajevo fell under siege, a complex rescue operation was undertaken by the Jewish Agency and the American Joint. This way, several hundred of Sarajevo's Jews were rescued. At first, only children and the aged were evacuated; later, practically the entire Jewish population left the city.



Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan, on the eve of outbreak of hostilities along the Egyptian and Syrian borders, October 6, 1973

In recent years, rescue operations have taken place mainly as a result of the dismantling of the Soviet Union into independent republics in Middle Asia and Caucasus. The nationalist tendencies integrated into anti-Russian and Moslem fundamentalism formed the backdrop for the rescue operations performed by representatives of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency.

Some 16,000 Jews lived in Tajikistan - almost half of them Bukharian Jews and the other half European Jews. The members of the Mujihadin who were overthrown in Afghanistan began to cross the border into Tajikistan. The economic situation deteriorated and a blood civil war broke out. The Jews of Tajikistan began to leave the country via Russia and Uzbekistan in September 1992, with the worsening of the war and the closing of the borders.

After much intricate effort, Jewish Agency personnel organized the first flight from Dushanbe to Tel Aviv, carrying 136 immigrants. For a year and a half, thousands of Jews left Dushanbe on direct flights to Tel Aviv. Approximately one thousand Jews remained in Tajikistan.

In the summer of 1992, when fighting broke out in Abkhazia, on Georgia's northwest border; about 1200 Jews lived in the major city of Sukhoumy. Through its office in Tbilisi, the Jewish Agency conducted several operations to rescue the Jews of Sukhoumy by land and by air. Most of them were evacuated to Tbilisi and from there to Israel. The operations continued for about a year.

Because most of Sukhoumy's Jews preferred to stay until the last moment, the fall of the city, since they hoped to keep their property and to sell it only at the last possible moment, the operation was reduced to rescuing several hundreds of refugees fleeing from the city. Some 900 Jews immigrated to Israel from Sukhoumy during this period.

In late 1991, a military coup took place in the northern autonomous region of Caucasus. **General Guhar Dudayev** seized power and announced succession from Russia even though the autonomous area had been within Russian territory for more than one hundred years.

In 1993, severe fighting broke out in Chechnya, as a result of a

Russian decision to overthrow the Dudayev regime. Dozens of Jews fled Chechnya for neighbouring Dagestan and Azerbaijan, where they were cared for by Jewish Agency personnel.

In December 1994, Russian forces invaded Grozny, the Chechnyan capital. The Jewish Agency organized several rescue missions operating out of Grozny, for Jewish refugees fleeing the city. Within a short time and after much hardship, the Jews of Chechnya were brought to Israel, after a brief stay in the transit camp near Mineralni Vodi.

Rescue operations were carried out beyond Middle Asia and the Caucasus as well. One of the most complex operations, from a political standpoint, was carried out in Moldova by Israeli organizations. The Pridipastrovia region area was annexed to Moldova after World War II in 1947. Most of the region's population is Russian and Ukrainian. In the spring of 1992, a bloody civil war broke out when the local government in Pridipastrovia attempted to sanitize the cities of Moldavian elements, whereas the Moldavian regime tried to demonstrate its sovereignty there. The region had a Jewish population of more than 10,000, mainly in the cities of Tiraspol and Bendery.

During the fighting, thousands of Jews were evacuated and fled from Tiraspol to Odessa in the Ukraine, where they were concentrated in a Jewish Agency-run camp. By contrast, the Jews of Bendery were evacuated to the City of Kishinev in Moldova.

In a complex political operation, the Jews reaching Odessa were transferred to Kishinev, whence, together with the Jews of Bendery, they were airlifted to Israel in an operation which lasted several weeks.

During Israel's 50 years of statehood, it has been proven beyond doubt that the long arm of the State of Israel and the Jewish people will reach Jews in trouble and needing assistance, no matter where they reside, and rescue them from their plight. Israel's policy of rescue is proof that the lesson of the Holocaust has been learned and that never again will the shedding of Jewish blood remain unchallenged and unavenged.

Publishing announcement **Israel - A History** By Martin Gilbert

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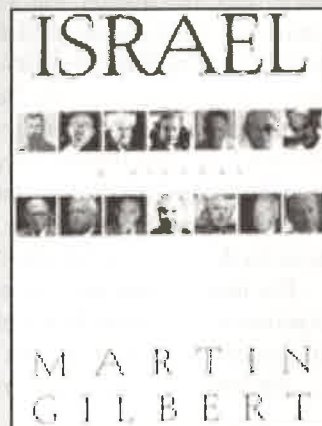
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MISSION '98 - ISRAEL AT 50 - A DEBT REPAID

By Edwin Rubin, Halifax

As a Jew growing up in the Halifax of the 30's and 40's, I accepted the subtle and sometimes not so subtle anti-Semitism of the time. Harassment after school, exclusion from athletic clubs (curling, golf, swimming, tennis, boating), social clubs, beaches and professions (pharmacy, chartered accountant) was part of being Jewish without a homeland. With the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948 these barriers



Edwin Rubin at the Golan Heights.

gradually disappeared. We became "The Good Guys". Jewish themes started to appear in popular movies, theatre, radio and television. Life in the Diaspora became easier and I

felt that someday I would have to personally repay Israel for making this happen. The opportunity presented itself when [my wife] Sue and I joined the UJA Mission '98 - Israel 50 (February 24 - March 4). Our ten day adventure started as we landed at Ben Gurion Airport to the strains of "Heveynu Shalom Aleichem" over El Al's sound system. We were able to see this modern historic country literally from top to bottom - from the Golan Heights to Eilat - a westernized country with first class highways, clean cities, towns, villages, lush farms, well presented battle sites, ancient excavations and restorations and super museums.

At Metulla we saw the wonderful athletic and community facilities at Canada Centre. We stood in Independence Hall in Tel Aviv where the State of Israel was proclaimed. The Ramat David Air Base provided excitement when a demonstration turned into an actual alert as two F-16 fighter planes scrambled and prepared to take off.

We 300 Canadian Jews were addressed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - a dynamic speaker whether or not you agree with his politics. But the highlight of our tour had to be Jerusalem - four days to see the old and the new - from Erev Shabbat at the "Wall", visits to battle sites, the solemn Yad Vashem, Mt. Herzl and so much more. Then on to Eilat and the nature reserve at Ein Gedi with its beautiful waterfall, the restoration at the top of Massada with its spectacular view and a refreshing swim in the Dead Sea.

If you have been to Israel you have experienced this and more. For Sue and I, as "first timers" it was unforgettable. Everywhere we went we were cheered for showing our support for Israel by coming at a time of crisis. A great feeling but the two of us were the only Atlantic Canadians on this important mission.

For those of you who have yet to have the exciting and spiritual experience of visiting Israel, plan now to participate in a mission or tour organized by UJA. It's the best way to go.

You owe it to yourselves! You owe it to Israel!

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Remembering Morris Goldberg

Eulogy by Lloyd Newman

As I begin I must apologize. I must apologize because I don't know if I will be able to finish these remarks about Morris or if they are adequate. I am too emotional a person to be in complete enough control to do this well. I hope I don't embarrass his family or myself. I hope you will be able to bear with me. I will try.

If I were to choose one word to characterize Morris, it would be "indefatigable." No matter what the pain, the problem, the difficulty, Morris remained strong. For example, he chose not to be dying of cancer. He always told me his leg was bothering him a little. "It's bad, my diabetes, you know," he would say, shrugging it off. He had a wonderful smile, and I remember him most often with that smile. Perhaps most of all, Morris was simply a nice man.

Long ago in 1956 on the weekend before I was married in this synagogue - that was on a Tuesday for good luck - Morris and Barbara, Sylvia and Peter [Herschorn], had a luncheon for the bride, the groom, the two families, and some of their closest friends at the Sword and Anchor in Chester. The place was chosen because it was beautiful and scenic, and my family were inlanders. Morris wasn't that happy with the choice, because the Sword and Anchor was managed by Forbes Thrasher, a Scots gentleman who wasn't that gentlemanly when it came to persons of our particular persuasion. Morris had a few choice things to say about him, and that was the first time I recall hearing that irrepressible little giggle. Though I was a real greenie and a kid Morris and I hit it off.

Yesterday, when I told my brother Bob that Morris had died, he was very sad because he remembered Morris vividly. At that

lunch, which Bob attended, he found out Morris was in men's wear, and he told Morris how much he liked Harris Tweed jackets. It was a reaching connection many of us many have seen in our American cousins. Funny to hear that from me. You know, Canada, England, Scotland, they are all one. The next day, Morris called us at the hotel, picked up Bob, my Dad, my brother Ray, and me, opened up the store on Barrington Street - it was Sunday - and waited on Bob himself until he found a Harris Tweed jacket that he liked. Morris didn't want to take any money for the sport coat, but finally realized it would embarrass Bob not to pay for it. So he charged him \$ 25.00. Bob paid and that satisfied everyone. Forty-two years later, my bother Bob, remembering Morris fondly, told me he reluctantly parted with that jacket, only a couple of years ago, by giving it to charity.

Morris was charitable. He gave to every cause. He loved this synagogue. For years he would round up from every supplier and store imaginable in Halifax something for the Synagogue auction, be it cases of soap and toilet paper, or a clock, or cases of gum and candy, or coca cola, or whatever. He and his best friend, Max Forman, the Duke, would auction the goods off to the assembled crowd to raise money for the synagogue. They would badger people into bidding. They would trick the reluctant who were slow to bid by knocking something down quite valuable for twenty five cents. That would always liven the crowd up. With great and increasing frequency Morris and Max would repair to the wings for a little sustenance and to assuage their thirst. Morris and Max seemed to enjoy each other's company and relieving their thirst with particular frequency and rel-

ish.

How Morris loved Shaar Shalom. I think he felt more at home here than anywhere else. Morris loved the honour of opening the ark and standing by it for all of Nilah. He loved reading the prayer before the open ark just before we took out the Torah. He loved being Gabbah and handing out the aliyahs with his own private little jokes about who got what honour and when. Morris felt it a special privilege, honour, and duty to be a member of the chevra kaddisha, that special group of people who serve and honour him today.

He would always look at his watch sternly when I arrived late for services. When Max and Sophie's daughter graduated from the Vanguard school in Florida, it was a great occasion for their family and they held a luncheon in their home to which of course Morris and Barbara were invited. Morris arrived two hours late. I looked at my watch sternly., Morris looked back at me unrepentant and told me the Anna Maria was in the harbour. The Anna Maria was an Italian liner that Morris serviced with merchandise on its four trips here a year. "If Susan, my own daughter was getting married today, I would have been two hours late," Morris said. Morris worked hard all his life.

Morris was generous. When the liquor commission wouldn't list and sell Israeli wine, he guaranteed he would buy every unsold case. When the Dominion store didn't want to take Israeli oranges, he guaranteed every case. For years, Morris had a long standing relationship with Zim, the state owned Israeli shipping line, their Captains and Pursers. For his great service to Zim, Morris had a unique honour: he traveled free to Israel in their best cabin for the last thirty



*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*

years whenever he wanted.

Morris and Barbara had an open home, and I mean open. Every visitor from Israel Bonds, Hebrew University, or Haddasah wound up there. I can recall dropping by on Sunday afternoons and seeing the most disreputably dressed sea captain acting like a gentleman because he was being treated as one by Barbara, as she poured tea for him in their living room.

Halifax was for a long time one of the few cities on the eastern seaboard open to the Russian merchant navy. I used to joke with Morris that for many Russian sailors the only words they knew in English were Morris Goldberg, Morris, and his brother Earl's store was their favourite re-supply station as they bought needed clothes for their friends and family back in the Soviet Union. And if they needed something for their wives or girl friends, Morris always sent them up to our store, The Arcade on Barrington Street frequently driven there by one of his "boys," the staff, in Morris's or Earl's car to pick out a borg coat. Those customers only knew from cash. There were no credit cards.

Morris loved to regale me with retailing stories. I suppose because I knew and understood the language: The customers who expected refunds on \$ 3.00 shirts after two years of wear; the customers who wore the clothes, and soiled them, but swore that they hadn't and wanted their money back; the customers who always claimed the coat or sweater was on sale at a better price at some other store. Morris would tell them if it was, he would give them it to them for free. He ruefully admitted to me that every now and then he had to make good. Somehow Morris made all those customers happy.

Morris used to tell the story of the fellow who called one day and wanted 100 pairs of coveralls. He had tried the big department stores, none of whom could accommodate that size of an order. Both Eatons and Simpsons told the man to try Goldberg's. Morris said of course he had them, what sizes did he need and the man said to assort them up. When the fellow asked when he could pick them up, Morris said, "Oh I don't know, thirty or forty minutes." The fellow came in to the store and started to write Morris a check. Morris looked at the cheque and said, "What do think I am, a fool? This is a cheque on a Calgary bank." He sent one of his "boys" to the Royal Bank a few doors away to find out if the cheque was good. Upon his return the clerk told Morris the Bank manager's message was to accept a cheque for any

amount up to \$2 million dollars. The Calgary cheque was from Imperial Oil. The same fellow came back the next day for 400 pairs of gloves. This time Morris didn't question the cheque.

When Morris and Earl decided to close out their store, they honoured me by asking me to partner it with them. I was to do the leg work and buy any fresh goods that were needed. We worked out a deal in about three or four minutes. The terms were noted on a paper napkin. The next day Earl, who was a lawyer after all, called and asked if I would mind doing up a little letter. I wrote it up and sealed it in an envelope. I don't think anyone ever looked at it after I dropped it off. When the sale was over, Earl gave it back to me and the envelope was still sealed. When I went to Winnipeg to buy extra merchandise for the sale, everyone spoke of Morris with great warmth and love. The trip took an extra day because every supplier had to tell me stories about Morris and how much they would miss him. It was pretty impressive, but that was nothing compared to what happened when we opened the closing so to speak. Customers came in and literally cried. They hugged Morris. The Lieutenant Governor, a classy neighbor who lived down the street, sent his aide over to buy every white busboy's jacket and apron in stock. Men who worked for MT&T, and Nova Scotia Light and Power kept asking where they would be able to get their winter-weight lined coveralls. No one was happy about that store closing. They were all mourning a lost friend, in the same way we mourn today.

When I last saw Morris, about 10 days ago, he again regaled me with some of the old stories. But then he stopped and started to tell me of his Father and Mother, their real poverty, of being evicted when the home they rented was bought for a little development, and how they had to sleep that night in a stable. The family finally found a place that they rented from a beneficent landlord who some times wouldn't accept the rent. He told Mrs. Goldberg she needed the \$10 more than he did. The landlord was Len Kitz's father.



Morris told me he was always good to bums. "Know why," he asked? His Father was confined to a wheel chair and in the morning on the way to school the children would roll him out to the pier so there was something their Dad could watch during the day. And during the day, if it started to rain, the bums always wheeled him home. Although Morris spoke with pride of his brothers' accomplishments and their education (all done on scholarships) he said school just wasn't for him. Morris started selling denims for a dollar a pair 75 years ago, and giving the profit (a quarter) to his mother to help with the family's expenses. Myer opened a store on Gottingen Street. When he moved he gave the store to Morris because the sign already said, M. Goldberg, and Morris wouldn't have to change the name. So at thirteen Morris was a storekeeper. I probably could tell you 100 wonderful stories about Morris, but you probably have even more.

He was, as I said, indefatigable, industrious, always smiling, charitable, generous, and thoughtful, and a good friend of everyone in this room.

Since Barbara's untimely death her memory continues to grace this congregation, We still speak of her. Memories of Morris and what he has meant in our lives will be with us for a long time. We will all miss him very much.

Assistant Editor's note: Morris Goldberg was the father of AJC President Victor Goldberg,, AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg and Susan Jones of Allentown, PA. Morris dedicated his life to Jewish causes, and was a leader and great support of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue, United Jewish Appeal, Jewish National Fund, State of Israel Bonds and Hadassah-Wizo.

Continued from page 14
between 175,000 to 200,000 Jews served in the Polish Armies. They defended Poland in September 1939 against the German invasion, they fought in the Polish army in exile, in the 1940 defense of France, in the Middle East, in North Africa and in Italy. While serving in the Polish Tank Corps, Air Force and Navy they participated along with the RAF and Royal Navy in the Normandy Landings. The Polish forces together with the Red Army took part in the Great Offensive eventually liberating Poland and helping in the conquest of Germany. I should also mention that 20 Jewish fighter pilots of the Polish Air Force lost their lives during the Battle of Britain.

Jews served in the armies of Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania. When Czechoslovakia was occupied by the Nazi forces in 1938, many Jewish soldiers of the Czech army fled the country to join the Soviet Forces.

From (then) Palestine itself, despite the intense bitterness created by the anti-refugee policy, 33,000 Jews enlisted in the British army and many of them fought in Crete, Syria, Iraq, North Africa, Italy and Austria. Some volunteered to fight behind the German lines, and 32 of them were actually parachuted by the British into Nazi-occupied Europe. Among those who were parachuted was the 23 year old **Hannah Senesh**, who after being captured and cruelly tortured by the Nazis was executed in Budapest on 4th of November 1944, and **Enzo Sereni**, who was murdered in Dachau two weeks later.

Jews served with Montgomery's 8th Army in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece. Naturally, the Jews of Palestine were proud of what they had contributed to the Allied cause.

Jews from the UK served in Europe, North Africa, Burma, Indo China and Malaya. Jews served with distinction in the

Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic and in bombing missions over Europe. They served in commando raids and on mine-sweepers. They were parachuted into occupied Europe as intelligence officers and radio operators.

And now what about the contribution of Canadian Jewry? Of a total Jewish population of about 160,000-163,000, almost 17,000 (16,883) served in the army, navy and airforce. Although in 1945 Jews numbered less than 1.5% of the general population, they accounted for 7.57% of the Canadian Armed Forces.

There were 776 Jewish casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces in World War II of which 421 lost their lives while on active service. Jews took a high percentage of awards for heroism and bravery (almost 200).

In the Soviet Armed Forces, out of over half a million Jewish servicemen and women, 200,000 were killed - 40% - a casualty figure unequaled by any other force. 17 Jewish Generals helped plan the defense that saved Moscow in those dark horrible days of the winter of 1941.

It has never been denied that Stalingrad was the major land battle, the turning point of the Second World War. The destruction of Von Paulas' Sixth Nazi Panzer Army was the blow that broke the back of Nazi resistance. Nazi forces never recovered after this crushing defeat.

During the Battle of Stalingrad 40 Jewish combat colonels in the field of battle were promoted to the rank of general for their skill, ingenuity and bravery.

100,000 Jews received the award, Hero of the Soviet Union, which is equivalent to our Victoria Cross, the highest award for military heroism.

During the desperate, dismal days after Pearl Harbour, Bataan and Corregidor, it was the American Jew **Meyer Levin** who gave

the United States their first victory and something to cheer about. Meyer Levin, a Jewish Bombardier aboard a B-17 Bomber piloted by **Colin Kelly**, aimed and dropped the bombs that sent the first Japanese battleship of the "Haruna" class to the bottom of the sea.

While mention is made of Colin Kelly in a number of publications, no mention is made of Meyer Levin who died on the same mission as Colin Kelly.

When Britain wanted to learn the efficiency of German radar installations one of their leading radar experts in England - a Jew - **Jack Nissenthal** (Nissen) volunteered to take part in the daring Canadian raid on Dieppe in August of 1942. The 21 year-old Royal Air Force flight sergeant did this with the knowledge that 10 soldiers of the South Saskatchewan Regiment were under orders to shoot him if he was wounded or in danger of being captured by the enemy because he knew too many secrets of the British radar system.

The late **Lord Louis Mountbatten** later told Mr. Nissenthal that what he did shortened the war by two years. Without his help, it would have been impossible to stage the 1944 Normandy invasion because by then the Germans would have developed more defenses and weapons.

Jews in the British Forces received 956 awards for heroism including 2 Victoria Crosses and 486 M.I.D.'s (Mention in Dispatches).

Jews did not serve! - Jews did not fight! Jews did not enlist and Jews did not volunteer! What pure unadulterated lies, ignorance and bigotry.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Battle of the Atlantic was the biggest campaign of the entire naval war. This lifeline between North America and Great Britain was the most important supply link of the entire war through which hundreds of thou-

sands of tons of war equipment was shipped via convoys. It was along this vital route that the German U-boats and surface raiders took such a tremendous toll of Allied shipping. Allied losses reached their peak between January 1942 and March 1943 during which time hundreds of thousands of tons of Allied ships and supplies were sunk. Allied countermeasures were only just in time to stave off defeat and complete disaster. When the Battle of the Atlantic finally ended almost 12 million tons of Allied ships and supplies were sunk.

It is a safe bet to say no one here ever heard of **Admiral Sir Max Horton**. Max Horton was a Jew, a much experienced submarine commander. Horton in 1942 was relieved of submarine duty and given command of the western approaches, the post carrying responsibility for bringing the convoys safely from mid Atlantic to port. It was he, therefore who fought the Battle of the Atlantic at its most critical moment. Thanks to Admiral Max Horton's shrewdness and untiring zeal the tide of battle turned in the Allies favour in May 1943. If any one man was the victor of the Atlantic battle it was Max Horton. Admiral Horton received a Knighthood after the war.

Nobody fought for us! - The Jew fought bravely and well along side his non-Jewish comrade until final victory over the evil Nazi war machine. These Jewish forces I have told you about constituted the largest Jewish army since the days of Bar-Kochba. They fought with a bravery unmatched since the days of Judah Ha Maccabee.

Taken in sum, the number of Jews in the Allied Forces constituted the fourth largest Allied Army.

And what of the many thousands of Jewish Partisan and Resistance Fighters who fought in either all Jewish partisan groups or in units made up of both Jew-

ish and non-Jewish partisans.

Capture meant horrifying torture and terrible death. For them there was no Geneva Convention, no Red Cross, no food parcels from home. They couldn't possibly defeat the greatest war machine, the most cruel and brutal enemy the world had known. And yet, they did beat the enemy! Their courage and bravery forced the Germans to divert entire divisions of front line troops because of their constant cutting of lines of communications, planting of mines, cutting rail lines, blowing up troop trains and general harassment. Their losses were horrendous, but they never flagged or failed. **Martin Gilbert**, the official biographer of the first two volumes of **Winston Churchill's** official biography says it far better than I ever could in his historical biography *Second World War*. In chapter after chapter, he extols their heroism, their terrible losses and their will to carry on. - Please let me quote:

"June 2, 1942 - 2 major German offensives were launched against Partisan activities in the Polotsk, Borisov and Lepel area. Attacking with 16,000 crack front line troops the Germans hoped to smash resistance once and for all. At the same time a further 5,000 German SS troops launched operation Birdsong in the area between Roslavl and Bryansk.

Partisan dead 1193 - German losses 58 - within 2 months the Partisans were back again forcing the German army to withdraw more troops from the front.

June 8, 1942. - 3 Jews left the Vilna Ghetto including a young 17 year old girl, **Vitka Kemperer**. Their mission, to blow up a troop train on the way to the front. They were completely successful. Word spread quickly in the Ghetto, bringing a sense of achievement if not hope.

Reprisals were swift and terrible. 132 families, men, women and children were seized by the

gestapo, taken to Ponary and shot.

July 20. - The Germans launched another strike against the Partisans. Hopelessly outgunned and outmanned 769 were killed against 44 German losses. Within 4 hours the remaining Partisans regrouped and attacked the Nazis in the Chichivichi region. That same day in the village of Kletsk, several hundred Jews about to be murdered, set fire to the Ghetto and fled to the woods. Most perished under a hail of machine gun fire. A few reached the forest where they joined other Partisans under the leadership of **Moishe Fish**.

A day later the same event happened in the village of Nieswicz. Burning their ghetto the Jews fled to the forest, but most were cut down before they could reach safety. Those that made it joined the Partisans under **Shalom Cholowski**. Within a week these brave souls were planting land mines, cutting rail lines and creating havoc in the German lines of communication.

On September 18 the SS launched an action against a family camp hidden in the forest which was made up of the sick, the elderly, the infirm, women and children. All were slaughtered.

March 22 - In a village near Minsk the SS killed all 149 inhabitants as a warning not to help Partisans."

And who amongst us hasn't heard of the heroism and martyrdom of the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto Fighters? A handful of the bravest of the brave, ill equipped and untrained, took on the might of the German forces and fought it to a standstill for 42 days. On April 14, 1943, German forces launched their onslaught against the Warsaw Ghetto using about 3,000 men including some 2700 S.S., the Wehrmacht and police. They attacked with a tank, armored vehicles, heavy machine

guns and artillery. They set fire and blew up buildings where the Jews were sheltering and hiding. **S.S. Brigadefuhrer** (Brigadier General) **Stroop** commanded the German units and the attack.

A force of between 800 to 1000 Jewish fighters defended themselves from their bunkers, using 1 machine gun, pistols, handgrenades, molotov cocktails and homemade landmines.

This resistance took the Germans completely by surprise and it was not until May 16, that Stroop was able to claim that the operation was completed although armed resistance by individual Jewish units continued into the middle of July. On May 8th **Commander Mordechai Anilewicz** and his command committed joint suicide in their bunker. About 50 fighters escaped through the sewers and later fought in the Second Warsaw uprising.

The battle and fires claimed

the lives of 14,000 Jews. A further 7,000 were transported to Treblinka to be exterminated and the balance sent to Maidanek. German losses are not known, but at the time they were estimated to be 400 dead and 1,000 wounded.

This unprecedented fight by the Jews quickly became legendary and provided inspiration for similar revolts in the Bialstock Ghetto, Treblinka and the Sobibor death camps.

Historical novelists (including **Leon Uris**) described the heroic ghetto action in terms of almost reverential pride, "This rabble army without a decent weapon held at bay the mightiest power the world has ever known for 42 days and 42 nights! At the end of that time S.S. Brigadefuhrer Stroop ordered the Great Tlomatskie Synagogue dynamited to the ground to sym-

Continued on page 42



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TESTIMONY TO JUDAISM

by Viva Press, Halifax

The history of the Jews in Cape Breton was recently covered in the CBC documentary, *Minyan on the Mira*. But such a history is better understood from individual accounts.

Through their personal anecdotes, **David Ein** and **Marty Chernin** gave more meaning to the now declining Jewish communities of Cape Breton, once-thriving communities. There were four synagogues on this small island on Canada's east coast where only two Shuls now remain in use.

During the second weekend in February, I went with the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation (APJSF) to Cape Breton for our annual winter convention. This year's theme, Jews of Cape Breton, couldn't have been more timely.

Hailing from a once-large Orthodox community, Ein and his wife, **Paula** joined the APJSF at the Keltic Lodge in Ingonish to talk about his Glace Bay upbringing.

Ein described his cheder classes, his Jewish upbringing and a recent trip to Israel where he and Paula found the grave of his great-grandfather. He reminisced about the once almost all Jewish-owned shops that used to line Glace Bay's main street, where only his clothing store remains.

He proudly told us about his community's Shabbat minyan, which is formed every week, despite there being only 13 men from whom to choose. When Ein called this a "testimony to Judaism", he was right. It is.

Similarly, the Sydney community is aging and declining in numbers.

Unfortunately, we did not have the chance to visit Glace Bay. However, the 38 of us made our way through the winding and bumpy roads of the Cabot Trail from Ingonish to Sydney on Sunday morning before our return to Halifax.

When we got to the Conservative Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney, Chernin and a few other members of the community had unnecessarily - although it was appreciated - laid out a delicious kiddush for us. Chernin then gave us a tour of the Shul and told us a little about his community. There are only 57 families left, including widows and singles; and the last Bar Mitzvah is to take place sometime this year.

On the walls at the entrance of the Shul are big posters of scenes from Jerusalem and Israel. It's not surprising then that the funds raised for Israel by Cape Bretoners represent the highest per capita rate in Canada. They may be a small community, but their love for Israel and Yiddishkeit - as we heard from Chernin and Ein - is enormous.

Before we headed back to Halifax, Chernin took us to the Hebrew cemetery.

The Jewish community may have declined over the years in Cape Breton, but as Ein and Chernin explained, that community is still alive and strong in its commitment to Judaism and Israel. Also, there is a Cape Breton Jewish Club in Toronto that meets to reminisce about old times.



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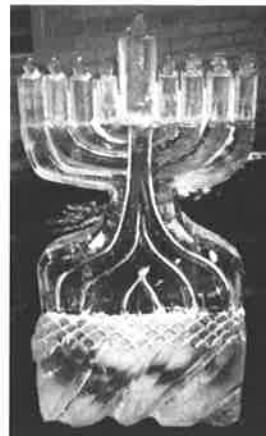
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from around



Ice sculpture Menorah, Chabad Winter Camp December 1997, Halifax



Roy Argand enjoying the Purim Carnival, Halifax



L-R: Talia Johnson, Hanna Berdowski, Robert Johnson and Abby Suissa at Purim Carnival, March 1998, Halifax



The munchkins prepared to go on stage for The Wizard of Oz. February 1998, Moncton



Shirley Burnstein embraces Carlie Fox at Jewish Music Talent Night. February 1998, Halifax



Off to see the Wizard of Oz. L-R: Carmi Rubin, Lauren Abrahams, Yakov Feig, Heidi Lipkus.



Renee Zatzman playing at the Jewish Music Talent Night. February 1998, Halifax

the region



Hectic Halifax Weekend, February 1998. L-R: Schuyler Smith, Sharon Himelman, Sam Smith



Socializing at the reception at Government House. Chanukah 1997, Halifax



Playing the Dreidle game at AJC-Chabad Chanukah Lighting at City Hall. December 1997, Halifax



Arthur Saffron of Springhill Nova Scotia, National Executive CJC, lighting the Chanukah at Gov. House, Chanukah 1997, Halifax



Lt. Gov. and Mrs. Kinley shown with AJC President Victor and Judith Goldberg and Chanukah Reception at Government House December 1997, Halifax



Reception for Israel Ambassador to Canada, in Fredericton, late fall, 1997 L-R: Ivan Lavine; His Excel. David Sultan, Israel Ambassador to Canada; Daniel Gal, Consul General of Israel; Mrs. Sultan and Mrs. Marlene Unger; AJC Community Rep.

INTRODUCING THE AJC CHAPLAIN

by Joel Jacobson

Rabbi David Ellis is in the right place at the right time. The former rabbi of the orthodox Moncton congregation has become chaplain in service to the Atlantic Jewish Council and a consultant to Northwood Manor, a Halifax seniors residence that will soon open a Jewish wing.

"I hope I'll be appreciated and maybe be a drawing card as someone with a bit more knowledge who can give a sermon, lead services, read Torah in those smaller Atlantic Canadian communities that don't have a rabbi," said Rabbi Ellis, soon after assuming his new posting in late December.

Rabbi Ellis, full-time rabbi of Moncton's orthodox congregation for three years, did not have his contract renewed in 1996. He remained in the city, did some chaplaincy work on Prince Edward Island and occasionally visited Sydney and Glace Bay in Cape Breton. In his new position, he, his wife **Rose**, and children **Leah** (8), **Tamar** (6) and

Sarah (3) will be based in Halifax.

"Bringing a rabbi to a community means bringing tradition," says the Dallas, Texas-born Ellis. "I see people's faces light up when I arrive, because it is closer touch with Judaism."

Rabbi Ellis said he would do whatever needs to be done but "you have to be careful with Maritimers," he laughs. "They don't like to be told what to do. Every community is an entity in itself. I certainly want to help and want to see what they're doing but certainly won't violate my conscience or Halacha."

Jon Goldberg, executive director of the AJC, says this is a first for the organization. "In the past, we have not been involved in religious affairs of the community. But with our community diminishing in the region, and with fewer religious services being held, bringing Judaism to them will make people more inclined to Israel and Zionism."



port from Northwood Centre and from a special fund of a Toronto philanthropist set up to help small communities."

At Northwood Manor, Rabbi Ellis will help establish a kosher kitchen for an anticipated 24 residents who will move in in late summer. He'll also provide chaplaincy services and run a weekly service if there is demand.

Lloyd Goldsmith, newly-elected president of the conservative Sharrei Zedek Congregation in Saint John, says he's sure Rabbi Ellis will be able to contribute to Saint John. "We've been without a rabbi for two decades and our resident spiritual leader, **Lou Michelson**, passed away about two years ago. While we try to find another Lou Michelson, we need a Rabbi Ellis to offer our 40 Jewish families whatever he can."

One of Glace Bay's handful of remaining Jewish residents, **Raymond Goldman**, says Rabbi Ellis has already provided an uplift to the community. "He's led services, read the Torah, given us a sermon and answered questions for us. He's even spent time in the shul basement sorting books. I hope he'll be able to lead study groups, and present lectures on Jewish subjects on some of his visits."

Goldman, the secretary of orthodox Congregation Sons of Israel, bemoaned the fact that most of the senior community members, which is most of the community, spends the winter in Florida, thus eliminating the opportunity for weekly services. "We'll probably close the shul for the winter but Rabbi Ellis will be there to help us reassemble in the spring and to get us together for spiritual love and harmony. We like him. He'll be an asset."



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Halifax has an Eruv

By Barrie Ross

An eruv is a boundary that makes the community it encloses as if was in their 'private domain'. The private domain is the home. For the observant, some categories of 'work' allowed in the home, are not permitted outside on the Sabbath. For example, without an eruv one cannot carry spectacles or a coat over the arm on Shabbos; a stroller cannot be pushed along. An eruv allows these activities. The definition of this boundary around a city has its solid foundations in ancient Jewish law. Rabbinic interpretation of these laws allows an eruv to be made for a modern city. There are few if any smaller cities in Canada with this amenity.

Rabbi Aranov, working with a committee of the Beth Israel Congregation, declared the Halifax eruv functional on Jan 2nd,

1988. The idea of an eruv enclosing the Halifax peninsula had been raised by **Rabbi Grafstein** in his tenure at Beth Israel. He had noted the number of observant visitors to the city and the needs of those who lived in Halifax who wished to be fully observant. A core committee of **Dr. Jayson Greenblatt**, **Mr. David Price**, **Rabbi Aranov** and **Dr. Barrie Ross** as chairman worked through the summer to the end of 1997 on the project. **Messrs. Mani Suissa, Byron Feener and David Korn** gave supportive engineering advice.

Where a peninsula is concerned, an eruv must start and finish in a manmade structure in the water. The eruv starts at the MacDonald Bridge, encompasses Northwood Manor which now has a Jewish floor, and then proceeds up North Street. It cuts

across the peninsula going up Chebucto Road, down McDonald Drive and then via Quinpool Road, enters the water of the Northwest Arm. The tops of the city's electric poles have wires that make the boundary. Where the wire is not on top, a symbolic 'gate' is made by fixing pieces of wood to pole or wall. The project involved the permission of the Nova Scotia Power Commission, the Halifax Bridge Commission, the Street Engineering Department of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Federal Coastguard and the Halifax Harbourmaster. All these authorities were highly cooperative in giving their permission.

Each week, the eruv must be

inspected and declared intact. One of seven volunteers in the community does the inspection on a Friday morning and advises the shul office that all is well. This announcement is put on the shul's telephone answering machine along with the other announcements of the week. Visitors and others can then call the shul before Shabbos and get the necessary information.



The Committee at the end of the Eruv in the Northwest Arm, Halifax, Jan 2nd 1988. L-r: David Price, Rabbi Aranov, Dr. Jayson Greenblatt and Dr. Barrie Ross (chair)



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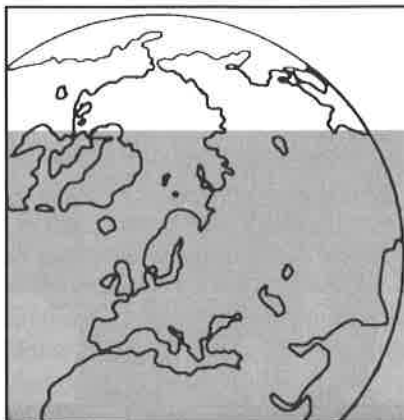
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ELLEN STEIGMAN LEAVES 'EM LAUGHING

by Joel Jacobson

Ellen Steigman has entertained Canadians on both coasts. Now she'd like to meet folks in the middle of the country.

The New York stand-up comedienne regaled a Halifax audience with a 40 minute routine of topical Jewish humour, based on observations of everyday life. Some was self-deprecating, some fed off a quick study she made of the Halifax area and all of it brought loud guffaws and knowing nods from the Purim-festive crowd.

Brought to the community by Atlantic Jewish Council, Ms. Steigman also appeared in front of the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation. The 29-year-old ("I'm celebrating my first 29th birthday tomorrow", she said) has been doing her shtick for almost a year. She has performed in Vancouver for Western Canada Hillel, a branch of the American national organization with whom she worked for a time after graduating from Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

"When I was with Hillel, I participated in a conference talent show. I did a standup routine and everyone loved it. A year later, I attended a five-year reunion at Brandeis and wanted to sound like someone who was doing something cool. I said I was a comedienne."

To make herself believable, she made a date at a comedy club and did a seven minute spot. "I was hooked. I've done about 20 or more spots so far and do temporary secretarial work to put food on the table."

She admits she never knew she was funny but found it important

to be so at the family dinner table. "There were always puns and jokes flying around as we were eating. And in college, I found I had a knack for making people laugh."

After her first year at Brandeis she took a stand-up comedy class but wanted to go to Israel. "I knew I couldn't do standup in Israel but spent a year there. Back home, I went into Jewish communal service. I worked as an administrative assistant at the national Hadassah office in the States and then was recruited by Hillel to recruit and work with students on small campuses."

She writes all her own material, doesn't have an agent and knows, if she hustles enough, she could do comedy full time. That day may come.

Born in Chicago and raised in Philadelphia, Ms. Steigman has always been involved in Jewish activities. She was president of the Pennsylvania chapter of North American Federation of Temple Youth, in a district that also included part of New Jersey, Ohio, and West Virginia.

"It showed me I could get up in front of people. That's where I found myself."

Among her routines are "Why There's No Such Thing as a Romantic Jewish Dinner" and "Life in New York: Do These Things Happen Just To ME?"

She says she's always been a professional Jew and enjoys spreading humor to Jewish audiences. "This is challenging, running my own business. I glad I can be very Jewish, but not with an organization."



Passover Message

From Goldie Hershon, National President Canadian Jewish Congress

Since my election nearly three years ago it has been my pleasure to deliver an annual Passover message to members of the Jewish community. This represents the final opportunity for me to do so. My mandate comes to a close at the upcoming 25th National Plenary Assembly of Canadian Jewish Congress May 24 - 26 in Winnipeg.

At the first Passover seder, we retell the story of the "Festival of Freedom", the Exodus of Jews from Egypt. Passover also represents an opportunity for family and friends to sit together and discuss current Jewish issues.

As you gather on this occasion, we hope you will think about what kind of role you can play as part of the advocacy arm of Canadian Jewry. The Winnipeg Plenary serves as an opportunity to examine, discuss and debate issues of mutual concern. We hope you will consider joining us as a delegate.

There were many seders when we would pray for the release of Jews in the Former Soviet Union, Syria and Ethiopia. Thankfully

their freedom did come. We must, however, remain vigilant against those who wish to bring hardship upon us. Anti-Semites and Holocaust deniers continue to spread their venom in our country, with the Internet becoming their newest tool.

This Passover we can look back on a successful year of political advocacy on the dossier related to suspected Nazi war criminals resident in Canada. Community programs, rallies, vigils and meetings with elected officials have resulted in significant progress. Since last summer, there has been one deportation while three others were stripped of their citizenship. New cases are also forthcoming.

In Israel, this will be a very special Passover as the Jewish State celebrates its 50th anniversary. Here in the Diaspora we express our support for the Middle East's only true democracy and pray for peace.

Passover represents an excellent opportunity to look at the agenda before us and see how as a cohesive Jewish community we can work together to ensure continuity for the future.

A jubilee of Passovers and various definitions of freedom

By Rabbi Saul Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

Passover commemorates freedom from physical bondage and exile in Ancient Egypt about 3300 years ago which we attempt to relive at the Seder each year. There were other exile experiences such as the Babylonian exile when the First Jerusalem Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed 2600 years. Finally the Second Jerusalem Temple and the Holy City of Jerusalem were devastated by the Roman Empire almost two thousand years ago.

Until the last fifty years Jewish powerlessness was a transgression against G-d as well as against the Jewish people. The exercise of Jewish statehood of the last fifty years which signaled the genesis of the Third Jewish Commonwealth is an expression of resurrection and renaissance of the Jewish soul of our people. This exercise in Jewish statehood did not come without a high price being paid with young Jewish lives throughout Israel's recent history.

Jews all over the world stood taller as a result of the achievement of Jewish statehood. They developed a unity of necessity which had to accommodate groups of Jews who represented diametrically opposed political positions. The demographic make up the state of Israel was complicated by the arrival of millions of immigrants from diverse cultures which were not always tolerant of one another's differences. What they all shared was a desire to live in true freedom.

The biblical concept of Jubilee refers to complete freedom of persons from enslavement or servile existence and the return of their homesteads to them which they may have lost due to debts incurred. Therefore the past fifty Passovers that we celebrated were of a different character than all previous Passovers for the past two thousand years. The reason for this is that the Third Jewish commonwealth which rose fifty years ago with the establishment of the state of Israel, offered Jews political sanctuary citizenship and security.

Even before the rise of Nazism the Jewish people in many lands were treated as second class citizens. It was not difficult after that for the Third Reich to completely dehumanize the Jewish people. Even in democratic societies where Jews gained citizenship those lands spurned Jewish refugees who sought sanctuary. This behaviour gave impetus to Germany's final solution for the Jews of Europe.

The victims of the Holocaust are real individuals still etched in the memory of their children, brothers, and sisters who walk among us. The trauma of the tragedy known as the Holocaust is magnified because this most recent destruction demonstrated the vulnerability, Jewish defenselessness and shock as Jews could not conceive that such bestial behavior could be perpetrated by people on what was presumed to be a civilized continent.

Jews who hailed from Muslim countries suffered political and economic disabilities there. In Israel many were able to rise to the heights of political power and economic advancement.

II Variations in the Definition of Freedom

The history of modern Israel can be divided into two periods. The first period was from 1948-1967 and the second time frame since 1967 till the present. What are the changes that have surfaced? From the inception of the Jewish State **David Ben-Gurion** and Religious Zionist leaders came to an accord in areas of social policy. Although the socialist parties dominated in the early years of statehood the leaders, many of whom have been nurtured in their youth in an intensive religious environment, had nostalgia for tradition and they ascribed to a status quo which would preserve religious Zionist institutions alongside secular national institutions and this was particularly so in the field of Jewish education.

The secular leadership of Israel surmised that religious Judaism would eventually fade away in the modern age. Little did they realize that the physical revitalization of the state of Israel during its early years was a necessary foundation for spiritual renaissance. Many Jews throughout the world were searching for deeper spiritual meaning to life as were their non-Jewish contemporaries.

Instead of formal religious practice dissipating, it grew in depth and strength as many young people studied religious practices more thoroughly. What resulted was a deep division between those who were nurtured in a secular nationalist framework and the others who ascribed to a religious national commitment. The Jews outside Israel, influenced by a more individualist based life style, are also divided into denominational camps in the religious sphere and those who have little or no religious affiliation.

The State of Israel began as a communistarian democracy but many in present day Israel have moved to an individualist orientation and, while many want a cultural Jewish identity to continue to characterize the State of Israel, they do not want any bureaucracy, religious or otherwise, to dictate their life style. The future cultural character of Israel will be a struggle for the minds and the hearts of its diverse population groups.

It will not be out of place for an airing of the different views about democracy and the Jewish faith around the Seder table this year. As we participate in the religious symbols and foods of Passover, let us go beyond the symbols during this Jubilee year of the Jewish State.

CAMP KADIMAH UPDATE

Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director

For close to 40 campers from Atlantic Canada, Kadimah '98 began the end of February with a very successful Shabbaton which culminated with a visit to Camp. It was quite a thrill to see Camp in winter. Kids were able to explore the grounds and marvel at the ice on the lake. Teams were formed and a short video was made. This video will be shown the first night, on July 1, when the summer begins. Over the week-end kids partook in a Shabbat dinner and program and had a blast at Laser Quest and many arcade games. The sleepover was fun but very tiring. A special thanks to **Yakov Feig** for organizing the week-end.

Plans for the summer are in full gear. We will highlight the summer in celebrating Israel's 50th birthday. Many special days and new programs await all. A revamped afternoon schedule is being planned with a lot more free choice.

Returning staff for 1998 include **Michael Soberman, Brian Indig, Marty & Belarie Zatzman, Steven Indig, Shayna Allen, Leah Epstein, Ann Raskin, Leigh Lampert** and **Melanie Kazman**.

Section Heads include **Heidi Lipkus** - Rosh Machar, **Jo Mirsky** - Kochot, **Stephanie Levitz** - Goshrim and **Matt David** - Giborim. **Zena Haberman** will be in charge of our Judaic and cultural program.

In just 12 weeks we'll all be back in our second home. Wishing all a very Happy Passover. See you soon. Shalom.

Rav Kook: Still a seminal figure for our age

By Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Chaplain

We will soon be in the midst of a number of celebrations of Israel's 50th anniversary as a nation. Programs will be scheduled throughout the region. The media will have a number of special programs. It will be a time for renewing of our knowledge and commitment to the land of Israel.

And yet many of our commemorations will only note the events of the past half century—the war of liberation, the ongoing struggle with the Arabs, the ingathering of Jews from all parts of the world. As engaging as these have all been for us, to understand the dynamics of modern Israel, we must return to an earlier figure in Zionist history, whose stand on issues of his day continues to be a living challenge for our own. There is much we can learn from the life and times of the first Chief Rabbi of Israel (then Palestine), **Rav Abraham Isaac Kook**.

Rav Kook was born in Latvia in 1865, receiving the traditional Talmudic education of his day.

His later studies would take him into secular studies, of the sciences and general philosophy. He settled in Palestine in 1904, becoming the rabbi of Jaffa. He went to England during World War I to enlist Jewish support for the Balfour declaration and the new settlements in the land. When the office of the Chief Rabbi was founded in 1921, Rav Kook was chosen to fill the post, which he served until his death in 1935.

In matters of Jewish law, Rav Kook was always in accordance with Jewish tradition. Yet his commitment to the tradition did not deter him from taking some innovative stances, demanded, he thought, by the new issues facing the settlement of Eretz Yisrael.

Most controversial was his defending of the secular Jews and the kibbutz movement. Many of them took a non-religious and often a militantly anti-religious attitude toward settlement of the land, maintaining that the Jewish religious heritage had mired the Jews in the lands of the exile.

While not approving of their deviations from the Jewish heritage, Rav Kook nonetheless saw the secular Jews as performing a

very important task, the rebuilding of the land of Israel. Seeing the return to the Jewish homeland as one of the major religious obligations, Rav Kook saw the kibbutzniks as contributors to this



process, whatever their expressed beliefs. He foresaw that the building of the land would lead to a religious revival for the Jewish people and that the secular Jews would eventually return to Jewish

practice.

Besides his mystical reverence for the Land of Israel, Rav Kook is famous for his principle of *ahavat chinam*, unbounded love for the Jewish people. Our sages state that the Second Temple was destroyed because of *sinat chinam*, causeless hatred of one Jew toward another. Rav Kook maintained that our first attitude should be the opposite, of unconditional love for all Jews, regardless of religious and ideological differences.

As a man who tried to define a position between conflicting currents of ideas, it is not surprising that Rav Kook was a controversial figure in his day. He incurred the wrath of the right-wing Orthodox for his qualified support for the work of Jewish secularists in settling the land. The diehard secularists criticized his approach to Israel as too mystical and not concrete enough to form a distinctive program of action.

Where would Rav Kook stand in regard to modern Israel? It is simply impossible to understand the present movements in

Israel without understanding Rav Kook's views, whether one accepts, modifies or rejects them. The religious Zionists who settle in Hebron and other West Bank settlements often claim to be fulfilling Rav Kook's vision of maintaining the sacred ownership of the land as a heritage of the Jewish people. But do they maintain Rav Kook's unfettered love for all Jews? Would Rav Kook have endorsed a confrontational policy toward the Arabs, or might the principle of *ahavat chinam* been extended to them, as children of Abraham? Was Rav Kook's view of Jewish secularism naive? Has there been the melioristic return of the secularists toward tradition which he predicted, or are they as far from it as they ever were? Where should the balance be today between religious and secular studies? Has the present state of Israel lived up to Rav Kook's expectations? Would he still see a role for the Diaspora communities?

All of these important questions can only be understood properly if we have an appreciation for the decisive role Rav Kook had in grappling with them in the early settlement of modern Israel.

Unfortunately, I have found in my travels through the Maritime communities that many people do not know of Rav Kook at all, let alone have any detailed knowledge of his life and ideals in one of the most formative periods for our history. I hope that we would correct this lacuna during our celebrations of Israel's jubilee and come to appreciate a man whose ideas are as alive today as in his own.

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A Prayer for the Dead exhibition

by Joel Jacobson

Herzl Kashetsky has captured on canvas stark reminders of an era many people wish to forget. But the Saint John, N.B. artist's series of paintings and drawings of the Holocaust represents almost 20 years of his personal attempt to come to terms with the events and meaning of the Holocaust, and attempt to allow the world to see the horrors that took place.

The exhibition, *A Prayer for the Dead*, was displayed at Dalhousie University Art Gallery through January and February. The collection was curated for the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fredericton, N.B. by **Tom Smart**, and is being circulated through the Maritime region by the New Brunswick Museum. It has been displayed at the Beaverbrook Gallery and the Museum, is now visiting the McCain Gallery in Florenceville, N.B.

"This has been with me for a long time," Kashetsky says prior to the official Halifax opening which received support from the Atlantic Jewish Council. "As a child of about seven, I had a neighbour with a numbered tattoo and asked my mother what it meant. She told me and I wanted to know more. At university in Montreal, I met a friend whose parents were survivors and my interest continued.

"In 1974 (two years after graduation from

Sir George Williams University), I did a painting from a *Life Magazine* image of the Holocaust called *Faces*. As my artistic capabilities matured, I felt I could do better renderings but never felt really capable until the 80s."

In 1990, Kashetski made an artistic and spiritual pilgrimage to Poland, visiting several concentration camp sites and seeing the remains of Jewish communities.

"This became my exclusive work for the past seven years. I took brief breaks for other work because of the intense physical and emotional strain in preparing these works," says Kashetsky, 47. "I could spend the rest of my life on this theme, but, for the moment, the body of work is complete."

The artist says completing the work has been his way of coming to understand what the Holocaust was all about. "It's been a personal journey, but as an artist, it gives me the chance to share with others through my medium."

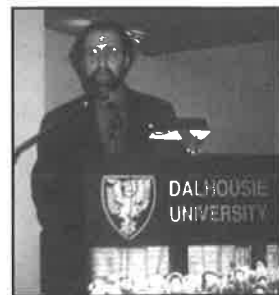
The monochromatic paintings were originally done in graphite followed by a larger format drawing in prismacolor on gray paper which, in turn, became the study for the finished painting. All are based on archival photos and some personal photos he took in Poland. The collection includes depictions of people boarding a train and later arriving

at Auschwitz, stacks of bodies in a mass grave at Bergen Belsen, crematorium doors and chimneys, three survivors at Dachau in 1945, and a recent painting of an Auschwitz survivor.

Susan Gibson-Garvey, curator of the Dalhousie Gallery, said she saw some of Kashetsky's work a year ago and "wanted to have the whole show, not just a few samples. The picture of the bodies struck me not as a piece from this century, but from the mediaeval or Renaissance period as an illustration of Hell. I thought Herzl tackled this with power and strength and I wanted to have it here."

Survivor **Philip Riteman** of Halifax sees the exhibition but says, his voice breaking, "I don't like to look at this because I've seen it in real life. I guess I'm strong enough now to look at it but I just want the world to see. We have to keep telling what happened."

Kashetsky calls his work, "a visual prayer, a remembrance memorial, an elegy to souls lost in the Holocaust."



The exceptional contribution

Continued from page 32

bolize the destruction of Polish Jewry."

My friends, why do I mention these things? Certainly not to spread doom and gloom and certainly not to inform you of facts of which many of you are personally aware and of which you have first hand knowledge, and most certainly **not to boast** of the accomplishments of the Jews during the Second World War.

It is pure and simple to dispel the horrendous myth that Jews did not fight back. Assuredly for many Jews they did not have the opportunity to resist or the strength and will to carry on.

For many, death came as a friend not as an enemy. Day after day, week after week, month after month, the Jews were reviled, starved, beaten, tortured, degraded and slaughtered. Set upon by vicious dogs, experimented on by deranged doctors, the emaciated victims were shipped in cattle cars or by death marches to their final destinations, Auschwitz, Maidanek, Treblinka, Sobibor and dozens of other killing grounds.

My Friends, to even suggest that under these unimaginable conditions the people could as a whole fight back is an obscenity.

How can anyone who wasn't there sit in judgment. Just to have survived the Holocaust is an act

of incredible heroism. And yet, many found the will, the hidden strength to resist and fight back; these we honour. The thousands of Partisans, Ghetto fighters and Resistance Fighters who will never know tomorrow, brave men and women; we remember. Those who served in the regular allied forces, the soldiers, sailors and airmen; these we recall with reverence. How they were able to accomplish this is beyond comprehension. Call it the will to survive, call it vengeance, call it a desire to see justice done or to remain alive to be the CONSCIENCE OF A LARGELY UNCARING WORLD. Call it what you will, **but never forget** what a modern day Amalek did to us and the courage with which we fought back.

To those Ladies and Gentlemen who attempted to accomplish the impossible and to a large degree succeeded I can only say KOL HAKOVOD - ALL HONOURS G-D BLESS YOU. TODA RABAH.

CLUB MASSADA NEWS

By Doreen Gordon

Joel Jacobson was the guest speaker at Club Massada's meeting on September 16th at the Beth Israel. Joel is well known for his column, **Bright Spot**, in the *Halifax Herald-Mail Star*. He has quite a following among our members also; a number of them came specifically to hear the many stories he has to tell - some humorous, some poignant, always interesting. Thanks, Joel!

In mid October a large contingent of Massada members gathered at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium to see *The Music Man*. Thanks to **Shirley Burnstein** we had tickets in advance and excellent seats; out of the cold weather and happy to be at the Cohn. Best of all, *Music Man* turned out to be a most enjoyable production, with some familiar faces appearing during the show: **Lowell Shore** (who had a lead role), **Joshua Spatz** and **Aaron Ginsberg**. Many thanks to the Nova Scotia Drama League for kindly keeping us in mind when tickets become available for their opening evening performances.

An intergenerational Shabbat dinner was held on November 28th at the Beth Israel Synagogue. The youth lounge was filled almost to capacity with seniors, students, a few visitors from Moncton, in addition, of course, to **Rabbi Saul** and **Dina Aranov** at the head table. **Janet Casey** and **Kathy Dykeman** prepared a delicious Shabbat meal and as expected, no one left hungry. Before the gathering broke up, Madam President **Edith Schneiderman** surprised the soon-to-be-wed **Yacov Feig** and his fiancée **Denise Sherman** by presenting them with a scrumptious wedding cake and a splendid mezuzah.

On December 18th, Club Massada had a meeting followed by a Chanukah Latke Luncheon at Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

President Edith Schneiderman warmly welcomed **Mr. Lloyd Brown**, Executive Director of Northwood and senior members of his executive staff, as well as **Rabbi David Ellis**, Rabbi for Northwood's Jewish community and for outlying Jewish communities needing support.

Kathy Zilbert introduced Mr. Brown to the Massada members and he spoke of his goals with regard to the Jewish members in Northwood - what he felt he could and could not achieve. He felt that a bus was unachievable but other efforts were possible, such as the development of an area for Jewish residents in Northwood.

Naomi Honey and her husband **Larry** brought their son **Andrew** and his fiancée, recently arrived from Israel and the Israeli

army. Their plan is to travel across Canada and see the country.

Lester Pink generously donated a painting of his of Peggy's Cove, and it was won by **John Casey**.

Barbara Alberstat will be very happy to send greetings to anyone interested for a \$5.00 fee. Please phone 422-5526.

In honour of Jewish Music Month, Club Massada, in cooperation with Atlantic Jewish Council, presented a wonderful evening of Music and Food at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. The date was February 22nd and approximately one hundred people came to share in the festivities and to hear the talented youth of our community perform.

Club Massada's President, Edith Schneiderman welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and assured them they were in for a real treat!

Master of Ceremony for the evening was **Adam Conter**. Participants were **Eric Goldberg**, **Avram Spatz**, **Marcie Spatz**, **Yolana Wassersug**, **Jenna Conter**, **Nathan Zilbert**, **Diana Wolfson**, **Carlie Fox**, **Renée Zatzman**, **Leah Zilbert**, **Joshua Spatz**, **Carmi Rubin**, **Lauren Kline**, **Yakov Feig** and **David Korn**; **Emanuel Sarrah**, Director.

Out of towners included Kentville Deputy Mayor **Larry Honey** and lovely wife **Naomi**, who kindly insisted upon driving Rabbi Ellis back with them to Shaar Shalom where he was able to re-join his family on time to partake of the food and music.

In addition, there were the two former Jacobson sisters from Toronto and Windsor who



Shirley Burnstein and Edith & Ike Schneiderman enjoying themselves at the Club Massada celebration of Jewish Music Month.

joined their Haligonian sisters as they continued brother Borace's 70th celebration, which begun the previous evenings.

The 50/50 draw was won by **Joyce Gordon**, and last but not least, Shirley Burnstein was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers in appreciation of all her

efforts on our behalf.

IMPORTANT REMINDER - Club Massada Meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 1:30 pm. Come to the Community Room in the new Atlantic Superstore. There is an elevator to get you there. If you have any questions, please call Edith Schneiderman at 477-2796.



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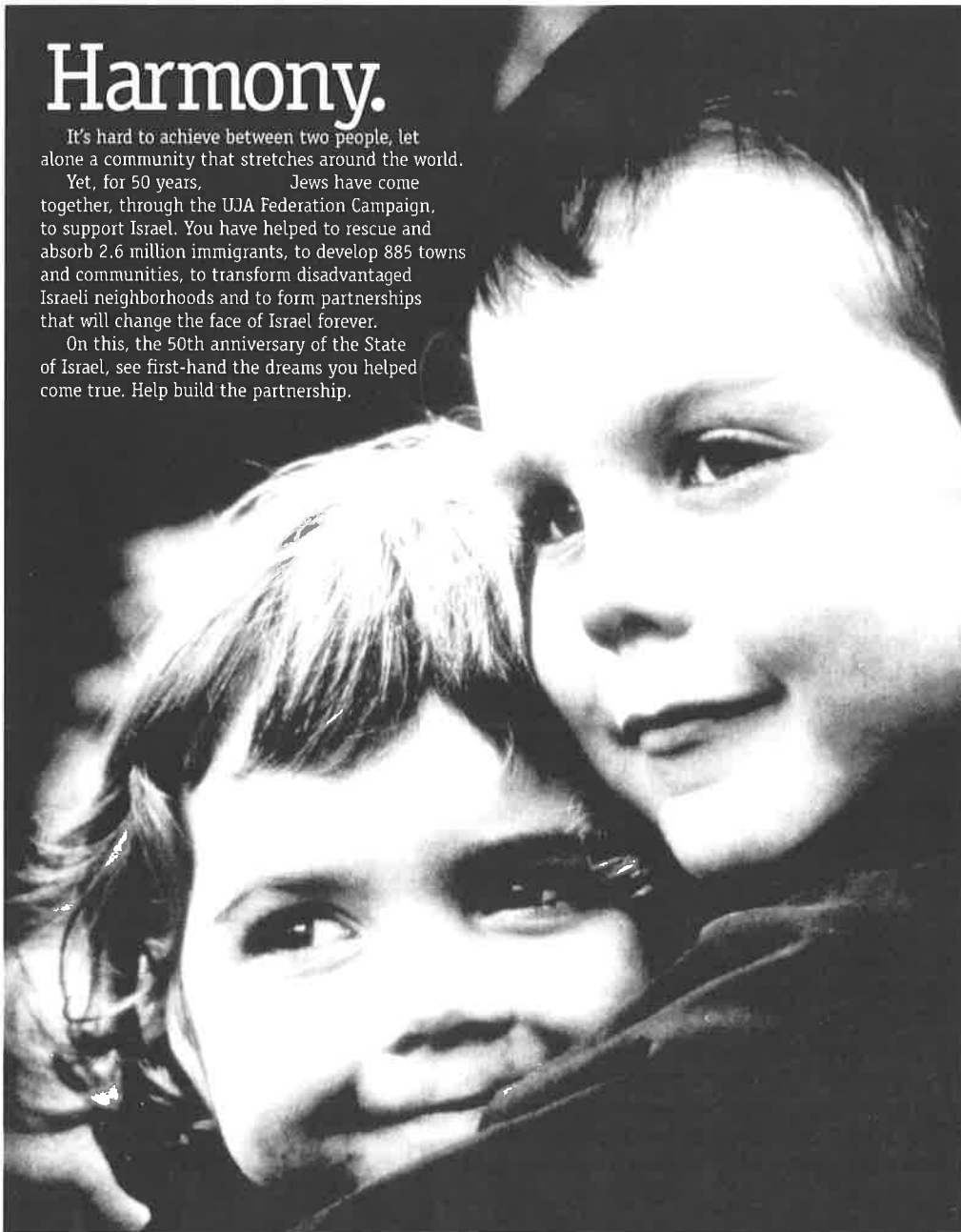
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It's hard to achieve between two people, let alone a community that stretches around the world.

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On this, the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, see first-hand the dreams you helped come true. Help build the partnership.



Share in the celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary. Become "one in a million" in 1998 who will have their names permanently recorded in the Tribute to Donors in the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv. A \$50 or more gift to the UJA Federation Campaign says you care. That you take pride in Israel's progress. That your support doesn't end here. One gift says it all.



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