

# Shalom!

Summer 1998 Vol. 23, No. 3 Kayitz 5758

**Kamp Kadimah  
Israel Experience**



יובל החמישים לישראל  
**ISRAEL AT 50**  
YOUR DATE WITH HISTORY



President: Victor Goldberg

**The Atlantic Jewish Council**

**Quarterly  
Summer 1998  
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## *A trip down memory lane*

*By Victor Goldberg, President*

**I**t is late June and the busiest time in **Andrew Wolfson's** bustling real estate law practice. Andrew's home is swelling with friends and relatives, as they and their kids prepare to leave for another six weeks at Camp Kadimah. Last but not least, it is Andrew's twenty-seventh wedding anniversary. What will Andrew do to balance his many tasks? Easy! My phone rings and Andrew invites me to accompany him to the Camp in Barss Corner (it's really in Scarsdale) to address the counsellors who are readying the site for the 250 campers who will make a record Camp in a few short days.

Around the same time, **Mark Rosen** is struggling to keep up with his thriving insolvency practice at a prominent national accounting firm. He has just returned from attending the Canadian Jewish Congress Plenary in Winnipeg and the UIA/Federations Canada meeting in Toronto, where he ably chaired the National Budget and Allocations Committee. "Hold all calls," Mark instructs his assistant as he begins to attack the accumulation of telephone messages and memos on his cluttered desk. "Wait," he shouts, "all calls except that kid whom I'm trying to recruit as a sailing instructor at Camp."

How can it be that, after well over a decade of chairing Camp Kadimah in what amounts to a 52-week a year chore, these two dedicated volunteers are as enthusiastic as ever? After all, Camp is now only 30% Atlantic Canadians and totally dependent on the nostalgic loyalty of ex-Maritimers, Camp alumni and Upper Canadians anxious to spend a summer out east. Only a few years ago, I could look forward to the Forum being crowded with bags and campers as five or six buses picked up kids. Now, barely two buses are needed in an almost depressing pickup in a massive parking lot on Windsor Street. And the demographics point to nothing but a shrinking Maritime crop of youngsters. I ponder whether or not our priorities are misplaced as we concentrate so many resources on an activity mainly for out of towners, and our ever-shrinking youth. Shouldn't we spend more time on seniors or cover our own generation especially in the realm of adult education? Before my cynicism overwhelms me, I finally see the light.

**C a m p Kadimah** is not just a summer camp for youngsters and teenagers.

It is the tie that binds all generations, especially the baby boomers. I think about the fact that my son **Eric's** cabinmate will be the son of an ex-Cape Bretoner, **David Chernin**, who was one of my best friends at Camp. Just as ironic, Eric's counsellor will be **Jeremy Ehrlich**, my former partner and close friend's son, whose birth I remember as if it were yesterday. In fact, 35 years ago, Andrew Wolfson, himself, was my counsellor at Camp. I have personal proof that Camp really does transcend generations and is the best of what we were, are, and will be.

Andrew and I are returning home from our pep talk and visit, during which time, I had, as always, charmed the cook into giving me samples of her finest delights. While at Camp, I had asked the extremely affable and capable contractor, who heads Camp maintenance, to drive me to Indian Falls. We drove 15 minutes through an overgrown, unattended dirt road to a barely discernable cascade of water in a deserted patch of woods. My memories of great hikes to a beautiful natural waterfall were jogged by the reality of the present. Yet it doesn't hurt to live in the past to some extent, especially in a past of Young Judaea and fun summers with eager kids from the thriving communities in Cape Breton, Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

"As long as we all pull together,

Kadimah will grow more and more..."

As we approach Halifax, I begin singing the Camp theme song to myself and realize that our survival in Atlantic Canada depends not only on a strong Camp, but on all of us pulling together with and for each other.

Keep up the great work, Andrew, Mark and your hard working committee! I'll make a point of seeing you on Visitor's Day no matter what! Have a great summer.

Have a great summer.





## *From the desk of the Executive Director*

*By Jon M. Goldberg*

**H**ello to everyone from my desk at the AJC office here in Halifax. Welcome to our **Shalom** summer edition. Just a few more days until July 1st. Although it's overcast outside (we need the rain), summer is in the air. In fact, as I lament the recent passing of one of my favourite singers, **Frank Sinatra**, I can't help but think of the opening words to one of his hit songs: "A summer wind comes blowing in from across the seas." Well, I'm ready, my friends! We need good weather and simchas!

In fact, just last week I attended our own **Yakov Feig's** wedding in Toronto. The bride, **Denise Sherman** of Cape Breton, was radiant, her parents and both families were terrific and, just yesterday, Yakov returned to work from their honeymoon in California, invigorated and ready to get back to work. I wish them good health and happiness together.

Camp Kadimah opens with a record enrolment and some excellent new programming staff. Kadimah-Israel (our summer post CIT program) has a record 27 participants. In addition, some of our Atlantic youth will be attending Biluim and Biluim Israel. Yakov and I look for good participation from the high school kids this coming fall in our Judaic programming.

Sometime after August 15th, Yakov, **Shirley Burnstein** and **Joanna Mirsky** will be hitting the road with a special show of song and readings commemorating Israel's 50th anniversary. At this time, we are hoping to visit Saint John, Fredericton, Prince Edward Island and the Annapolis Valley. Please check your mail for the date and times in your respective communities.

In addition, through UJA Federations Canada, in cooperation with the UJA campaign of Atlantic Canada, we will be presenting "The Yovel Group" from Israel. Eight professional entertainers in an origi-

nal musical production, a celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, "A Time To Rejoice", they'll perform in Halifax on September 2 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium and in Moncton on September 3 at the Capitol Theatre. This group will be coming to the Maritimes direct from performing at the CNE in Toronto. "Yovel" features some of Israel's most talented young performers singing familiar and original compositions in Hebrew and English. In addition, we will feature a group of local youth singing, dancing and marching. This show will be open to the public in both communities and I urge you to invite a friend or neighbour. We will also feature an exhibit of Israel photographs taken to celebrate the 50th. I anticipate a number of dignitaries, politicians and invited guests to be in attendance. Tickets will be reasonably priced and we are making arrangements for all our communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to conveniently allow them to attend in their respective provinces. Please watch your mail in the next two or three weeks for further information on tickets, etc. For further information, please contact David Attis in Moncton, or myself in Halifax.

Our new UJA campaign emissary, **Mr. Bezalel Ben Eliahu** (see page 16) will be arriving in the region on August 24th and will visit our major communities to assist in the campaign '98 kick off with our local chairpersons. Our campaign theme this year is "Connections". The UJA of Atlantic Canada and the AJC, by giving, by participating, by involving yourself, is the way each of us connects to the Jewish community, to the traditional Jewish values of caring for one another and repairing the world and to Israel, and it is through the UJA and AJC that Jews here in Atlantic Canada and throughout the world get support, encouragement and strength.

Our Bequest and Endowment Programs will be up and running by Yontif. We have a wonderful committee headed by **Mr. Jack Rafuse** and co-chaired by **Jim Spatz**, with representatives from around the region.

I will be spending a busy summer working with Yakov and our lay committees to prepare the best possible youth and campus programs for Fall '98. I will, of course, get to Kadimah a number of time to monitor their programming and provide any necessary resources from our office. I hope to visit Camp Biluim early in August to meet with the Canadian Young Judean leadership.

**Rabbi David Ellis**, AJC Chaplain, will be in Cape Breton, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island during the course of the summer, and I am pleased by the reaction of all those whom he has met so far in the performance of his duties.

**Christina MacNeil** will be preparing our new AJC Directory, which we hope to have available by the end of September. Our '98-99 edition will be bigger and better than ever, so if you have a change of address, phone number or want to list your e-mail address, contact Christina or your local AJC community representative as soon as possible.

We are also preparing for the Opera "Emperor of Atlantis" (see page 12). Plans are underway for our AJC Bi-annual convention to be held early in December. More on that in our next edition, along with major new initiatives on Holocaust education, which I hope to have in place by the High Holy Days.

I just looked out the window and here comes the sun, so I'm going to catch a few rays. I wish all our readers a happy and healthy summer. See you at Kadimah on Visitor's Day, July 26th!



## ***Yakov's corner***

*By Yakov Feig, Programmer*



**S**halom everyone!!! As you are reading this report, I am enjoying my honeymoon in San Francisco away from the hustle and bustle of life at the AJC. There can be no question about the fact that in the past few months there has been a lot of hustling and bustling going on. In the interest of conserving both time and space, the following is a point form synopsis of the activities that occurred between January 1st and June 7th:



*Yakov on his visit to Yarmouth.*

### ***Youth/Teen Activities:***

January 17 - "Struggle for Survival", a special laser tag in honour of Israel's 50th, - grades 3 to 6, Halifax  
January 23 - Teen program - grades 7 to 12, St. John's  
January 24 - Youth program - grades 1 to 6, St. John's  
February 2 - "Kartbahn" Go-karting - grades 7 to 12, Halifax  
February 7-8 - *Wizard of Oz*, Halifax  
February 15 - *Wizard of Oz*, Moncton  
February 22 - Jewish Music Night, Halifax  
February 27 - March 1 - Hectic Halifax/Camp Kadimah Rally - grades 6 to 12, Regional event



*Kadimah friends at the Community Picnic, June 1998.*

March 8 - Purim Carnival - grades 1 to 6, Halifax  
March 11 - 14 - Purim Events - all ages, Fredericton  
March 15 - Purim Carnival - primary to grade 8, Saint John  
March 27 - 29 - March of the Living Weekend, Halifax  
April 5 - Youth Program - grades 3 - 6, Halifax  
April 5 - Sumo Wrestling/Karaoke - grades 7 - 12, Halifax  
May 24 - Israel Monopoly - grades 3 to 6 Halifax  
June 7 - Jewish Community Picnic, Halifax

### ***University Students/Young Adults Activities:***

January 16 - Shabbat Dinner, Beth Israel, Halifax  
January 24 - Meeting/Get-together, St. John's  
January 30 - Vegetarian Pot Luck Dinner, Halifax  
February 5 - 8 Ski Trip/R.I.S.E. Convention, Keltic Lodge, including a tour of Sydney Synagogue and the Jewish Cemetery  
February 24 - Movie Night, Halifax  
March 6 - Shabbat Dinner/Comedienne, Halifax  
March 14 - Purim Party/Meet the Rabbi, Fredericton  
March 14 - -Purim Party, Halifax  
April 15 - APJSF Bagel Bunch/Elections, Regional



My Caucus colleagues and I are always interested in your ideas or concerns. Please let us know of any issues which are of concern to you or your community. You can reach us by *calling 1-800-363-1998 or 424-2731, by faxing 424-7484, through e-mail -- [pccaucus@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:pccaucus@fox.nstn.ca), or through the TTY/TTD number -- 424-8924.*



**John Hamm**  
**Leader of the Opposition**



*"Les Etoiles du Courage" - A play about the Holocaust staged by  
Ecole Pubnico Ouest, May 1998.*

### ***Small Communities Activities:***

January 23 - 25 - Weekend in Newfoundland  
May 2 - Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrations with Shalom Duo,  
Moncton  
May 3 - Shalom Duo, Fredericton  
May 20 - Program in Yarmouth with David Korn  
May 25 - Visit to New Glasgow Rotary Club and Cemetery  
May 29 - 30 - Shavuot in Glace Bay  
June 1 - 2 - Shavuot in Sydney

### ***Adult & Outreach Activities:***

January 5 - February 2 - Hebrew Reading Crash Course, Halifax  
January 18 - Music Club Meeting, Halifax  
January 20 - Bi-Centennial School  
March 7 - Purim Potpourri Soiree, Halifax  
March 10 - The Lodge that Gives, Halifax  
March 25 - George Bissett Elementary School  
March 26 - Dutch Settlement Elementary School  
April 8 - Bi-Centennial School  
April 22 - Consolidated Centre School, Lunenburg County  
April 23 - Yom Hashoah, Halifax  
April 27 - "Cast a Giant Shadow", Halifax  
April 29 - Prince Andrew Junior High, with Mrs. Helena Jockel  
April 30 - Yom Ha'atzmaut, Halifax  
May 5 - Multicultural Week, Eaglewood Drive Elementary  
School, Bedford  
May 7 - Auburn Drive High School  
May 20 - 21 - École Pubnico Ouest, with David Korn  
May 26 - Jewish Book Club Meeting, Halifax  
May 28 - Upper Hammonds Plains Community Centre



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# Fredericton News

By Jennie Brown

Summer anniversary greetings to the following: **Bea & Dave Sherman**, 54 years; **Gladys & Lou Swetsky**, 50 years; **Dr. Joseph & Bertha Landau**, 46 years; **Rita & Sid Tobin**, 46 years; **Sarah & Harry Lang**, 42 years; **Dr. Cary & Sydelle Grobe**, 34 years; **Dr. Israel & Marlene Unger**, 34 years; **Roz & Bob Brown**, 33 years; **Dr. Stephen & Doris Rauch**, 32 years; **Carolyn & Mitchell Budovitch**, 31 years; **Dr. David & Edye Besner**, 30 years; **Judy & Arnold Chippin**, 29 years; **Cheryl & Joe Abrams**, 27 years; **Marilyn & Seymour Kaufman**, 24 years; **Molly & Saul Brown**, 20 years; **Dr. Marissa Blanchard & Dr. Mel Soicher**, 16 years; **Carol & Simmy Airst**, 15 years.

Mazel Tov: to **Harry Brown** who celebrated his 96th birthday on June 14. An open house was arranged by his daughter and son-in-law, **Florence & Dr. Sandy Goldstein**, Rochester, NY. Members of the community, relatives and friends gathered and extended greetings and best wishes of good health... to **Sheila Unger**, MD, FRCPC, on successfully completing the Royal College Examination in Medical Genetics. Sheila will be taking a research and clinical fellowship at the Steven Spielberg Pediatric Research Unit at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles... to **Michael Herbert Tobin**, son of **Debbie & Barry**, whose Bar Mitzvah was held June 27th in London, ON. Proud grandparents are Rita & Joe Tobin and grandfather **Morie Wolf** of London.

Graduation Congratulations... to **Kari Adilman**, daughter of **Dave & Anita**, and

to **Rachel Chouinard**, niece of **Stella Benarroch**, upon their graduations from Fredericton High School. Both girls will be attending the University of New Brunswick to further their studies... to **Mitchell Abrams**, son of Cheryl and Joe, upon receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree with first class honours from UNB. He was awarded a Natural Science



Israel's 50th Celebration, l- r, Lois Levine, Marilyn Kaufman, Deputy Consul Joshua Zarka, Marlene Unger and Sydelle Grobe.

and Engineering scholarship towards a Masters Degree in biology. He also won numerous scholarships and awards during his undergraduate years. He will be attending Dalhousie Medical School in the Fall.

During Shabbat Services on June 6th, the dedication of a new Siddurim was held. The Siddurim were donated to the congregation of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue by Roz & Bob Brown and sons in memory of **Sam Sneider** of Montreal, and by **Lil Freeman** and family in memory of the

late **Ben Freeman**, husband, father and grandfather. Following the dedication a delightful Kiddush was held sponsored by the Levine, Brown and Freeman families.

On Sunday, May 3, the Fredericton Jewish Community celebrated Israel's 50th anniversary.

The event was held at the Lady Dunn Hall, at the University of NB. The hall was decorated with Israeli and Canadian flags, stars of David, and a display of photographs of Israel from the Day of Independence to the present. A 50- year- old flag of Israel was prominently displayed.

**Ivan Levine** was the Master of Ceremonies. The formal program started with singing O Canada and Hatikvah led by **Rabbi Samuels**. This was followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence by **Marlene Unger** and a toast to the State of Israel by **Israel Unger**. **Joshua Zarka**, the Deputy Consul of Israel to Canada, then gave a brief address. Rabbi Samuels, who was a Cantor prior to becoming a Rabbi, sang several moving songs terminating with a heartwarming "Jerusalem of Gold".

A musical interlude by the Shalom Duo followed. During intermission, the participants were treated to a variety of desserts baked by the ladies of the community. The centerpiece was a birthday cake decorated with Israeli flags. The evening concluded with music and dancing. Virtually every member of the Jewish community was present, including **Mitchell Budovitch**, who came directly from the airport.

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## Hadassah-Wizo News

**O**n Sunday evening, May 24, 1998, Fredericton Hadassah- Wizo, under the direction of **Marilyn Kaufman**, presented a dramatic presentation entitled "Youth Aliyah/Youth Services — Past and Present", at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

The history of Canadian Hadassah-Wizo's humanitarian involvement with Recha Frier and the Youth Aliyah Movement wove its way into the hearts of those present. Readings from *Anne Frank*, *The Warsaw Ghetto*, *Number of the Stars* and the heart rendered recorded words of Holocaust survivor, **Robbie Weis**, was interspersed with music performed by children and adults of the Fredericton Jewish Community. Further narration provided the history of our projects.

The lyrical piano notes produced by **Natasha Fransblow** performing *Pearl River* and *Hadyn-Progress* contrasted well with clarinetist **Krista Byers- Heinlein** who played *Exodus*, *Zena* and a short medley of Jewish songs with dexterity and con-



*Youth Aliyah Presentation, May 17, from back clockwise: Rabbi Samuels, Marilyn Kaufman, Krista Byers- Heinlein, Marissa Blanchard, Alyssa Byers- Heinlein and Natasha Fransblow.*

fidence. Both girls, along with **Alyssa Byers- Heinlein**, also did readings and recitations. **Rabbi Samuels** performed with melodic voice, a number of songs — *Oifem Pripechik*, *Tumbalalayka*, *Just Another Foreigner* and *Halleluyah*, all of which reflect the roots of immigrant youth coming into a pre- partitioned Palestine. Marilyn Kaufman, accompanied by guitar, sang an emotional rendition of *Mayn Yiddishe Mome*.

**Marissa Blanchard** chaired a successful campaign.

Co- convenors of the event were Marissa Blanchard and Marilyn Kaufman. **Judy Budovitch** provided our colourful purple hues of floral décor. Further assistance was given by **Sydelle Grobe**, **Carol Samuels**, **Cheryl Abrams**, **Doris Rauch**, **Marlene Unger**, **Carol Airst**, **Mel Soicher**, **Jenny Brown** and her telephone committee. Refreshments followed.

## Update on the Beutel case

*By Tom Kuttner, Community Relations Committee Chair*

**O**n April 17, **Justice Paul Creaghan** handed down his decision in the Malcolm Ross defamation action against Saint John cartoonist **Josh Beutel** and the New Brunswick Teachers Association[NBTF]. Ross alleged that he had been defamed by a presentation made by Josh in at a Holocaust Education Workshop organized by NBTA and held at the Saint John Shul in May 1993.

To the consternation of the entire Jewish Community, Justice Creaghan held that Josh had defamed Ross by characterizing him as a Nazi in the the cartoons used in the presentation. He agreed that the evidence established that Ross is anti-Semitic and racist, but found it insufficient to characterize him as a Nazi, even if "He may have unknowingly, or even knowingly, picked up some ideas from current Nazi sympathizers..." Josh was ordered to pay damages in the amount of \$7500.

Although Justice Creaghan found that the NBTA was not liable in damages, he assessed costs against them in the amount of \$2170 because "the timing of the work-

shop was ill advised and provided the framework in the circumstances for the tort to arise and the damage to occur."

The decision has met been met with outspoken criticism from many quarters. Critical editorials or commentaries have appeared in the *Toronto Star*, the *Toronto Sun*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *Times Globe*, and elsewhere critical editorial cartoons and letters to the editor have been carried. Several professional groups, including the NBTA and the Association of Editorial Cartoonists have publicly proclaimed their concern with the ruling.

In a press release issued shortly after the decision was handed down, **Victor Goldberg**, AJC President expressed his grave concern, as did **Goldie Hershon**, then President of Canadian Jewish Congress. CJC has decided to seek intervenor status in the appeal to the New Brunswick Court of Appeal which has been launched by Josh Beutel. **Tom Kuttner**, AJC Community Relations Chair and a Professor at UNB Law School will represent CJC in this matter together with noted Toronto lawyer, Joel Richler. Joel represented CJC in the Moncton

School Board case, while Tom represented the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in that matter. **David Lutz**, QC has been representing Josh Beutel as counsel pro bono throughout this protracted case. We wish the three of them the best as the matter goes forward to the Court of Appeal. **Andy Scott**, Canada's Solicitor General, has accepted the invitation of **David Sultan**, Israel's ambassador to Canada, to visit Israel in the Fall. Andy will lead a delegation of Atlantic Canadian businessmen and academics to meet with Israeli counterparts. The contacts made will lead to increased linkages between the Atlantic Provinces and Israel. The Canada Israel Committee will assist the Solicitor General's office in coordinating the trip, planned for September 6-15, just before Rosh Hashanah. Tom Kuttner, Community Relations Chair is assisting in the organization. Members of the community who would like to join the mission can contact Tom through the AJC office.

## Moncton news

By Dr. Francis Weil, Community Rep.

**J**ewish life is thriving in the greater Moncton area. To prove it, let's have an overview of what is going on.

Minyanim are held every Monday and Wednesday. The 15 or so adults present study patiently the ethic of the Fathers between Mincha and Maariv.

The most beautiful cantorial voice in Eastern Canada can be heard every Shabbat.

Adults classes as well as Cheder classes are being held very day of the week. And what is amazing, is that kids come to Cheder with enthusiasm!

Not a week goes by without the Torah being read.

Adults who previously never recited an Haftarah, are coming forward and asking the Gabbai to be called for Maftir.

In fact the motivation to come and gather for a Shul activity is greater than in any of the last twenty years.

What is amazing is that Moncton has, unfortunately, not had a Rabbi for almost two years.

Who do we owe this renewed Jewish fervour to?

It's a combination of different factors. **Jack Brodie** certainly



Shalom Duo. Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, May 2, 1998

doesn't look his age when he comes on the Bimah to daven Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Musaf to the delight of every one present. **Joseph Kohn** and **Aviel Zwebner** take turns reading the portion of the week. During the reading, **Sarah Zwebner** gathers the kids in attendance (usually **Ashley, Chelsea, Eleanore** and her sister, **Hyde, Daniel** and **Aviva**). Together they discuss this portion of the week in the adjoining library.

All this is being made possible thanks to the devotion and hard work of a few other people: **Carole Savage** (the head librarian), **Joan Mayer** and **Sarah Gorber**, who are looking after the Kiddushim. The

well-being of the minyanim is looked after by quite a number of people like **Harry Gorber, Ken Mayer**, yours truly, **Maurice Jake, Reuben** and **Nathan Cohen, Harry Brodie, I.L. Selick, Mendel Greenblatt**, the **Rinzler** brothers and a few others.

For those of you who read these lines and who are not from Moncton, we can summarize by saying "Come and spend Shabbat here; you will be delighted to find a true spirit among the regular attendees."

Moncton has been the site of quite a few happenings in the past few weeks. For instance, a Lag B'Omer picnic, a Yom Ha'atzmaut concert, a Shevuot dairy dinner (thanks to Carole and Ariel, your food was great!), a very well attended Holocaust memorial. Thank you to all who helped, particularly to **Dr. Eldon Hay**, the keynote speaker.

A few of the kids are graduating: **Jordan, Leigh** (who is going to law school), **Lorne** (who is writing a script based on a novel by **Mordechai Richler, Joshua** and **Benjie**. Mazel Tov to all!

Eleanore Gann had a beautiful Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat Bealotecha.

**Rhoda Gaum, Jo & Ruby Rinzler, Norman & Adele Rubin** have become, again, grandparents. Mazel Tov to them and to the parents!

The community said goodbye to **Mrs. Richardson**, the marvelous pre-school teacher of the last 18 years.

Have a wonderful summer.



L-r, Margie Attis, Aviva Cohen, Joel Coppel, Ashley Coppel, Daniel Cohen, Larissa Flanagan, Deborah Gann.

Tiferes Israel Lag B'Omer Picnic, Borochois, NB, May 17, 1998.

## Saint John News

By Marcia Koven, Community Representative

**W**e were happy to welcome **Rabbi Ellis** for Shevuot. He was a great help to our Gabbai Reshon, **Jerry Koven**, who is just getting into the swing of things since he has never participated in this capacity before.

We recently had our Youth Aliyah Brunch, at which time our guest speaker was **Dr. Herzl Kashetsky** (our world-renowned artist) and, of course, we have just had our official opening of our Saint John Jewish Historical Museum at which time we were honoured by the presence of Consul General **Daniel Gal & Mrs. Gal**. The Gals arrived on Friday so they were feted for the whole weekend. The Consul General delivered

the sermon on Saturday. The Sisterhood and the Museum hosted a small Kiddush after services. The formal opening was held in the Synagogue to accommodate the many visitors. We had approximately 200 in attendance, including Senator **Erminie Cohen**, representatives from Provincial, Federal and Civic governments. It was indeed a feather in our cap to have a man of Mr. Gal's stature officially open our museum for the season. Incidentally, we had visitors from Halifax, Calais, Maine, Riverview. If you want a more complete report on the affair, consult with **Dr. Sheva Medjuck**, who in her own charming way, brought greetings from the AJC.



## Report from Newfoundland

By Claire Frankel-Salama

Summer has finally arrived. Now that doesn't mean that it's summer here every day, or that the air conditioners are going full blast, but that half the week it's over 20 degrees, the sky is blue, the air is pristine, and everyone has a smile on his or her face.

Summer also means camp for the older kids. This year, **Miriam Noel** and **Rufina Litvak** are off to Israel with Kadimah-Israel. **Polina Litvak** will also visit Ha-Aretz with one of the Israel Experience programmes, and **Arielle** and **Daniel Salama** will spend the summer in Muskoka at Camp Ramah.

This weekend marks the end of Hebrew School and Youth Group. **Yifat Basist**, our indomitable WUJS volunteer, will be returning to Ra'anana and University after travelling across Canada. As usual, we are holding an end-of-the-year Barbecue at **Arnold** and **Nancy Bennett's** in Manuels. Unfortunately, the weather channel has informed us that Sunday will not be one of those lovely "summer" days. Instead, we look forward to R.D.F. (rain, drizzle and fog).

Fortunately, however, we are hosting the visit of **Mr. and Mrs. Chen Ivry** and their baby, representing the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa. Much is planned, including an Oneg Shabbat at the synagogue, dinner at the Salama's, lunch following Saturday services at the **Paul's**, brunch at **Robin McGrath's** in Portugal Cove, and the party at the **Bennett's**.

April and May were busy months for our community as well. On April 26th we held our annual Holocaust memorial at Beth-El synagogue. As per usual, there were over 300 people in attendance, including our special guests for this year, the Prince of Wales High School Concert Band. Under the capable direction

of **Mr. Terry Howlett**, they prepared and played the *HaTikvah Suite*, an elaboration of the national anthem of Israel. After the solemn prayers, readings, and keynote speech of survivor, **Mr. Ernie Mauskopf**, their musical rendition provided the necessary promise of hope for the future.

Two of the students had also prepared *Ani Ma'amin* on the flute. Guests included Mayor **Andy Wells**, several city councillors, M.H.A.'s, and **Mr. Norman Doyle**, one of our members of Parliament. Mr. Mauskopf spoke very movingly about his experiences as a teenager in Hungary, in various camps, and on the loss of his parents and other family members. The fact that he had been the same age as our guests from Prince of Wales Collegiate was not lost on them or the general audience. Furthermore, the

*Evening Telegram* did an extensive interview with Mr. Mauskopf and printed it that Sunday morning.

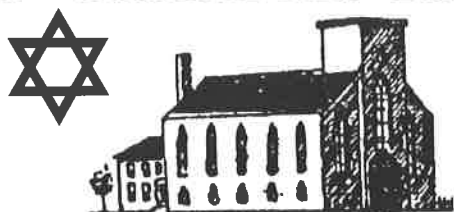
Yom Ha'atzmaut was marked by a Barbecue at the Salama's in early May. Several weeks later, the Beth-El Youth group spent Shabbat in Portugal Cove, beginning with dinner at Robin McGrath and **John Joy's** heritage home.

As always, we invite all visitors to join us for services on Friday evenings at 8:00 J.S.T. (Jewish Standard Time), and on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Please make an effort. We enjoy meeting our Atlantic co-religionists, and you just may be the one completing the Minyan!



Mr. Ernie Mauskopf, survivor and keynote speaker at Beth-El Annual Holocaust memorial, with Mr. Ken Klein, M.C.

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## Phil Simon celebrates his 90th birthday

By Raymond Goldman, Glace Bay

**T**he Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, may have celebrated their last Simcha, honouring **Mr. Phil Simon** on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 16, 1998.



Rabbi Ellis, Phil Simon,  
Raymond Goldman, Ellie Marshall.

The shul was elaborately decorated with freshly cut flowers and a super kiddush was enjoyed after completion of the Shabbat service, prepared by his wife, **Ada**.

The highlight was that Phil's children came

down from "away", which would be alone sufficient, but they took a leading role in the service and Phil quoted the *Moftar*, which was so profound and elegantly performed. **Rabbi David Ellis** traveled down from Halifax for this special occasion, reading from the Torah and delivering a meaningful, unforgettable sermon. **Mr. Ellie Marshall**, president of the Congregation, quoted a poem, expressing our love for one of our most respected, favourite sons. **Mr. David Ein**, vice president, presented Phil, on behalf of the Congregation, an engraved plaque to commemorate his birthday.

It has been many years since we witnessed so many congregants and visitors to our shul. In addition to immediate family members, three of Phil's nephews flew in from Toronto and Ottawa.

Phil Simon's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday will always be remembered. □

## Dateline Halifax

**C**ondolences to the following: the family of **Sidney Simon** on his passing; the family of **Dorothy Gaum** on her passing; to **Clara Dankner** on the loss of her sister **Rose Pinchuk** of Montreal; to **Molly Whitzman** on the loss of her brother **Harry Smith**; to **Betty Roza** on the loss of her brother **Harry Slaven**.

Mazel Tov to: **Helen & Nardy Nathanson** on the appointment of their son-in-law **Moshe Ronen** as 15<sup>th</sup> President of Canadian Jewish Congress; **Constance Glube** on receiving an honorary degree from Mount Saint Vincent University; **Brian Ross**, son of **Dr. Barrie & Bette**, on receiving the Torah Im HaDerech Eretz award for communal leadership in Torah observant Judaism.

Mazel Tov to: **Sheldon & Irene Cohen** on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary; **Mani & Lynda Suissa** on the 'Bar Mitzvah' anniversary; **Lloyd Newman & Linda Law** on their recent marriage; **Yakov Feig & Denise Sherman** on their recent marriage; **Ralph & Ruth Garson** on the engagement of their daughter **Andrea** to **Walter MacKinnon**; **Allan & Lisa Garman** upon the forthcoming marriage of their son **Jeremy**, to **Susan Baker**.

Mazel Tov to: **Rabbi Saul & Dina Aranov** on the birth of their first granddaughter; **Beth & Mathew Benjamin** on their birth of their son, a grandson for **Ralph & Shirlee Medjuck**; **Ralph & Shirlee** also welcomed their grandchild, both to daughter **Pam**; **Edgar Wolman** on the birth of his granddaughter.

Mazel Tov to the following Bar and Bat Mitzvah: **Jenna Conter** and her parents **Howard & Karen**; **Noah Pink**, son of **Joel & Rita**; **Mark Tetreault**, son of **Mr. & Mrs. Ronald**; **Jamie Tax**, and her parents **Ted & Cara**, **Caleb Zelenietz**, son of **Dr. Marty Zelenietz & Jill Grant**; **Yolana Wassersug**, and her parents **Dr. Richard Wassersug & Dr. Jana Wieder**.

Mazel Tov to Graduates: **Penny Dankner** from UNB Law School; **Bena Medjuck** with a Masters of Arts from McGill University Faculty in Jewish Studies; **Louis Wolfson** from University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Arts; **Daniel Freeman** with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours, from Princeton University, where he majored in East Asian Studies

and served as President of the Princeton Glee Club; **Jason Jacobson** from Dalhousie University with a Masters in Business Administration; **Erika Yazer** from Queen Elizabeth High School. □

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## Kadimah 1998

By Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director

**Y**With the opening of Camp just days away, the excitement of another fun-filled summer is in the air. The staff has been working on what will surely be a super programme for all. Many new ideas and surprises are in store for all.

Our theme for the summer is Israel: 50 Years. To coincide with this historic celebration, we are pleased to announce that four campers from Israel will be at Kadimah this summer. In addition, we have hired two Israelis to join our staff for Shira and Scouting.

Our enrollment is inching towards the 250 mark and our staff, as I'm sure the campers, are counting down the days to July 1.

Some of the senior staff and specialists returning are: **Mike Soberman** – Assistant Director/CIT Director; **Marty Zatzman** – Programme Coordinator; **Belarie Zatzman** – Director of Fine Arts; **Brian Indig** – Administrator; **Ann Raskin** – Waterfront Director; **Shayna Allen** and **Steven Indig** – Sports Directors; **Bret Hirsch** – Head of Boating; **Zena Haberman** – Programme (Cultural); **Leah Epstein** – Assistant Waterfront Director; **Heidi Lipkus** – Rosh Machar; **Jo Mirsky** – Kochot Section Head; **Stephanie Levitz** – Goshrim Section Head; and **Matthew David** – Giborim Section Head.

Final clean up and preparations are underway at the camp site to ensure all a safe and enjoyable summer at what we know is the best Jewish summer camp around. We welcome back the many returning campers and staff and a special warm welcome to



*The Gates of Camp Kadimah await you.*

the new members of the Kadimah family from all across the land and overseas. 1998 is shaping up to be yet another very successful season at Camp Kadimah. We look forward to meeting many of you on Visitor's Day on Sunday, July 26. □

## Fredericton B'nai Brith sponsors Holocaust memorial observance

**T**he annual Holocaust Observance sponsored by B'nai Brith, was held on Sunday, April 26, at the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Complex. Approximately 200 guests were welcomed by **Cary Grobe**, a past president of B'nai Brith Fredericton. Among the guests were The Honourable **Marilyn Trenholm Cousins**, Lieutenant Governor of NB; The Honourable **Andy Scott**, Solicitor General of Canada; The Honourable **Russell King**, Minister of Health of NB; His Worship **Brad Woodside** Mayor of Fredericton; and **Dr. E. Parr-Johnston**, the President of the University of New Brunswick.

The proceedings started with the singing of O Canada by **Naomi Fransblow**. **Rabbi Yochanan Samuels**, spiritual leader of the Congregation Sgoolai Israel, introduced **Mr. Herzl Kashetsky**, the featured speaker. Mr. Kashetsky spoke of his reasons for the series of Holocaust-based paintings which he created. As a Jew, but a survivor or child of survivors, these starkly realistic paintings were his attempt to come to grips with the darkest period of Jewish history.

After Mr. Kashetsky's talk, **Mrs. Eta Berk** and **Dr. Israel Unger**, two Holocaust survivors living in Fredericton, kindled four yellow yahrzeit candles on a special Holocaust menorah,

fashioned by **Mr. Simca Airst**. The remaining two candles (six in all commemorating 6,000,000 Jews) were lit by two of Sgoolai Israel's Talmud Torah students, **Ya'akov Airst** and **Naomi Fransblow**. They represented they younger generation's pledge to "Never Forget" so that "Never Again" can the Holocaust occur.

The Honourable **Andy Scott**, Solicitor General of Canada, made presentation on behalf of the Government of Canada, of a special framed commemorative plate block of stamps, issued by Canada Post commemorating the liberation of the death camps, to the Fredericton Jewish Community. **Rabbi Samuels** received the memorial, which will hand in an appropriate spot in the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

The program concluded with **Cary Grobe** reading a translation of the *Kel Malei Rachamim*, the memorial prayer, **Rabbi Samuels** singing the *Kel Malei*, and then leading the assembly in a reading of a special *Mourner's Kaddish*.

Coffee and tea were served afterwards. □

## *“The Emperor of Atlantis”*

By Leo Weniger

“The Emperor of Atlantis”, an opera written in Terezin (Theresienstadt) Concentration Camp in 1944, will be performed in Halifax, and tentatively in Wolfville, Antigonish, Moncton and Charlottetown, from November 11-18, 1998. There will be a number of student matinees. In addition, there will be exhibits of art created in Terezin, a five lecture series on Holocaust themes and a film series on the Holocaust. These events, commemorating the legacy of Terezin, honour the following important dates: The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht (November 9, 1938); Remembrance Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, the date of the premiere performance of “The Emperor of Atlantis”; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of composer **Viktor Ullmann** (1898 – October 18, 1944).

The Opera, composed by **Viktor Ullmann** and **Petr Kier**, will be conducted by Maestro **Georg Tintner**, and directed by **Glenn Walton**. The vocalists were all born or trained in Nova Scotia, but are now based in places like Germany, the United States, Vancouver and Montreal. Most of the musicians are principals in Symphony Nova Scotia.

The scene is Terezin Concentration Camp (the Nazis’ ‘show camp’) in Czechoslovakia in August 1944. “The Emperor of Atlantis” was in rehearsal for its first production. The composers were watching anxiously, as the musicians and singers, all inmates of Terezin, prepared to perform under the supervision of the camp guards...

“The Emperor of Atlantis” was never performed. The composers, along with thousands of others in the camp, were shipped off to Auschwitz, where they died in the last year of World War II. The opera score, however, was left in the care of the camp librarian and, after decades of obscurity, resurfaced thirty years after the war’s end. It is now attracting world-wide notice. We are excited that this production will be one of the first in Canada to produce it in English for the stage.

The Terezin Studio Project is a non-profit organization, put

together to produce these events. Chaired by **Jo Stern**, the Board includes **Barbara Paton**, **Linda Schroeder**, and **Leo Weniger** from the Halifax Jewish Community and others committed non-Jewish Haligonians who are dedicated to this, the fulfillment of the project. Grants and services encouragement have come from the Atlantic Jewish Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Nova Scotia Arts Council, Montreal Consulate of the German Federal Republic, German-Canadian Association of Nova Scotia, Metro Halifax Universities, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. If revenues of this project exceed expenses, the remainder will go to the Family Services Fund or Holocaust Education Fund of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

As you can imagine, a project like this costs a lot of money. The Opera alone is estimated to cost over \$10,000. We are asking you, the *Shalom* reader, to make a tax-deductible donation to this project. Elsewhere in this issue, there is a poster for the project with a form on the bottom of the page.

The donation categories and their benefits are: Friend (up to \$99) – name in the program and full tax receipt; Donor (\$100-\$199) – name in the program, two complimentary tickets to the Premiere of the Opera on November 11, partial tax receipt for the amount of the donation less the value of the tickets); Patron (\$200-\$499) – name in the program, two tickets to Premiere, invitation to opening reception, partial tax receipt; Benefactor (\$500-\$1000) – name in the program, two tickets to Premiere, invitation to dress rehearsal and opening reception and partial receipt; and Sponsor (\$1000+) – all of the above plus a quarter page message or ad in the program.

Please fill out the form on the poster page and send your cheque, payable to Terezin Studio Project, to the address on the form. The form can also be used to get onto the Project’s mailing list. We are sure that you will be proud to be associated with this important historic project. □



*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*



November 11-18, 1998

# Coming to Halifax and region



## Featuring:



### EMPEROR OF ATLANTIS:

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### Exhibits of Terezin Art:

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- Remembrance Day, November 11 - Premiere performance, *The Emperor of Atlantis*
- 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 100th Anniversary of the birth of the Composer, Viktor Ullmann — Jan. 1, 1898 - Oct. 18, 1944



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## From Around



*Dr. Sheva Medjuck, AJC's 1st vice president, receives the Sam Filer Distinguished Service Award at the CJC Plenary.*



*Sheldon Cohen, Camp Kadimah Director, and Jon Goldberg, Executive Director of AJC, shown here on a recent recruiting trip for Camp Kadimah somewhere in the southwest United States.*



*AJC Yarmouth Community Reception, May 1998.*



*Linda Schroeder, flutist, Yom Hashoah program, May 1998.*



*Ike Schneiderman, Jewish War Veteran, lights a memorial candle. Yom Hashoah, Halifax, May 1998.*



*Ella Morris and Beatrice Zemel enjoying their hotdogs and the sunshine at the Community Picnic. Halifax, June 1998.*

## The Region



*"The Girls". Halifax Community Picnic, June 1998.*



*Who's on first? Eric Goldberg (right) and Roy Argand at the Halifax Community Picnic, June 1998.*



*May I have this dance? Yom Ha'atzmaut, Halifax.*



*Tiferes Israel Lag B'Omer Picnic at Barachois, NB, May 1998.*



*Roselyn Allen at the Multicultural Festival Exhibit. Dartmouth, June 1998.*



*Dancing to the tunes of the Shalom Duo. Yom Ha'atzmaut 1998, Halifax*

## Christina MacNeil reaches another milestone

By Joel Jacobson



In this day and age of changing jobs every few years and changing careers almost as often, it's refreshing to find a **Christina MacNeil** who has been a staff member of the Atlantic Jewish Council for 15 years.

What is even more remarkable is that Chris is Anglican-born, came to AJC knowing little about Judaism but today

may be as well versed as many in the Atlantic Jewish community.

"I had no Judaic knowledge at all when I came to AJC in March 1983," she says. "I was a receptionist-secretary, hired by (then executive director) **Shirlee Fox** and thought this would be an interesting place to work. It has proven to be all of that."

MacNeil is really without a title, but not without responsibility. She handles administration for all financial aspects of AJC, is internal office manager, coordinates March of the Living, and Kadimah Israel, is assistant editor of *Shalom Magazine*, has designed the AJC Website and is coordinator of Jewish National Fund for the Atlantic region.

"Her value as a reference and for knowledge of the community, have been most important to me since I came here seven years ago," says executive director **Jon Goldberg**. "She has the unique ability to deal with the public and to conduct business in the

Jewish community in a refined and dignified manner."

MacNeil's mother, **Florence (Thorne) Walker** grew up on West Street in Halifax, near the Baron de Hirsch Synagogue on Robie Street. "As a child, she would sit on the steps of the shul on Saturdays and listen to the music and singing," says Chris. "She always had respect for the Jewish culture and religion and when I got this job, told everyone proudly her daughter was working for the Atlantic Jewish Council."

MacNeil says she never intended her work at AJC would be a life long career "but as my responsibilities grew and the relationships developed with the people, this has become part of my life. I've been here through five executive directors and, for an eight-month period, I was it while a search went on for another one."

She has upgraded her education, taking core Commerce courses at Saint Mary's University toward a Certified Management Accountant designation. She's been involved in Run For The Cure, a fund raiser for breast cancer from which her mother died a few years ago. She's now teams director for the Halifax committee.

The job has thrown challenges at the woman now in her mid-30s. "The most challenging part has been learning the culture and the laws. I'd attend conferences and be very conscious of doing something wrong. After all, what did I know about going to synagogue on a Friday night? I also learned Hebrew words although when I first pronounced Kochot and Machar (Camp Kadimah age group designations), I took quite a ribbing for my pronunciation of the 'ch' sound," she laughs. □

## New UIA emissary to work in Atlantic Canada for Fall

UIA of Canada is bringing on board a new Shaliach to work in Atlantic Canada and small communities in Ontario for Fall 1998. **Bezalel Ben Eliahu** is a native of rural Quebec who made Aliyah in 1957. After completion of military service, he established Moshav Ram-On, with a group of young pioneers. In this village, Bezalel established a sheep farm which has steadily expanded.

Bezalel has five children and four grandchildren all living in Israel.

While maintaining his constant involvement in Israel, Bezalel traveled out of the country on several occasions. He was in the Maritimes as Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council and later Executive Director of the Jewish National Fund in this region. Bezalel also

served in Vancouver as the Shaliach to the Habonim youth movement and as Assistant Director of the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre.

While back in Israel, in addition to running and developing his sheep farm, he served as a liaison officer to the United Nations forces in Southern Lebanon. Bezalel brings with him a wealth of knowledge and first hand experience in the area of interrelationships in the personal, military and fundraising fields.

Bezalel looks forward to personally meeting with members of the Atlantic Jewish Community and to have the opportunity to share his vantage point on the dramatic changes that have taken place in Israel and in the local Atlantic Jewish communities. □



# Minyan on the Edge

By Elliot Marshall

**T**True, in Judaism, we don't boast about going to Shul, making a minyan or helping lead the services, in the absence of spiritual leaders - but I must tell the story, on May 31st, Sunday morning, first day of Shavuoth - Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

**Yakov Feig** came to Cape Breton for Shabbas and Shavuoth - splitting his time with Sydney and Glace Bay over Shabbas and Saturday evening (Eriv Shavuoth): he made the minyan all three times and of course, conducted most of the services.

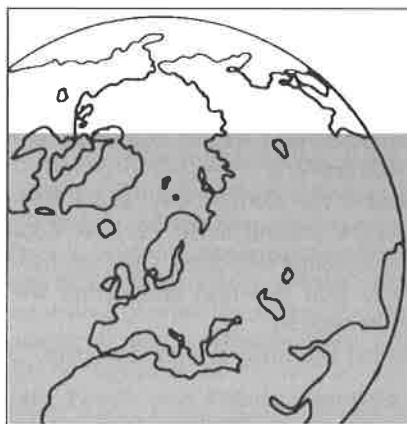
When I was sitting at home, after Shul, Saturday evening, and with two of our regulars out of town, who not only are regular Shul-goers, but also help lead the services as well - I was worried about two issues that could occur regarding the Sunday morning services.

First of all, it looked like I would have to conduct all of the services myself, which is a heavy load in any sense of the circumstances. The other problem was I could count only nine for our minyan, where do we find the Tzenter; I arrived at Shul 8:45 Sunday morning. While pondering over the course of procedure for the Yom Tov services, in walks vice-president number two, **Sid Lipkus**. As I proceeded to discuss the problems with him he said to me - "I'll help with Shachrit- you do the 'reading' and

take the 'Haftorah', and if you want, I'll do Musaf: Well, thankfully, that relieved me of the first problem, but what about the other - the Tzenter. Sure enough, in came the rest of the troops, and as I anticipated, we're sitting with nine. I examined the possible reserves; one person I thought of, couldn't be located; another no answer on the phone; two others medically speaking weren't available; another no answer. Thus, with all the possibilities exhausted, what to do? As I sat frustrated by the phone looking over the list, I came across a name with whom we hadn't been in contact for over a year. I called the number, four rings, no answer. I decided to let it ring one more time, and I swear, the fifth was a different sounding ring. And you know, I'm a believer; maybe it rang from up above but the call was answered in the personal of **Sam Karrel**. When I told him our dilemma he said "Ellie, I'll be there in two minutes."

Take it for what it's worth, Congregation Sons of Israel, down to the skin and bones of a congregational body, came through again but I must praise these two men - Sidney Lipkus and Sam Karrel. Consequently, we had our services throughout Shavuoth - a Mitzveh to Sam Karrel and a Yache Koah.

That, more than any other vehicle tells the story of Congregation Sons of Israel. □



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## Eulogy for Esther Dubinsky

By Parker Barss Donham. Copyright March 22, 1998

When I've been away and I drive back to Cape Breton, the point at which I feel as though I'm finally home always occurs when I reach the crest of Kelly's Mountain. I know **Esther Goldman** was born in Glace Bay, but I prefer to think of her as having been hewn from the granite of Kelly's Mountain. From Kelly's Rock, if you will. Sort of like Glooscap.

Esther was the rock. At the swirling vortex of this incredible family, with all its talent and all its energy, with its love of fun, with its penchant for extravagant gatherings, with its huge web of friendships, she was the island of serenity at its core.

When you were with Esther you were at home. Drawing from her strength. Drawing nourishment from the vast trove of food she somehow always seemed to have on hand. From the roast chicken and the chicken soup and the corned beef and the roast lamb, from the salmon and the mackerel and the kippered herring, from the fresh sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, from the bread and the generosity with which it was shared.

An hour and a half after Esther died, **Sylvia Dubinsky Allen** composed an obituary explicitly for the use by the *Cape Breton Post*. It read: "Esther Dubinsky died yesterday. For details, see the *Chronicle-Herald*."

This was a playful allusion to one of the many pitched battles Esther fought against greed and stupidity. When the *Cape Breton Post*, a newspaper Esther had been reading and growling about for 50 years, began charging \$10 per column inch for obituaries, Esther was incensed. She cancelled her subscription and railed about the policy to anyone who would listen. Esther knew that if the people responsible had brought so much as a speck of common sense and humanity to the issue, the decision would have been reversed. She couldn't fathom what it wasn't.

This was more than just curmudgeonliness, although Esther could be curmudgeonly. It was a matter of holding everyone around her to the highest standards in all their actions, great and small. Esther hated injustice every bit as much as **Newman**. But her real bugaboos were

greed, stupidity, and phoniness.

As much as Newman and Esther inspired us to what a marriage could be, what two partners could achieve in life,



Esther and Newman Dubinsky

they were in some respects very different, complimentary people. When Newman spoke, words tumbled out of his mouth helter-skelter. As his thoughts raced ahead of his tongue, half-finished sentences fell by the wayside.

Esther ... spoke ... like ... this. Quietly. Calmly. With microscopic pauses before each measured word. Each word freighted with meaning. Freight with the certainty of final judgment.

I know Esther's children sometimes felt the gentle sting of her insistence upon impossibly high standards. One time **Leon** and Esther were driving home for lunch from Sydney Ship Supply. They were driving a big, old, three-quarter-ton pick-up, Leon at the wheel, Esther riding shotgun.

They didn't have much time. When they came to the top of Prince Street, Leon paused, waiting for a break in the oncoming traffic so he could make a left turn onto George. A small break appeared, but Leon waited. Said Esther: "He who hesitates is lost."

"Right," thought Leon. And when an even smaller break in the traffic occurred, Leon plunged through.

"Fools rush in," said Esther.

Can anyone here doubt that, without Esther, Kelly's Mountain would have an ugly scar in its side? It's not that Esther led the successful fight to save the mountain. All she did was give birth to everyone who did, and imbue them with the talent and energy and caring determination to see the fight through to victory.

Esther Dubinsky rises again, not just in the faces of her children, not just in the voices of our song, but in the steely determination to do better that hovers like a blessed curse, like an unbreakable spell, over everyone she loved.

Many years ago in Sydney, there was a boy whose Jewish father had died and whose Gentile mother's conversion to Judaism was not fully accepted by everyone in the Synagogue. When the boy came of age, Esther Dubinsky took it upon herself to organize and sponsor his Bar Mitzvah. Not everyone supported this project. If the boy's mother's conversion was not genuine, some felt, then by the strict letter of the law, it was not appropriate for him to have a Bar Mitzvah. But Esther forged ahead, and have a Bar Mitzvah he did. In the process, I suspect Esther stepped on a few toes. In fact, I know she did.

And when the service was nearing its end, and **Rabbi Israel Kinner** blessed the young man, he said one thing more. And though 35 years have passed, I cannot improve on his words.

Rabbi Kinner said: "I want to tell the congregation that Esther Dubinsky is a good woman."

I repeat his words today, and I leave them in the present tense, because Leon and his siblings and their children have shown us that Newman and Esther will always be with us.

"Esther Dubinsky is a good woman." □

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## "Sein-ing off"

By Lorne Gorber

This spring we stopped living in a land whose favourite entertainment was to turn on the tube and watch a New York Jew sit around schmoozing dyspeptically with his friends. After nine seasons and 170 episodes, **Jerry** and his three pals, **George**, **Elaine** and **Kramer**, will exist only in syndicated reruns.

Big deal you might say. Television has showcased Jewish comics before, going back to **Jack Benny**, **George Burns** and **Milton "Mr. Television" Berle**. As for Jewish characters, think "Northern Exposure" or "The Nanny". So what's so different about "Seinfeld"?

Well, first there's a matter of scale. It's the biggest thing on the TV. His show has topped the ratings for five years running. For two years now, Jerry has personally been named America's best-liked television personality in Harris polls. He is a phenomenon. And, unlike Berle and Benny, he never changed his name.

Television, media mavens say, is a "cool medium", up-close and intimate, lowering walls between performer and viewer. Viewers choose shows, so the programmers believe, based on whom they'd most like to invite into their living rooms. Right now, that person is Jerry Seinfeld.

In effect, television audiences have chosen a Jew as its favourite Thursday night date. This is not a small thing.

When Seinfeld and pal **Larry David** first pitched their sitcom idea to NBC, network chief **Brandon Tartikoff** dismissed it as "too Jewish". Not a self-hating assimilationist, Tartikoff was a fairly devout Jew by Hollywood standards. But his job wasn't promoting Jewish art; it was building TV audiences. And he didn't believe viewers would bond with a gang of cosmopolitan Jewish slackers trading angst in Manhattan.

A non-Jewish underling thought differently and ordered four episodes. But the show's Jewishness was toned way down. Ultimately, of the four characters, only Jerry remained openly Jewish. Not that anybody was fooled. George, especially, was one of the most wildly Jewish characters in television history, regardless of what the scripts told us. Oceans of ink were spilled comparing him to **Woody Allen**, terming him a *nebbish*, noting that he was based on the very Jewish Larry David. George's parents, **Frank** and **Estelle Costanza**, were played to the hilt as stereotypically suffocating, health-and-rye bread obsessed Jewish parents played by Jewish actors **Jerry Stiller** and **Estelle Harris**.

As for Seinfeld, his Jewishness was clear from the outset. One of the earliest episodes depicted a family dinner celebrating his Polish-born cousin Manya's 50th anniversary in America. Jerry offended Manya by denigrating ponies, unaware she had one in the old country. She's so upset by his ridicule that she keels over and dies. The episode established both Jerry's Jewishness and his trademark misanthropy.

The kosher-on-wry combo was a hit with viewers, who tuned in with growing loyalty. The one group that had a problem with it was Jews. Every time another Jewish plot twist appeared - a bris, a rabbi, a girlfriend who keeps kosher - switchboards would light up at the Anti-Defamation League. Professional Jewish media monitors declared "Seinfeld" a continuing hotbed of anti-Jewish stereotypes.

A few TV critics piled on, too. *The Washington Post's* **Tom Shales**, who long disapproved of the show's nastiness, recently

wrote that "Seinfeld" was "self-hatingly Jewish". He was seconded by the Atlanta Constitution's **Bob Longino**.

Compare these reactions to those of, say, Latvians. In a classic 1993 episode, George tried converting to Latvian Orthodoxy to woo a young lady. The producers got a stack of thank you letters from Latvian-Americans, all of which were grateful for the attention. Latvians, it seems, can take a joke.

Actually, so can some Jews. In a survey last January by the Middle East Institute, Seinfeld came in second, right behind **Elie Wiesel**, as the Jewish American most admired by his fellow Jews. Evidently the guardians of Jewish honour don't speak for all of us, Canadian or American. No, "Seinfeld" did not practice warm, kind comedy. Everyone besides the four principals were subject to their ridicule. If the writers went after Judaism more than Latvian Orthodoxy, that's because they were mainly Jews, not Latvians. "You write about what you know," Larry David once told an interviewer.

In real life, only one of the show's four lead actors is not Jewish: **Michael Richards** ("Kramer"). Another, **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** ("Elaine"), could be described as not particularly Jewish. Born to an assimilated French-Jewish investment banker and a New York writer, she attended non-Jewish prep schools in the US and abroad and is married to a non-Jew.

That leaves Jerry and George. **Jason Alexander** ("George") was born **Jay Greenspan**, son of **Alexander and Ruth Greenspan** of Newark, NJ. His stage name, chosen at 15, is actually his own name: Jay-son (as in *ben-*) Alexander. Married to a Jew, father of **Gabriel** and **Noah**, he serves in his spare time as a spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League, narrating their public service announcements. The relationship began in 1991, when ADL sent him on what he calls a "life changing" mission to Israel. In 1994, during a celebrity "Jeopardy" appearance, he named ADL to receive his winnings, a tidy \$11,800.

As for Seinfeld himself, he is an enigma, or tries to be. Famously reticent about his private life, he has admitted dabbling in Scientology and oriental religions. What he hasn't shared is that he is a major donor (\$10,000+) to New York UJA-Federation and gives healthily to other Jewish causes as well. One of his recent donations which I got a chuckle out of was \$1800, or 100 times *chai*, and some philanthropic official was quoted in the *LA Times* calling it "an extremely informed decision".

And, of course, there was his girlfriend. How many TV idols date women named Shoshanna? OK, I suppose had any one of them seen her, but I digress...

This is not Jewish self-hatred. It's something else - a new generation of Jewish humour. Unlike Berle or Benny - or **The Three Stooges**, the real antecedents of "Seinfeld" - Jerry and company wore their Jewishness comfortably on their sleeve.

It's Baby Boomer and beyond Jewishness; at home in Canada or the US, taken for granted, more than a little ambivalent. It's as much a part of them as family, sex and work...and just as ripe for satire. There's nothing worshipful there. You can take it or leave it. Most of us loved it.

*Editor's Note: Lorne Gorber is a former Monctonian, who has lived in Los Angeles and now Montreal. □*

## MOL '98 participants reflect on the experience

*Jennifer Winn, Dartmouth*

Thousands of people are milling around with no real appearance of order. Eventually, everyone arranges themselves in lines, eight people across. Americans were talking to the Australians, Canadians to the English and the Mexicans were talking to everyone and anyone. It was at this time that we heard the orchestral recording which signaled the beginning of the March.

Slowly the whole line started to move in a synchronized motion. Through the parking lot, around street corners and through the town we marched arm-in-arm. We started up onto the over-pass and even though we were relatively close to the beginning of the line it was difficult to see where exactly it started. Turning around, it was impossible to see the end of the line, and

which ever way you looked, there was a sea of blue jackets. It was truly an amazing sight.

Nearing the end of the March, our line moved through the gate and we walked beside the railroad tracks to the stage where the marchers heard the names of children who were victims of the Holocaust.

After the March, I found myself thinking a lot about what had just happened. Being there, made me think and take notice of everything I do have and I really became aware of how fast it could all disappear and I would be left nothing.

The experience of being able to participate in the 1998 March of the Living is something that I will never forget. □

*Daniel Schroeder, Halifax*

In its simplest form, The March of the Living was an experience. In a more complex form, it was the most incredible and powerful thing I have ever experienced. It is so hard to explain what I saw in Poland, and it would take a thousand years to try to put into words how I feel.

If there was one main thing I learned on this trip, that would be to never forget. In Auschwitz, there was a quote on one of the walls which read "The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again", by **George Santayana**. No one should have to experience what Hitler did to so many innocent Jews and other races, nationalities, and people of different beliefs. In order to avoid such a

severe loss, we have to remember how a little racism can develop into something so deadly in the long run.

The March of the Living has taught me a very valuable lesson in life; that nothing should be taken for granted, because one day it could all vanish and you could have nothing left, no family, no freedom and maybe not even your life.

The March of the Living is something I would recommend to every single person eligible, not only because I had such an eye opening experience, but because of what it can do for any person. The March of the Living is a once in a lifetime experience, and should not be passed up by anyone. □



*Daniel Schroeder at Auschwitz, next to a marker that is in memoriam to his family members who perished in the Holocaust.*

*Debra Freeman, Halifax (from her diary)*

April 22, 1998, 9:33 am - Plazov.

I have just stood in an empty field full of ditches and hills and one big monument. The ditches and hills are mass graves. I can't stand to look at them. I close my eyes and imagine that at one time there once stood barracks and factories. This work-camp is unbelievable. I imagine people climbing in the mud, scrawny bodies fighting for scraps of what was called food. I look across at Judy (a survivor) and I can only think of all those who died and what she and others must have endured. My moods seem to be changing. One moment I am crying so hard, for reasons I can't even understand. Sometimes I cry just because there is so much to take in, in one big breath. The next morning I'm laughing on the bus. I think that is so important. It's so hard to be sad all the time. I need someone to raise my spirits. It's healthy. When I cry, I think about Judy. I wonder how she can be so strong and brave. How can she return to a place where there are horrible nightmares surrounding her? If she can be brave, I have

to be brave, too. It's hard. I never really thought that I would cry during this tour. I guess I was wrong.

April 23, 1993, 12:50 am - Auschwitz.

Unbelievable! We drove to our destination playing sad music on the bus. We were crying. I disembarked the bus expecting to cry. I didn't! It was so "museumized" Everything was behind glass. I feel like I was not experiencing the right emotion. I feel like I had been there before. Everything I saw I had seen millions of times before in a book, or a movie or in other people's photo albums. Except this time, it was different. I touched the plaques. I touched the railroad ties. I saw the sun shining on the grass and felt as though in a place a dreary as this, the sun should not be shining. I felt there should be a cloud of misery hanging over the camps all the time. I know now it doesn't matter how much, or even if, one does cry. All that matters is how much we learn.

*Continued on page 27*

## Back from Israel's 50th anniversary

By Arnold Chippin, Fredericton

Our family had the opportunity to be in Israel for Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut). This year, Israel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked by special events throughout the country. As my wife and I can not count on being around for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we thought that it would be a once in a lifetime opportunity for us. (Hopefully, our children will attend the centennial.)

We had a great time, the weather was excellent, especially after coming from all the snow and ice we had in Fredericton this winter. We took our three children all around Israel (from the Lebanese border to the Negev) and were even over to visit **Doron Fleisher** (who you may remember from the UJA campaign) at his home in Ramat Gan.

Israel is no stranger to our family; it was not our first trip (even for our three-year-old). In fact, for our oldest son, it was his fifth time in Israel and he is in grade two. We had to take our oldest two children out of school for over 5 weeks, but I think if you ask them, they will say that it was worth it.

I would have to say that there were two main highlights of our trip – one being the fireworks on Independence Day and the other being our visit to the Israeli Guide Dog Centre. Our visit was arranged through **Dov Harris** and the UIA. We were given a list of projects so we could see first hand the absorption of new

immigrants, but we chose to visit the Israel Guide Dog Centre, since our family is very fond of dogs. Although the centre is in the middle of the country, it is well off the beaten path of UIA tours.

We were very impressed by our visit there, not just **Rose** and I, but the kids as well. Even our driver was impressed by the dedication of the people at the centre. Israel currently has around 175 guide dog owners out of a total blind population of approximately 10,000. We had the opportunity to meet the director and some of the staff at the centre as well as some people who were there to receive their new guide dogs. It was fascinating to see how the dogs were raised and trained. The Guide Dog Centre would not be able to function without the help of a very large number of committed volunteers and we had the chance to meet some of them as well. It was very nice to see such a large group of individuals dedicated to helping others. Incidentally, of the volunteers and staff we met at the Guide Dog Centre, three of them had links to Canada.

If anyone would like more information about the Guide Dog Centre, **Rose** or myself or **Daniel**, **Matthew** or **Michelle** would be happy to provide you with more information. We also have a video. □

## Plenary - May 24 - 25, 1998

By Barbara Paton

The 25th Canadian Jewish Congress Plenary opened on Sunday morning, May 24, 1998 in Winnipeg. Those attending from Atlantic Canada were Tom Kuttner of Fredericton and the following from Halifax: **Myra & Larry Freeman**; **Judith & Victor Goldberg**; **Anna Fried**; **Barbara Paton**; **Sheva Medjuck**; **Mark Rosen**; and **Jon Goldberg**.

Sheva Medjuck was one of four presented with the Sam Filer Distinguished Service Award for outstanding community effort. There were some excellent speakers on some of the most provocative subjects. Some of the speakers were **Norman Spector**, **Israel Singer**, **Dr. Norman Joseph**, **Prof. Irving Abella**, **Neal Sher**, His Excellency **David Sultan**, **Elaine Todres**, **Prof. Hal Waller**, Grand Chief **Phil**

**Fontaine**, **Max Bernard**, **Dr. Cheryl Greenberg**, **Linda Frum**, **Elan Steinberg** and **Rabbi Bulka**.

A special tribute was given to **Sol Kanee**, Q.C., recipient of the Nabum

Goldman Medal.

**Moshe Ronen** became the 15th president by acclamation.

Some of the subjects discussed were: The Status of Women, Jewish continuity, Prosecution of war criminals and the issue of Financial Restitution, Issues dividing and uniting Israel and the Diaspora, the future of the Canadian Jewish Congress and other Jewish institutions, why Canada will remain united, the Canadian Jewish Community and Evangelical Christianity, the clash of tradition and technology, and what is Jewish?

Neal Sher, an American experienced in hunting Nazi war criminals (has been to Halifax) has recently been hired by the Canadian government. He stated that there will never be perfect justice, but feels that we owe it to the memory of the deceased to continue the pursuit. □



Patricia T. Eppel, Executive Director of the Hamilton Federation, is surrounded by the Freemans, Larry and Myra, at the CJC Plenary.



## Jewish camping in the Torah

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

(An address at the closing exercise of the Beth Israel Hebrew School, June 7, 1998)

**T**he first camper in Judaism was the patriarch Jacob as he constantly spoke of camps - "Machananim", in Hebrew and he of necessity had to divide his family into two camps. However, camping season in the Northern Hemisphere takes place when we read the fourth biblical book known as "Bamidbar". This book relates all that transpired when and where the Israelites camped after they left Egypt.

The Torah tradition informs us that the camp of the Israelites took up a space of twelve miles for twelve tribes. Seventy head counsellors were needed to run the camp. There were six candidates to be chosen from each tribe and since there were twelve tribes there would be seventy-two candidates for seventy head counsellor positions. All the candidates were to exit the camp to be deputized with Moshe's prophetic power at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

There were two candidates named Eldad and Medad who felt that they were unworthy to be head counsellors. They stayed in the midst of the camp among the people and they did not join the other candidates. They thought that now that there were seventy candidates without them, that no one else would be rejected. The Almighty honoured Eldad and Medad for their humility by giving them prophetic power directly, not through Moshe as an intermediary. Another higher distinction was given to them, i.e. that they power of prophecy that the other seventy head counsellors received was only of temporary duration while the prophetic power of Eldad and Medad lasted for a long time.

Eldad and Medad used their new prophetic power to teach Torah to the people and to give them guidance as they journeyed to Canaan. The journey should have been of short duration as they were

soon to enter the Promised Land. However, subsequently, the leaders of the Tribes who were sent as spies spoke ill of the land on their return from their mission and instead of one summer camping experience, they were obliged to spend thirty-eight more years journeying and extending their camping experience.

Question: What can we learn for our camping experience from this biblical tale?

Answer: We can aspire to achieve the merit of Eldad and Medad this summer by being helpful campers and by engaging in Torah study. The Torah teaches (Deuteronomy 23:15) "The L-rd walks in the midst of your camp therefore let your camp be holy." Unfortunately not everyone ascribes to the Jewish idea that a camp should be a place of holiness.

During the year we send our children to Hebrew school for almost as long as they study their secular subjects. They manage to master the rudiments of Hebrew reading and writing but then the summer months come and the youngsters usually go off to camp where they do virtually no reading or writing of Hebrew for the next three months. When they return for the new school year Hebrew educators are obliged to offer a refresher course in Hebrew before any new material can be mastered.

I offer the following prescription for our problem. There are people who would not permit much religious studies to be offered at camp. The Hebrew language can be studied in a religious-free environment. It is insufficient just to sing Hebrew songs or to recite the first blessing of Grace after meals, as important as they may be. Even a half hour a day, even more, should be offered to campers of Hebrew reading material so that they could at least sustain an acceptable level of Hebrew reading.

This cultural effort will serve as a wonderful reinforcement to what we are

attempting to achieve in our Hebrew school education. The students will not lose the skills that have been already acquired and they will be able to adjust more rapidly in their studies when they start the new school year.

Workshops and discussion groups are wonderful for inculcating Jewish values but there is no substitute for reading and translating Hebrew text.

Another lesson to be derived from the experience of camping is that by 'roughing it' we do without all the luxuries that one is used to through the year in urban living. This lesson was instilled by Yitro, Moses' father-in-law, who established the ascetic life style of the tent-dwelling Rechabites. Yitro, who as an advisor to Pharaoh in Egypt, was familiar with an indulgent and aristocratic life style and he rejected it for more simple existence in the wilderness. *Continued on page 26*

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## Our silent crisis

By Rabbi David Ellis, Chaplain

As we approach the three-week period before Tisha B'av, which commemorates the destruction of the two Temples, we might ask what is the threat to today's Jewish community. Would it be Malcolm Ross, hate literature on the Internet, war criminals, Christian missionary groups, the West Bank?

While these and other issues confront our community, we are frankly living in comfortable times. No wars, no palpable threats to Jewish communities, as there were in Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union ten years ago. The danger to our security might be in having a false sense of it.

Yet I do want to suggest to that there is a crisis which should be of great concern. While it is present, we do not always grasp it. It can best be illustrated by a story.

Albert and Shirley, children of immigrant parents, met at Jewish activities in college during the fifties and married upon graduation. Albert moved into a successful executive position. Shirley, while receiving a teaching degree, never taught after their first year of marriage. She devoted her time to home and children. As they went off to school, she had time to devote to numerous volunteer activities, both within and outside of the Jewish community.

Joshua, their oldest son, was top student in his class. He got a degree from an Ivy League law school and moved into a law firm. He did not marry, as Albert did, upon graduation, and his years of law school and the demands of entry into the field kept him away from Jewish activities. Now, in his thirties, he wants to marry and do so Jewishly. But things are different now.

Joshua, as the old song said, "wants a girl just like the girl who married dear old dad," one who would be the anchor of a household and family. He has met Elise. But she is not about to marry. She also has a successful law practice and is not about to give it up for the sake of marriage. Almost every other Jewish girl of his age feels the same. How strongly committed will Joshua be to his Jewish ambitions?

Let's say Joshua does finally meet and marry a Jewish woman, Sharon, also a child of successful middle-class parents. She will be a working woman, unlike Shirley, and they will begin to figure out how to divide things. They will likely be looking at some sort of day-care arrangement for their children (for six months? two years? four years?) so that both will be able to continue their careers. Divisions will be made as to activities and leisure. The concept of "quality time" will likely come into play.

*All in all, however, the final result will be that Joshua and Sharon will probably give less time to raising their children than their parents gave to them.*

What will be the result? Not a uniform one, many individual and community factors come into play. At the worst, Joshua and Sharon may find that their Jewish family is subject to the same dislocations as other North American families. More likely, it will not be so apocalyptic. They will raise a good family. Their children will be good students, but probably not excellent ones.

Years ago, Jewish students were almost uniformly at the top of every high school and university, attributable to immediate family input into their upbringing. Today, they are no longer so. While we still have bright students, the day-care nurturing in which many of them grew up did not give them the sharp edge a previous generation had.

Their children will also lack a sense of individuality. They will tend toward their peer group with its tastes and opinions, rather those of adults or elders. They will take an indifferent attitude toward authority, neither respecting it nor challenging it.

In summary, Joshua and Sharon's children may grow up lacking much of the emotional stability which they had as children. While there will be case by case difficulties and successes here and there, it would seem that the present generation is not as well-equipped to lead a Jewish life and make a Jewish family as an earlier one was. While not as blatant as the crises we have become accustomed to in Jewish history, the consequences are already not favourable.

Some reconsiderations are due within the Jewish community.

We must examine our commitment to "careerism." Not to having a career, which is a laudable goal for all. But rather to the idolatry of careers—to career commitments which, in time and effort, take priority over those to families and the Jewish community. As Dennis Prager, an astute observer of Jewish affairs, notes, perhaps it is better that a Jewish man be, let's say, an electrician, work 8 till 5, and have a chance for more family time than he might as a higher paid professional.

What about Jewish women? Even the most traditional segment of the Jewish community is not opposed to women pursuing careers. There is consensus, however, that a Jewish woman must have some flexibility in her career plans if she also has a family. How much is a matter of dispute. Many Jewish women today are taking another look at Shirley. Having had the opportunity to have their impact on the business world, many have decided influencing a family is of more importance.

Finally, I would urge this is a time for a commitment to Israel—to the fundamental Zionist ideal that however positive Jewish life is elsewhere, Israel is ultimately the place where Jewish life will succeed. While not without its own problems, anyone who has spent time in Israel knows that Jewish family life is far more stable there than in the West. While we may not go as far as Ben Gurion, who proudly proclaimed that in Israel there were even Jews devoted to the world's oldest profession (!), his point is well-taken. There one sees Jewish cab drivers, policemen, as well as professionals. The final measure is, how will our Jewish families meet the challenges our destiny always will have in store. □

*Taking care of the future:*

***The Bequest and Endowment Fund of the UJA of Atlantic Canada***

**Y**On September 2, 1998, the Bequest and Endowment Fund (B&E) of the UJA of Atlantic Canada will be publicly launched at a meeting of legal, financial and estate planning professionals. Robert Kleinman, C.A., Executive Director of the Montreal Jewish Foundation will address the group on innovative tax strategies in the light of recent federal government legislation affecting charitable giving.

This event will mark the beginning of an effort to alert the community to the potential and promise of the B&E Fund. It also marks the end of a meticulous planning process to ensure that the Fund incorporates a structure and By-law to meet the strictest legal requirements as well as the flexibility and means to meet the wishes of our contributors.

Overseeing this process were **Jack Prince**, Q.C., Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the B&E Fund, **Mark David**, Honourary Legal Counsel of the B&E Fund and **Donald Carr**, Q.C., Honourary Legal Counsel of UJA Federations Canada.

We have been most fortunate that an outstanding group of people have agreed to sit on the Board of Trustees. They are, in addition to Jack Prince and Mark David: **Jim Spatz**, Co-Chair, **David Ein**, **Victor Goldberg**, **Martin Payne**, **Mark Rosen**, **Arthur Saffron**, **Lillian Schelew**, **Debbie Zatzman**. The Board of Trustees is staffed by **Jon Goldberg**, Executive Director, AJC and by **Dov Harris**, B&E Fund, UJA Federations Canada.

The success of the B&E Fund will be a measure of this community's pride of its heritage. As the heirs to a remarkable value-system and culture which have enriched our lives, it is only natural and right to ensure that the next generation will similarly benefit.

A brochure "The Legacy of Life" has been prepared outlining the scope and extent of the B&E Fund. It will shortly be mailed to every member of our community in Atlantic Canada. In its pages, virtually every age group will find opportunities to build for the future.

In addition to this mailing the community will be regularly informed of the progress of the Fund and updated on the different ways of giving. Most importantly, the Fund will in a short while embark on a more individualized program through personal meetings and seminars. As has been noted from the tax perspective, never has there been a more propitious time to consider an endowment or bequest.

But more than this, it will be your love and concern to perpetuate your values which will give B&E Fund its greatest possible impact.

In the words of the **Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel**, z'l "Every individual is a pillar on which the future of Judaism rests...Each Jew is obliged to say 'Into my hands has been given the future of the entire Jewish people'...We will either forfeit or enrich the legacy of the ages". □

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## Yom Ha'atzmaut 1998

By Joel Jacobson

**M**usic, dancing, eating, laughing and celebrating was the theme of a Yom Ha'atzmaut gala at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax April 30.

With an Israeli style supper of hummus, falafel, salads and three huge birthday cakes, and Israeli music by Montreal entertainers **The Shalom Duo**, more than 200 members of the Halifax Jewish community celebrated Israel's 50th anniversary.

The event, sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council, was nostalgic to many. **Gali Brock** felt homesick. "I was the first generation from my family born in Israel," said Brock, who came to Halifax four years ago as shaliach, met her future husband and stayed. "Israel has achieved so much in such a short time. I'm very hopeful for the future."

**Mani Suissa**, mid-30s, moved to Israel from his native Morocco when he was three years old and left for Canada 21 years later after meeting a Halifax girl whom he later married. "I've never left Israel," he smiled, "but I'm still here. I'm thrilled Israel is prospering after 50 years."

Halifax-born **Zack Rubin** made aliyah to Israel in 1979 but left seven years later when "I couldn't adapt to the Israeli mentality of living on a constant overdraft. I returned to Canada for economic rea-



*Celebrating Israel's 50th, l-r, Bracha & David Koren, Helena Jockel, Marta Markus and Anna Fried.*

sons," said the Atlantic clothing representative of several national lines. "In Israel, I was in the same business, selling Israeli clothing to Europe."

Rubin said he wanted to emigrate to Israel because he grew up with an ideal of what Israel was "but that Israel doesn't exist anymore. It's now a country trying to be westernized in the middle east. (My wife, three daughters and I) loved living there. The holidays were a natural facet of everyday life whereas here, you have to make a conscious effort to be part of the Jewish world. When I listen to Israeli music at home, I still get a warm, fuzzy feeling."

Halifax lawyer **Joel Pink**, a one-time visitor to Israel, said there is nothing like being there after reading about Israel in history books and the Bible. "I was impressed how a country had been built in a desert, a

country viable in all areas of agriculture. And they blended the old with the new."

Prior to their performance, **The Shalom Duo (Yehuda Pinto and Jacques Abicidan)** led the crowd in a rendition of *Hatikvah*. Both men are Israelis, Pinto from Haifa and Abicidan from Acre.

"Would I like to be in Israel tonight?" he said, in answer to a reporter's question. "Oh, yeah! But I'm privileged to deliver the spirit 10,000 miles away from Israel to you. This gives it an authentic touch." □

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## Boris Tsinman is JIAS rep

By Joel Jacobson



**B**oris Tsinman knows what he went through as a refugee immigrant to Canada. And the Halifax man wants to ensure other people have as smooth a transition as he did 18 years ago.

A successful engineer and businessman, the 43-year-old native of Riga, Latvia, is the new Jewish Immigrant Aid Service representative in Atlantic Canada, a volunteer position he says he relishes.

"When I came, I didn't know what I needed, who to register with, how to integrate into the community. But my

brother and I were single, we were outgoing and we reached out.

The people of Halifax invited us to their homes and made us welcome. I want to do the same for others trying to make their way in Canada."

Tsinman is the Atlantic Jewish Council representative on the JIAS national board. AJC has requested more immigration of Jews into the region and it's Tsinman's function to prepare the volunteer committee infrastructure to make it happen.

"As an immigrant myself, I have an advantage because I know what they need," said Tsinman. He recently converted a computer keyboard to Russian so he can communicate with Eastern European prospects. He has already corresponded with a woman in Southern Russia interested in migrating to Canada.

"Our role is to bring people here who can qualify as legally economic sound immigrants. I just want to do what I can to make it easier for them to settle and feel as comfortable as I am." □

### Jewish Camping *Continued from page 22*

The Islamic historian Ibn Khaldun, during the middle ages, viewed the experience of desert camping as a way for people in Islamic urban cities to purify themselves from a life of excesses.

Finally, the effort at cooperative living experienced by the camping community makes for a sense of unity of purpose. Communitality was always at the centre of Jewish life. The practice of going on a retreat to mediate in a solitary location without sharing that experience upon returning to the community was frowned upon in Judaism.

I hope that all campers will enjoy a successful summer experience and that they will return to their communities and share their adventures and enthusiasm. □

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## *CJC concludes successful National Plenary*

*By Michael J. Cohen, National Director of Communications Canadian Jewish Congress*

**Y**More than 500 delegates from across the country - including a strong delegation from Atlantic Canada - attended the 25th National Plenary Assembly of Canadian Jewish Congress May 24 and 25, at Winnipeg's Lombard Hotel which featured the installation of Toronto lawyer **Moshe Ronen** as the organization's 15th president. He succeeded **Goldie Hershon** of Montreal.

Jewish Roots Meet 21st Century Realities was the theme for this prestigious triennial program. It marked the first time in CJC's nearly 80 year history as the democratic decision-making body of Canadian Jewry that a Plenary had been held outside of Montreal or Toronto.

The son of Holocaust survivors, Mr. Ronen made his opinion clear in regard to anti-Semitism and all forms of racism and discrimination. "Hatemongers are drops of acid that corrode the goodwill, good works and good name of Canada," he remarked. "Canadian Jewish Congress will not stand idly by as evil propagandists and perverted deniers of truth and history dare to purvey their poisonous lies and venomous messages, even as the victims and eyewitnesses to those days of hell are with us still to tell their stories."

Mr. Ronen, who at the age of 39 becomes the youngest president in CJC history, spoke proudly of his native Israel. "Canadian Jewish Congress will continue to affirm the absolute centrality of Israel to the total Jewish agenda and to our community."

Furthermore, Mr. Ronen pledged to undertake an approach of firm public advocacy on Jerusalem. "Every nation in the world understands the need and meaning of a capital city," he said. "The call for Jerusalem to be compromised must cease. Jerusalem is the undivided capital of the State of Israel and so it will remain forever."

In her outgoing president's address, Ms. Hershon pledged her support to Mr. Ronen and urged his administration to make its voice heard on the key social justice issues of the day. She made a pitch for national unity to remain a top priority of the organization and sent a message to delegates from small communities that the role they play at the CJC table is an important one.

"CJC is an organization held in extremely high esteem in government and other circles," said Ms. Hershon. "My fondest wish would be for some members of our own community to appreciate the reputation we have carved for ourselves and recognize the good work we do."

As part of a highly interactive program, *Jerusalem Post* Publisher **Norman Spector**, Canada's former Ambassador to Israel and a one-time chief of staff to the Prime Minister of Canada and World Jewish Congress Secretary General **Israel Singer** served as anchor speakers. **Jim Carr**, the former editorial page editor of *The Winnipeg Free Press*, was the program facilitator.

Other guest speakers included Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations **Phil Fontaine**, Manitoba Premier **Gary Filmon**, Federal Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women **Hedy Fry**, Federal Justice Department War Crimes Unit Special Advisor **Neal Sher**, CJC War Crimes Committee Chair Professor **Irving Abella**, World Jewish Congress Executive Director **Elan Steinberg**, Montreal educator **Norma Baumel Joseph**, Constitutional law expert **Bryan Schwartz**, Holocaust survivor **Edith Kimelman**, Winnipeggers **Yoram East**, **Rhonda Spivak**, **Bryan Schwartz**, former Ontario Deputy Solicitor General **Elaine Todres**, McGill University Professor **Harold Waller**, author **Linda Frum**, Theologian □

## *MOL '98*

*Continued from page 20*

*Sarah Barkow*

Auschwitz was a disappointment. Maybe that sounds crass but I suppose that I went expecting to see the Holocaust and, at Auschwitz, all I saw was a museum. Birkenau. Well, Birkenau wasn't a disappointment and neither was Majdanek. And just let me say that being disappointed is a lot easier to deal with.

A memory that I expect to carry with me for the rest of my life is the mausoleum at Majdanek. Our whole group gathered there on the rim of this huge bowl filled with ashes. On the edge of despair, we all chanted Kaddish. People's voices rising in prayer and breaking off in sobs. It was and still is probably the most moving moment of my life. But after Kaddish, while everyone

was still standing there sobbing, someone started singing Hatikva... If there was ever a place where we needed hope, that was the place.

The March of the Living is the most amazing trip ever. The whole trip wasn't as depressing as that moment at Majdanek. By no means so! Even while we were in Poland, we still had a lot of fun and while in Israel, well, it was Israel's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! If that doesn't give you any picture of how great it was there, I guess you'll have to go visit next year! Anyone who has the opportunity to go to Israel or on the March, should □



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