

Shalom! שלום!

Winter 1999 Vol. 24, No. 1 Choref 5759



1998 Recipients of the AJC Community Service Award

Front row - left to right: Sarah Gorber, Moncton, NB, Ruth Pink, Yarmouth, NS, Jennie Brown, Fredericton, NB,

Back row - left to right: Irving Pink, Yarmouth, NS, Joseph Naylor, PEI, Elliott Marshall, Glace Bay, NS, Daniel Elman, Saint John, NB, Wayne Nathanson (accepting on behalf of Bernard Nathanson of Halifax, NS and St. John's, Nfld).

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שלום

President: Victor Goldberg

The Atlantic Jewish Council
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Victor Goldberg



Since my last article I have taken two very different but equally compelling journeys in my capacity as President of the AJC. In mid-November, together with **Jon Goldberg, Mark Rosen and Hedda Medjuck**, I travelled to Jerusalem to represent the AJC at the First General Assembly (GA) of the Council of Jewish Federations ever held outside of North America. Of course, what better location than Israel during its 50th Anniversary year!

Words cannot depict the joy and pride that all 5,000 delegates experienced during the GA. Many of the major players in the Jewish world participated, including **Prime Minister Netanyahu, Natan Sharansky and Charles and Edgar Bronfman**, but what inspired me most was my involvement with ordinary Israelis - whether of Russian, Ethiopian or South African origin - and of course just being in our exquisite and eternal Jerusalem. Unfortunately, my time in Israel was short but, nevertheless, visiting our Jewish homeland is like consuming an elixir. My commitment and enthusiasm are always rejuvenated.

The first weekend in December, having been home for barely two weeks, I repacked and, together with my wife **Judith** and son **Eric**, headed for Fredericton to participate in the 11th Bi-Annual AJC Convention. Thanks to the efforts of **Marlene Unger, Tom Kuttner, Rabbi & Mrs. Samuels** and all of the dedicated Fredericton workers (not to mention Jon Goldberg's great program and long distance logistical support), the Convention was a showpiece. We were entertained and enthralled by our opening guest speaker, **Rabbi Edgar Gluck** of New York, whom we had befriended during the early days of the Swissair disaster, and his dear wife. Numerous guests from our national organizations including UIA Federations, CIC, JNF and CJC attended, and I very much appreciate their participation. I would like to especially thank **Marjorie Blankstein** who travelled from Winnipeg to speak about the exciting

Partnership 2000 initiative that she is spearheading, from a Canadian perspective. Atlantic Canada's involvements with the Galilee Panhandle will become more apparent in the next few years as we concentrate on people-to-people exchanges and building living bridges.

The convention was enhanced by the attendance, for the first time, of all practising rabbis in the Atlantic Region. Their homogeneous and conciliatory viewpoints were refreshing. Inevitably, the most touching part of the weekend was the presentation of our Community Service Awards on Saturday evening, in the presence of invited guests headed by the **Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick**. As ever, our recipients were worthy of each and every accolade. One can only hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

On Sunday I had the privilege of being re-elected to a second two-year term, for which I would like to thank you for reposing your continued faith in me. During the last two years, we have made significant progress with our programming and chaplaincy initiatives. We have risen to the challenges that have faced us, whether they be combating anti-Semitism, further strengthening Camp Kadimah or helping Jews in need during the Swissair disaster. My heartfelt appreciation extends to my Executive, Management Committee, Committee Members and especially staff (ably led by Jon), all of whom have helped shoulder the burden and did what had to be done. It is most gratifying that our Executive has remained more or less intact and I look forward to working with them to take the AJC into the new millennium. Of course, I would not be able to dedicate the time and energy to my position without the support and inspiration of my wife Judith, whose love for Jews and Judaism especially in our small region inspire me daily, and the patience and understanding of my children **Eric and Rachael**. Their unwavering encouragement is most appreciated.

The AJC can only help with some of the many challenges that small community Jews face daily in preserving their Judaism. We must never forget that our biggest asset is each other. As we contemplate our obligations and responsibilities on the eve of 1999, let us reflect upon the historic Covenant reprinted below which was signed at the closing session of the GA in Jerusalem and so eloquently is remindful of our bond with Israel and each other.

Victor J. Goldberg

A Covenant Between The Jewish People of North America and Israel

As we approach the 21st century, we pause to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to the enduring ties that bind us together as one people.

For generations, Jews throughout the world shared the dream of a homeland for the Jewish people. Together we turned that dream into reality through the creation of the modern State of Israel, the historic homeland of the Jewish people, which we celebrate now, in its 50th anniversary year.

We embrace a common vision of caring for each other; of assuring a vibrant Israel; of enhancing Klal Yisrael through the building of dynamic Jewish communities that span the seas; of reaching out to Jews wherever they are and strengthening their connection to the Jewish people; of dedicating ourselves to the ideals of Jewish Unity and mutual respect; and of supporting those principles that have sustained our Identity from the giving of the Torah until today.

Today, we rededicate ourselves to strengthening the links between us by creating personal relationships and active involvements that will serve to draw us closer to one another.

For us, our children and our children's children, we rededicate ourselves to the spiritual and historic centrality of the State of Israel and to one another. We affirm the values that have sustained us for centuries: belief in one G-d; respect for the infinite value of human life; the goal of peace; the special responsibility of Jews to each other; the shared obligations of Tikkun Olam - to help repair the world; the concepts of Klal Yisrael and Ahavat Yisrael - Jewish peoplehood and the love of that people, which has sustained us to reach this cherished day.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Jerusalem, November 19, 1998

Canadian Jewish Congress Report

By Michael J. Cohen, National Director of Communications

CJC National Small Communities Committee places its focus on advocacy

At the beginning of the present mandate of Canadian Jewish Congress a reconstituted National Small Communities Committee (NSCC) decided to focus attention on the major advocacy activities of the organization.

CJC president **Moshe Ronen** recognized that residents of small communities often have much better access to their Member of Parliament than many Jews in the larger centres. The NSCC intends to take advantage of this by targeting as many federal ridings as possible where small community reps reside. Whereas CJC national holds regular meetings on Parliament Hill to address pressing issues of the day, we would now like to take that process one step further and provide regular information and briefing packages to those who can lobby and sensitize their own MP.

With Parliament currently in recess until February, CJC recently sent out its first information package. **Hedda Medjuck** of Halifax is a co-chair of the NSCC. She and Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) executive director **Jon Goldberg** have been working with the national office to appoint regional team captains.

In the coming weeks you may be called by one of the team captains to meet with your local MP. It is important for us to know their particular views and whether they would be interested in meeting with officials from the National Advocacy Centre of CJC in Ottawa at a later date.

The NSCC plans to publish its next edition of the Outreach newspaper in March and focus on Holocaust education. We are also sending information and press releases out regularly by the

Internet. Please pass on your e-mail address to smallcomm@cjcc.ca.

SWISS HUMANITARIAN FUND: Mr. Ronen and United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) president **Harvey Wolfe** recently announced the appointment of **Rabbi Dr. W. Gunther Plaut** of Toronto to chair a committee to oversee the distribution process for the "Humanitarian Fund" set up by Swiss banks for the benefit of "needy" Holocaust survivors.

Mr. Ronen clarified that the roughly \$2.5 million (US) being allocated to Canada follows the establishment of this one-time \$185-million (US) fund for survivors in financial need. It is unrelated to the recent \$1.25-billion (US) settlement reached between major Swiss banks and class action claimants to Holocaust-era assets. (The latter settlement has not yet been ratified by the New York court where the action was launched.)

Rabbi Plaut is heading a committee comprised of survivor representatives. This group will establish the policy for eligibility, handling claims and the disbursement of funds, either directly to needy survivors or to communal social welfare programs for the benefit of survivors, or a combination of both.

Those seeking more information can call the Sprint Canada Swiss Humanitarian Fund For Needy Holocaust Survivors Information Line. Jewish Holocaust victims who lived in a country at a time when it was under a Nazi regime, Nazi occupiers or collaborators may apply for a one-time grant from this Fund which was set up by Swiss banks for the benefit of "needy" Holocaust survivors.

Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Canada and declare themselves in need.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

*This article is from the report
to the 11th Bi-Annual convention held in Fredericton*

In this report I will attempt to give an overview of the last two years in a précis form. I realize there will be a number of unanswered questions and possibly a number of areas which I will not deal with.

Responsibilities as UJA Campaign

Director: The 1997 campaign was relatively flat with Halifax, Moncton, Fredericton and Yarmouth holding their own and a small decrease in Cape Breton due mostly to some of our key donors passing away or moving away. There has been a major downturn in the campaign in Saint John, NB and also, fundraising in PEI and Newfoundland remain difficult at best.

In 1997 **Doron Fleisher** worked our Region as our campaign Shaliach. While his efforts were certainly adequate we were confronted with a change in personnel directed from the Toronto office and **Bezalel Ben Eliahu** joined the campaign in late August. While final results are not in yet from the campaign, I don't anticipate a drastic change in direction from the levels and/or performances of 1997.

Unfortunately, the crash of Flight 111 happened at the beginning of campaign and certainly tied me up for a number of weeks. I will have to be able to give more support to our Shaliach next year.

The Yovel program - both in Halifax and Moncton - was an excellent success. We also initiated our Bequest & Endowment Fund. This could be the key to our future here in Atlantic Canada as we are faced with diminishing population and also a change in demographics of our people. For example, 20 or 30 years ago our key donors were businessmen and retailers - today, with a few exceptions, the majority of our major donors are professionals, i.e. doctors, lawyers, etc. We are also faced with the reality that some supporters of our campaign over the past 50 years have passed on or left the region and this support cannot be replaced. The good news is that there is, in Halifax, Cape Breton, Moncton and Fredericton, a core of committed individuals who are prepared to work both in the campaign and also lead by their level of giving. This is mostly in the 40 to 55 year old age group and they remain the key to our campaign.

Wearing all the hats in the region, it sometimes is very difficult for me to get the message to everyone. Too many people in the Atlantic region still do not measure up to the culture of giving required. Many expect services and programs to come from heaven and don't want or care to know how these are to be paid. Of course, then we have the ongoing debate between local needs and Israel - where a significant number of our supporters, mostly seniors, with grownup families want to see all their money go to Israel and those mostly under 50, with families, want to see their money stay in Atlantic Canada to preserve and maintain Jewish continuity and Jewish life. The challenge for myself and UJA Toronto is to marry both concerns and to affect a positive feeling for both Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

With support from UJA we had a successful March of the Living in 1998. Kadimah-Israel, working with UJA Partnership 2000, sent 25 teenagers to Israel last summer and hope to have as many or more going this summer.

The campaign is key to the success of the AJC. Most of you know we are funded based on the levels of our campaign and it is imperative upon myself and our leadership to inculcate Atlantic Jewry into a level of giving, albeit within their means, but certainly to their ability.

Responsibilities as AJC Executive Director: One of the key components of my job is to find the money to deliver as much

programming and services as possible to our region. Working with dedicated lay leadership the past few years, we have been able to supplement direct funding from UJA with additional funding from CJF Canada, Northwood Center, private foundations and other sources. This supplemental funding has allowed us to provide not only **Yakov Feig**, but our regional Chaplain, **Rabbi Ellis** and our Seniors' Coordinator in Halifax, **Shirley Burnstein**. Additional funding from Camp Kadimah has enabled us to deliver more programming for youth.

It is my hope for 1999 that the proposal I delivered in New York City this past summer to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. will provide funding for a major Holocaust education program which we need in the region. This task of finding funding and marrying the funds to the needs of our region plays a major part of my duties over the course of the year.

Shalom Magazine: *Shalom* has gone through a number of changes both in style and content. This takes a fair amount of time for myself in the office over a quarterly basis and over the last 2 years we seem to have gotten a favorable response from our readers.

Staffing and Resource Management: This year **Marie Herschorn** started on a full-time basis and in order to make that happen we eliminated our full-time secretarial position and purchased an automated phone system. **Christina MacNeil**, our Office Administrator, has left after 15 years and this will require, no doubt, a major adjustment, both in office personnel and office duties.

Rabbi Ellis joined us in the fall of '97 and has been a major asset to the organization. Yakov continues to do excellent work with campus and youth. In addition, early this fall, due to construction in the Lord Nelson, we had to make a major move of our office on very short notice and this made for a difficult fall period. Add to this the pressures of continuous upgrading and new software and hardware in this computerized era and once again, I find this allocation of time and resources within our office a major part of my duties.

Over the past two years I have also attended numerous meetings of national organizations with which we are affiliated, mostly in Montreal and Toronto. However, I was at the CJC Plenary in Winnipeg in the spring. I was also in Israel for a few days in the summer of '97 visiting our projects with UJA and attended the General Assembly of Federations Convention held in November, 1998 in Jerusalem.

I have visited most of the communities at least once and some more than once since our past convention. With Rabbi Ellis, Yakov and our UJA Shaliach on the road, I feel they do a better job of representing the organization and I'm only a phone call away. I try to allocate any resources that would duplicate regional travel to other areas.

In closing, I realize this is a fairly short overview of 2 years' activities but time and space do not allow me to go much further except to thank all the UJA Campaign Chairs throughout the region for their efforts and support, and to thank the members of the Executive and our staff for allowing the AJC to grow over these past 2 years.

I would stress to the communities outside of Halifax that the position of AJC Community Rep is their lifeline in many cases to our organization. We have had some wonderful Reps who have brought the needs and problems of their particular communities to our Executive table. However, in other cases your chosen reps have not been able to make the meetings and don't seem to be as responsive to the needs of their particular communities. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to select people who have the time and energy to commit to this position.

A Letter From Israel

by Mark Medico

This is a letter to Betty Miller from her son in Israel. She asked him what made him want to stay there, what was in his heart, being brought up in Montreal, with so many problems in Israel. Here is his answer.

You have to remember that Israel is one big family — and not always so happy. Unfortunately, every family has sons and daughters that don't turn out the way we would like. Nevertheless, this country is very much alive and vibrant. It is a place in constant change and rejuvenation. It is wonderful to be somewhere where one feels so alive... where one feels that one can make a contribution, however small, however big. It is a very complex country and yet, somehow, we Jews have muddled through turmoil stretching hundreds and hundreds of years. This is the first generation in almost 2000 years to celebrate having a country. We no longer have to say "next year in Jerusalem" because we are here. In a mere 50 years Israel has risen from the ashes of six million dead to a Gross National Product that rivals advanced economies. Israel has entered the information age where some countries merely hope to establish basic agricultural subsistence.

A mere 50 years to reach a point that has taken most advanced

capitalist countries two centuries. We have achieved this phenomenal pinnacle of development because we are Jews, because we are a literate, opinionated, intelligent people. I feel very fortunate to be a member of this community. And every day I bless you for enabling me to be a Jew.

So will I condemn the young, arrogant, hateful, disgusting Jews that throw rocks at progressive Jews? I realize that this is a part of the harsh growing pains that a young modern nation must face in order to grow and develop. The path is never easy. Perhaps the early Jews who established *kibbutzim* from the strength of their hands and idealism of their heart had it better than we do - we who must anguish over the implication of Much Music and North American television, who anguish over conflicts between religious and secular Jews, who watch a transsexual Jew win a world wide award for singing, who pay the highest taxes in the world, who are surrounded by enemies who desire nothing less than total destruction of our people. At the same time Israelis face the same problems with their modern children that we do in Canada and the United States.

I am very proud to be an Israeli citizen; my vote will be a vote for peace, a vote for progress, a vote to see our people enter the 21st century with more than just the packs on our backs.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

My name is Liat Alon and I'm the Hebrew teacher for the Jewish Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador for this year. I would like to direct your attention to November 8th [1998] - the 60th anniversary of "Kristalnacht" - the first mass scaled physical action against the Jews in Europe in the 1930's.

If you find it appropriate I would like to publish this letter and maybe enlarge people's knowledge about the event. Thank you:

November 8th, 1938 - 60 years ago. The most awful turmoil is about to break. A catastrophe even the freezing winter of Europe cannot simmer down.

On November 8th a young Jewish boy, 17 years of age, shoots a German diplomat in Paris. This is an act of despair at the hands of a boy who just heard about his parents' deportation from their home, along with 17,000 other Jews, by the Nazis. Not knowing if they are alive or dead, at the face of an indifferent world, he bursts up with anger and shoots the German official, Von-Rath. Von-Rath dies on November 9th and secretive orders are sent by the Nazi leaders to their activists - Avenge! Hurt the Jews! Destroy them.

People gather in the streets and riots break all over Europe. This

is what is known as "Krystalnacht," in which 91 Jews are murdered, thousands are hurt, houses are burnt, shop windows are broken and the glass is shattered and spread all over the streets.

Hundreds of synagogues are eternally destroyed; tens of thousands of books are burned in public mass bonfires.

This is also the first time a large number of Jews are arrested at once and sent to concentration camps such as Buchenwald and Dachau in Germany.

This is the beginning of the physical violence phase of the Nazi policy known as the "Final Solution" to the Jewish problem.

From this day on, until 1945, 6 million Jews and many other millions of people are slaughtered by the Nazis in what is known as one of the most murderous regimes in the history of mankind. On this date, especially in relation to Commemoration date [Remembrance Day], which took place at November 11th, we must remember these events and swear to do all that is in our powers to prevent something like this from happening again.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this letter and hope you choose to print it.

Miss Liat Alon

MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

Please inform
Holocaust survivors
whom you know
of these CJC-initiated
restitution information lines.

The Swiss Humanitarian Fund
for
Needy Survivors of the Holocaust
Information line sponsored by Sprint
Canada

INQUIRIES
Montreal: (514) 931-7531
Fax: (514) 931-0548
Toll-free outside Montreal:
1-877-252-6555

Information on Possible Unclaimed
Insurance Proceeds of Holocaust
Victims and Their Heirs
Information line sponsored by the Canadian Life
and Health Insurance Association Inc.

INQUIRIES
Toronto: (416) 359-2008
Toll-free outside Toronto in English:
1-800-860-3413
Toll-free outside Toronto in French:
1-888-361-8070

"Community" priority at Eleventh AJC Bi-Annual Convention

by Joel Jacobson

Halifax's **Victor Goldberg** faces major challenges as he begins a second two-year term as president of the Atlantic Jewish Council.

Elected at the biennial meeting of the AJC in Fredericton recently, Mr. Goldberg, a Halifax lawyer, sees growth of the Jewish population in the region as a prime objective.

"We have seen people immigrating to our region from all parts of the world and must try to stimulate more people coming to our communities from within Canada and from outside," he said. "We're certainly positioned to attract people, and specifically younger people."

He said there is a challenge to meet the needs of smaller communities, an issue raised during the three-day convention.

"Glance Bay, for example, is on the verge of ceasing to exist as an active community. We have to do what we can to keep them together, and other smaller centres as well. It is important that we revitalize the sustainable centres, like Halifax, Fredericton and Moncton, to continue to look for ways of stimulating the Jewish populations of Saint John, Sydney, St. John's, Prince Edward Island and every other community where there are Jewish families."

More than 100 men and women from the region attended the conference, including every rabbi in the region.

The five rabbis participated in a forum on preserving Judaism in a declining population. While there is never a concrete solution, the rabbis concurred parental participation in Hebrew education from the time the child enters Hebrew school through the bar/bat mitzvah year is vital. After that, they said, rabbis and teachers can assist the

child through high school and post-secondary Hebrew learning.

Rabbi Saul Aranov of the Orthodox Beth Israel Congregation in Halifax admitted rabbis in small communities have to be all things to all people.

"Many younger rabbis want to specialize in certain areas and thus stay in larger communities where they have the comfort of big city Jewish life. Here, I touch the pulse and the needs of the entire community."



Joan Kingston, Minister of Labour for the Province of New Brunswick, brings greetings to the Bi-Annual Convention while Victor and Jon Goldberg listen

The conference, co-chaired by **Tom Kuttner** and **Marlene Unger** of Fredericton, honored eight stellar volunteers of the Atlantic community including **Jennie Brown**, Fredericton; **Daniel Elman**, Saint John; **Sarah Gorber**, Moncton; **Elliott Marshall**, Glace Bay; **Nardy Nathanson**, Halifax and St John's; **Dr. Joseph Naylor**, P.E.I.; and **Ruth and Irving Pink**, Yarmouth.

Other workshops were held on coverage of Jewish issues in the news, with CJC officials **Mike**

Cohen and **Bernie Farber** heading the panel, Jewish Youth in Atlantic Canada, Holocaust education in the region and the political and peace issues of Israel.

Several officers of CJC and other national Jewish organizations attended the meetings.

Elected to the AJC executive were: 1st vice president, **Sheva Medjuck**; 2nd vice president, **Mark Rosen**; treasurer **Michael Pink**; secretary **Kathy Zilbert**; legal counsel **Mark David**, all of Halifax; Community Relations chair, **Tom Kuttner**, Fredericton; past president, **Larry Freeman**, Halifax; Members at large: **Irwin Lampert**, Moncton; **Ivan Levine**, Fredericton; **Claire Frankel-Salama**, St. John's, Nfld.; **Marcia Koven**, Saint John; **David Korn**,

Zack Rubin and **Linda Suissa**, and **Boris Tsinman**, all of Halifax.

The 1998-99 Atlantic Jewish Council Directory is finally here!

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Dateline Halifax

Mazel tov to **Abbie & Gary Szulewicz** on their recent donation to the Beth Israel Congregation in loving memory of Gary's parents.

Mazel tov to the Schulich Foundation for their philanthropic efforts in connection with the elevator at Beth Israel Congregation in memory of **Rhoda & Myer Goldberg**.

Mazel tov to **David & Jody Shapiro** on the birth of daughter **Alison Beth**, granddaughter of **Sheldon & Genevieve Lipkus**, great-granddaughter of **Etta Lipkus**.

Mazel tov to **Marlene Sable & family** and **Laurence Green** on the birth of their grandson **Samuel Aron** to daughter **Stephanie Green** and her husband **Jean-Marc Perllmutter**.

Mazel tov to AJC President **Victor Goldberg** for bringing greetings at the installation ceremony for **N.R. Terrence Prendergast** as Archbishop of Halifax.

Mazel tov to **Nardy & Helen Nathanson** on the recent

marriage of their daughter **Toby** in Toronto.

Mazel tov to **Sylvia & Gerry Mendleson** on the engagement of their son **Jonathan** to **Lilach**, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Congratulations to **Larry & Myra Freeman** on their appointment as Atlantic representatives on the Galilee Panhandle - Canada Partnership 2000 Committee of UIA.

Congratulations to **David Korn** on his appointment to the CJC Humanitarian Fund Committee.

Condolences to the family of **Betty Arron** who passed away this fall.

Condolences go out to the family of **Shirley Arron**.

Condolences also to the family of **Julia Jacoby**.

Condolences to the family of **Herman**

Newman who passed away in Toronto in October.

Happy 80th Birthday to **Lawrence Ferguson, Harry Freeman** and **Leonard Goldberg**.



*Jonathan Mendleson and his fiancée
Lilach, Tel-Aviv Nov, 1998*

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum of

Western Canada, located within the Asper

Jewish Community Campus of Winnipeg, is sponsoring a two-stage national art competition.

The award for the commission is \$14,000.

Submission must be postmarked no later than February 28, 1999. For more information, please contact Marim Daien Zipursky at (204) 477-7467,

fax (204) 477-7465,

or e-mail mdzipursky@aspercampus.mb.ca

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Yakov's corner

By Yakov Feig, Programmer

A Report in Pictorial Form



Chanukah Time on BT, December 1998. L-R: Brendan Rosen, Joshua Tobia, Shira Tsinman, Daniel Pink, Eric Goldberg, Yakov Feig, Jordan Tobia



Having fun at Chanukah Casino Night, Halifax, '98. L-R: Sharon Alexander, Kathryn Franklin, Rachel Schelew



Pool/Make Your Own Subs/Elections, Halifax, September 1998. L-R: Talia Meyer, Darah Gaum, Hannah Zitner, Debra Freeman, Sharon Alexander, Lauren Abrahams, Rachel Schelew, Kathryn Franklin



Chef Aaron Platt fries the latkes, APJSF Chanukah Party, November, '98



"Look, We've got food AND money!" Chanukah Casino Night, November, '98. L-R: Andrew Gergely, Schuyler Smith, Sharon Himmelman



APJSF Bagel Brunch, November, 1998. L-R: Jennifer Fox, Aaron Platt, Pavel Tilchin, Jasmine Oore, Ian Epstein



"Keep the Fire Burning." Dignity Day, November, 1998



Cosmic Bowling, October, 1998. L-R: Yolana Wassersug, Carlie Fox, Shira Tsinman, Diana Wolfson



"It's Trivia Time!" Israel Scavenger Hunt, September, 1998



APJSF Schmooze and booze, September '98. L-R: Shira Rubin, Joanne Yazer, Toby Carnat



Craft making at Annapolis Valley Chanukah Party, December 1998



"Thumbs up for the Young Adults!" Dinner Theatre, October 1998. Top L-R: Karen Ruttenberg, Sarah Bergson, Aviva Rubin, Derek Ross. Bottom L-R: Stephanie Weissglass, Rene Gursevitz, Jonathan Ross



Best Friends Always, Halifax, October 1998. L-R: Leigh Lampert, Darcy Richler, Shelley Horan, Bret Hirsch



Lighting Chanukah Candles at Annapolis Valley Chanukah Party, December 1998

Fredericton News

by Jennie Brown

Anniversary greetings with wishes for good health and happiness to: **Rabbi David & Edythe Spiro**, 53 years; **Bernard & Valerie Chippin**, 41 years; **Alfred & Leona Brown**, 34 years; **Warren & Miriam Cohen**, 28 years; **Stephen & Rhoda Fransblow**, 18 years, **Milton & Sandra Levine**, 17 years; **Arnold & Rose Chippin**, 11 years.

Congratulations to **Bea Sherman** upon the marriage of her granddaughter **Rebecca**, daughter of **Joe & Ann Sherman**, Charlottetown, PEI. The couple have taken up residence in Toronto, Ontario.

Congratulations to **Dr. Barbara Joan Payne**, daughter of **Marty & Linda Payne**, upon receiving her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Yeshiva University in New York.

Congratulations to **Dr. Israel Unger** upon receiving a citation from the Government of Canada commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. Dr. Unger was chosen with 49 other survivors as part of a group representing all Canadian Holocaust survivors.

Congratulations to **Andrew Lawrence Rosenfeld**, son of **Steven Rosenfeld & Roslyn Rosenfeld**, upon receiving a certificate in recognition of being named to the Dean's List in the faculty of Science at UNB.

The annual creche meeting of the Lillian Frieman chapter Hadassah WIZO was held November 30th at the home of **Leona Brown**. **Marilyn Kaufman**, President of the chapter, opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes were read by the secretary, **Marissa Blanchard**. **Cheryl Abrams**, chair of the creche program, introduced the guest speaker, **Sandra Latchford**, who spoke on learning disabilities. Hostesses were **Marilyn Kaufman** and **Miriam Cohen**.

The community was saddened by the deaths of three members of our community. Condolences to the family of the late **Joe Budovitch**, who passed away at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital. Survived by three sons, **Louis, Jake & Eddie**, two daughters **Rhoda Budovitch** and **Shelley Stephens**, two sisters, **Rose Eusler** and **Lillian Budovitch**, Toronto, ON. May the

mourners be spared further sorrow.

Condolences to the family of the late **Dave Sherman** who passed away at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital after a lengthy illness. Survived by wife **Bea**, son **Joe**, daughter-in-law **Ann**, grandson **Michael** of Charlottetown, PEI, granddaughter **Rebecca** and husband **Michael** of Toronto, sister **Eta Golanski**, West Hartford, Connecticut. Predeceased by brother **Samuel** and sister **Sophie Kaplan**. May the mourners be spared further sorrow.

Condolences to the family of the late **Harry Brown** who passed away at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital after a lengthy illness. Harry was the oldest member of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, and he always attended services on Saturday morning until his health deteriorated. Survived by two daughters, **Florence Goldstein (Sandy)** of Rochester, NY and **Sylvia Chrisman (Myles)** of Las Vegas, his brother **Saul**, five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his sister **Ida Bettel** and his brother **Sam**. May the mourners be spared further sorrow.

The honourable **Senator Ron Ghitter** delivered the ninth annual Dr. Bernie Vigod Lecture in Human Rights at St. Thomas University in Fredericton on November 15th. The lecture series was established by friends of the late **Bernie Vigod**, a UNB history professor and a life-long advocate of human rights and civil liberties. The lecture was title *Theo-conservatism: A threat to Human*

Rights. Ghitter pointed out this year's Vigod lecture had particular significance because 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He urged everyone to speak out against human rights abuses and to lobby governments to uphold an effective human rights agenda. Ghitter concluded his lecture by saying "we must always speak out when prejudice and discrimination rear their ugly heads. We must challenge those who exclude others because of their differences. We must cherish the freedoms we enjoy and we must ensure that these freedoms exist for all Canadians and not just a privileged few."

A speedy recovery to **Rose Eusler** and **Harold Valensky**.

The Fredericton Community wishes all the readers of *Shalom* a Happy Chanukah.



Fredericton's Jennie Brown receives her Community Service Award from Victor Goldberg and Ivan Levine at the AJC Bi-Annual Convention, December 1998

THANK YOU

The P.E.I. Jewish Community extends its grateful thanks to all those who enabled us to conduct High Holyday services on the Island: to **Congregation Tiferes Israel** (Moncton) and to the members of **Shaar Shalom** (Halifax) for their considerate loans of Torah scrolls, to the members of **Beth Israel** (Halifax) for their generous donation of *machzorim* and, above all, to **Rabbi David Ellis** for leading the services and for his many special efforts on our behalf.

Prince Edward Island News

Adapted from *Ha-Ee: Newsletter of the PEI Jewish Community*

Once again the PEI Jewish Community was pleased to have **Rabbi David Ellis** conduct services for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur at our Community Room at Dunstaffnage Heights.

The Jewish Studies Group entered its winter season mode with a new beginning of Torah studies. Contact **Dr. Joe Naylor** (902-675-3325) for further information.

The community's Sixth Annual Meeting saw the election or re-election of the following officers: President **Joe Naylor**, Vice President **Clive Pickles**, Treasurer **Winston MacGregor**, Secretary **Annabel Cohen**, Representative of Summer Residents **Jim Munves**, Hebrew School Principal **Rosalie Simeone**, Past President (ex officio) **Sol Feldstein**.

United Jewish Appeal representative **Bezalel Ben-Eliahu** came to the Island to talk about the activities of the AJC

with regard to the Jewish victims of the Swiss Air tragedy, about the needs of small Jewish communities in Canada, and about Israeli activities to rescue Jews worldwide.

Israeli Ambassador **David Sultan** met with the Community on October 23, 1998, during his official visit to our province. We were privileged to be able to share an evening with him and his wife, **Adina**. Thanks to **Sharon & Jack Brimberg** for hosting the event and to all who helped provide that excellent pot-luck.

The PEI Jewish Community was pleased to have the opera, *The Emperor of Atlantis* and the related art exhibits *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* and *Drawings by Helga Weissova Hoskova* presented at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown on November 17th.

The community Chanukah party was held on Sunday, December 13th at the Dunstaffnage Heights Community Room. Our thanks to all those whose efforts made it a success.

Last but not least, congratulations are extended to **Dr. Edward & Irene Kassner** on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated in October. Mazel Tov!



Dr. Joe Naylor addressing the AJC Bi-Annual convention, December 1998

Park Recognizes Jewish Contribution to Moncton: Monctonian was on UN committee that recommended creation of Israel

by Frank Carroll

Reprinted from the Moncton Times & Transcript

Few Monctonians realize it, but their city has a unique bond with the state of Israel.

Moncton native and Supreme Court Justice **Ivan Rand** was actually involved in the creation of the modern state of Israel 50 years ago.

Best known as the author of the Rand Formula for union security, the judge was appointed by the United Nations to an international committee which examined the prospect of partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab entities.

In recommending partition, Rand and his fellow commissioners made way for the birth of a nation. Fifty years later, the city of Moncton has made another connection with that monumental event.

City council has given the name 'Israel Park' to the area located on the south side of St. George Street between Lewis Street and Steadman Street.

While the naming coincided with Israel's 50th anniversary, the gesture is equally a recognition of many contributions that the city's Jewish community has made to the city of Moncton.

Jewish settlement in the Moncton area can be traced back to the 1700s. However, many of the Jews who now live in Moncton are the descendants of 22 Lithuanian families that immigrated to the city near the turn of the century.

The population grew steadily until it was large enough to

support the construction of a synagogue in 1926.

With a current population of about 250 people, the Jewish community has had an influence on Moncton life far out of proportion with its small size. Serving in many branches of professional life, the community also provided Moncton with its only Jewish mayor, **Michael Baig**, who held office from 1957 to 1961.

At a special ceremony held at the Capitol Theatre to mark Israel's 50th anniversary, **Mayor Brian Murphy** recognized the Jewish community for the impact it has had on life in Moncton.

"Moncton is much better for the unselfish acts of our Jewish citizens," said Murphy. "They have contributed enormously to our business community, to academia, to the practice of medicine and the compassionate caring of our sick, the legal profession and the judiciary, to the cultural community as well as being leaders in our political and spiritual lives."

For their part, Jewish Monctonians were touched by both the city's recognition of Israel and its tribute to their community.

"It's something you feel from the heart. It's hard to put in words. It's a very overwhelming feeling," said **Linda Coleman**, a member of the board of directors of the Tiferes (Crown of) Israel Synagogue in Moncton.

David Attis, president of the synagogue's board of directors, said the gesture goes a long way toward recognizing the cultural diversity of Moncton. "It's a sense of belonging to the community when something like this happens, when community decides to honour an ethnic group in such a way."

Eulogy for Herman Newman

by Rabbi David Bagley

Editor's note: On Sunday, October 18, 1998, Herman Newman passed away at his home in Toronto. He was in the forefront of Holocaust education in Atlantic Canada for many years. Traveling throughout our region at his own expense, Herman brought the message of the Shoah to hundreds of schools and service organizations. He will be missed by all who knew and admired him. To perpetuate his memory, with the permission of his family, the AJC has created the Herman Newman Holocaust Education Fund. See information on this page

In Psalm 23 King David speaks of the rod and staff. The rod is a means for a person to rely on and to use it at all times as an aid to walking and an aid to support. While the rod is used to strike, to smite, to hurt and to inflict pain, there are two types of survivors from the concentration camps and both expressed their reaction to the rod which G-d used to smite and inflict pain on Jewish inmates in the concentration camps. One is the individual who, as a result of what they had seen and all of the suffering, turned against G-d, dismissed G-d as an aid to life and survival. These are the people who turned totally away from Judaism and do not as much as observe Yom Kippur while others, in appreciation used every means possible to strengthen faith and love of G-d. **Herman Newman** relied on the staff of G-d. He was a believing Jew, fully committed to his Jewish roots and



heritage. The rod with which he was struck was converted into a positive outlook on life and the future of the world.

Herman Newman married a devoted, dedicated and totally committed Jewish soul, **Anna**. They had three sons. He reaffirmed his faith in the future. He was not bitter but rather showed an unbelievable determination to live and to contribute to this world with love and righteousness. He was ever grateful to G-d for having survived. He was ever grateful for his beautiful life, for his wife and his family. He loved the Jewish community of Halifax and the many friends amassed during the years of his sojourn in Halifax.

He came to Beth Radom Congregation in Toronto not knowing anyone and yet applying his infectious smile, he managed to draw strangers so close to himself, the feeling was that he was a member of our family. We loved Herman and we do love Anna. We miss his smile as well as his soft spoken word. He spread the word of kindness and love whenever he addressed different schools in bringing the message of the Holocaust to their hearts via their ears. As he used to say "if you touch me you have been touched by the Holocaust".

During his sickness, Anna and their sons and daughters-in-law, but particularly Anna, proved to be towers of strength, towers of hope and of salvation. She was forever with Herman, never leaving him for one minute because she loved him so very much.

Herman was truly the description of Psalm 15 - the image of a mensch. Nobody can replace Herman. We do, however, thank G-d for giving us the rare opportunity to be in the company of a true human being and to be touched by his rare gentleness, gentility and refinement. May his soul rest in peace. When he came there was no light. When he died there was no darkness.

THE HERMAN NEWMAN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

Has been created to better enable the Atlantic Jewish Council to promote and instill the significance of the Holocaust throughout Atlantic Canada. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations over \$10. Visa accepted. Contributions can be sent to:

The Herman Newman Holocaust Education Fund

c/o The Atlantic Jewish Council

5675 Spring Garden Road, Suite 800

Halifax, NS B3J 1H1

The AJC would like to acknowledge as a founding patron a donation of \$2,500.00 from **White Burgess Langille Inman Chartered Accountants.**

Remembrance Day Commemorated in Moncton

by Mendel Greenblatt

The annual Remembrance Day service of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada was observed in Moncton this past November.

Members and associate members who were present were given *aliyoth* at the synagogue on the sabbath preceding Armistice Day, November 7th.

As we have no rabbi at present, a short address followed by the 23rd Psalm in Hebrew was given by **Mr. Mendel Greenblatt**, local commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada at the cenotaph

Ellie Marshall says Good-bye Saturday, October 31, 1998 - "Lech L'Cha"

with introduction by Raymond Goldman

A precedent was established at our *shabbos* service this day. The entire Sydney Congregation, Temple Sons of Israel, came out in full force to pray with us in our Orthodox *Halacha* tradition. No deviations, the women sat segregated from the men and observed and listened to our "Bay bye trained Cantors," and they were in for a treat (not a Halloween one).



Although Sydney is only 12 miles from Glace Bay, many of the Temple congregants have never been inside our old, historic Shul (97 years old), especially on a *shabbos*. However, they will remember this special day for many years to come.

Isaac Ein started the service with the preliminary section of *Shacharis* in his normal, intense,

experienced custom. Archie Shore continued with *Shacharis*, in his unique, emotional, sonorous creation. Ellie Marshall recited the *Maftir* and continued with *Musaf* service as has done many times before with his profound, enthusiastic smoothness.

This *shabbos* we came together to honour, pay our respects and admiration to our President of many year, Ellie Marshall. Ellie and Helen, his wife, are leaving us for their new domicile in Ottawa. It's only logical that they spend time with, and enjoy their children and grandchildren.

David Ein, our new Chairman of Congregation Sons of Israel, presented Ellie with a going away gift. What could be more appropriate than a *Tallis*? Fanny Cohen, President of the Ladies Aid for many years, also an immediate neighbour of the Marshalls up to this time, presented Helen with a parting gift. Fanny's remarks to both were so sincere and emotional that only the boldest of the strong refrained from keeping their tears back.

So, today is our "Chief's" last *shabbos* with us. It's most difficult to say good-bye in any language. We leave it to his farewell illustrious speech:

On winding down the High Holidays this year, it produced in me, certain thoughts on why do we pray? Under our great struggle here, why do we try our darndest to get a *minyan* on *shabbos*? Keep up the High Holidays? Why do I try to give a *Divra Torah* when I can, for what its worth. *Me'Shuras* implies a great inner devotion to do what is right, *Lifni'im HaDin*...

My dear friends and congregants:

For me, leaving Cape Breton is a difficult task; I really don't know how. Leaving Glace Bay is impossible, but leaving this Shul is unimaginable, unthinkable.

You honoured me three years ago with a big banquet; you honoured me at our annual Congregation meeting, making me President in absentia, for the life of the Congregation, and now, you are doing it again, having this 'going away' *kiddush* for Helen and me. Who gets treatment like this in any community? in Toronto? Montreal? Maybe, but as far as I'm concerned, during my tenure as vice-president and then, the last ten years as President - I learned many things from many people. I would never have gotten that opportunity, that experience, anywhere else, and it's because I had a wonderful Congregation, a wonderful community and a wonderful guidance and that's priceless - so, I should be thanking this community because the rewards were mine.

I learned bits and pieces, delivered speeches at various seminars, different occasions, and tried to give sermons of sorts, from reading books, from stories, from other people, picking up quotes from scholars, and from our Sages. Mind you, as Marshall McLuhan once said "I don't always agree with everything I say" - but I learned, and I tried to improve as I went along.

If I had my wish, I would wrap up this Shul, and all the members of this community, take them with us to Ottawa and continue there. But that isn't possible, so the alternative is "WE'LL BE BACK" as Gen. McArthur said, and I will be back, and often, and as our good friend Irving Schwartz says "I GUARANTEE IT!"

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to express some thoughts about my Executive. We clicked very well. We've had - I would not call them disputes - discussions, counter-discussions, debates on various issues and concerns, but they always worked out with a positive note, to the advantage of the Congregation and the Shul - and I am glad that I can make that statement.

David Ein, my Vice-President, my financial director, my legal advisor - the title of Vice-President doesn't even touch the numerous duties entailed within that capacity. He took over from me the chairmanship of the UJA, the JNF, Israel Bonds, when I was Vice-President and then President. I didn't have to deal with the detailed activity of the financial business regarding the Congregation. Mind you, I was fortunate in that I married a very capable, task-oriented, bookkeeper, accountant, who helped the financial department of the Congregation at that time, and took that task off my hands. But DAVID oversees that large role in running a Congregation.

Ray Goldman, my secretary. A "Late Bloomer" not because the ability wasn't there; it was because he was too shy to come forward. I recognized this and when he saw that he was needed, when I approached him, he immediately responded. But here's the thing about RAYMOND: not only did he fulfill his duties as secretary with gusto and conscientiousness, but with a shortage of persons to help lead the services in Shul, he volunteered. And as every one of our regular Shul-goers will attest to, he worked diligently at it and improved tremendously. His minutes not only cover the business of the Congregation, but vigorously detail the ongoing history of our Shul, that can be instantly and lastingly recorded word for word in any Jewish historical society.

Continued on page 25

Marcia Koven Retires from Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Joel Jacobson

Marcia Koven is going to find it hard to slow down, but the recently retired founder and long-time major domo of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will manage - for a little while.

"There are lots of projects that need volunteers," she said during a rare idle hour.

Mrs. Koven, 72, spent the last 15 years developing the Museum into one that is respected in the Atlantic region and across Canada. Located in a building adjacent to Congregation Shaarei Zedek, the museum has attracted thousands

of visitors from as far as Australia and Israel.

"I never expected it would blossom into this when I started a private collection and oral interviews of the history of our community," she said.

"I had just graduated (at age 55) from University of New Brunswick at Saint John as a mature student and wondered what I wanted to do. With a major in sociology and a keen interest in history, I rented an office so I'd have somewhere to go.

"Within a year or so, I found space for a museum in the Saint John Jewish Community Centre next to the shul. We had two rooms in the basement, a \$1,000 grant, some display cases from the New Brunswick government, and a government display person who gave us a very professional look. It just took off."

Now the entire three floors of the centre are used for the museum. The basement has displays, an office and the shul's mikveh. The first floor contains classrooms, a chapel and a summer art gallery. The top floor is a library for reading and research and an archives, one of only seven professional Jewish archives in Canada and the only one in the Atlantic Provinces.

Curator **Catherine Biggs-Craft** is the only full-time staff person. She joined the museum in 1986 and admits Mrs. Koven "has been quite an influence on me. I had never met a Jewish person until I came here but I've learned about the culture, way of life, and similarities to other religions and cultures. Marcia stressed education to

everyone to eliminate discrimination."

Ms. Biggs-Craft said class groups are constantly touring the museum with many teachers bringing their classes back year after year. The Museum has prepared educational kits on Jewish holidays, the Holocaust and Jewish life cycle that are in constant distribution to schools in New Brunswick.

"Catherine came to work for me from a class we were taking together at UNB-SJ," said Mrs. Koven. "Otherwise,

we hire summer students on government grants, and, ironically, only two or three over the years have been Jewish. Some, like, Catherine, had never met a Jewish person, but within a week of training, can answer any question people throw at them."

Saint John's rich Jewish history traces from the mid-1750s through a period of high population in the 1920s to 1960s when it started to dwindle.

Mrs. Koven is thrilled everything at the museum is on microfilm at the provincial archives in Fredericton so nothing will ever be lost.

"We've shared our expertise with museums across the country. One display prepared by one of our

students, which is now in Moncton, has been at the York-Sunbury Museum in Fredericton and will be shown in the Beth Tzedek Museum in Toronto."

Mrs. Koven was honored at a recent Kiddush following Shabbat services. "I knew there was a kiddush but when I saw what they had done, I was overwhelmed."

Presentations were made by former Saint John Mayor **Elsie Wayne**, now the deputy leader of the federal Progressive Conservative party, by the provincial government, and the Sharrei Zedek sisterhood and congregation.

"I was given a caricature by cartoonist **Josh Beutel** that was absolutely magnificent," she said.

Mrs. Koven graduated as a registered nurse but remained at home to bring up her four children. "I took hobby courses, art, sewing, public speaking, belly dancing, motor mechanics, yoga, and eventually thought 'enough of this. It's better to go to university.' "The museum was my whole life - morning, noon and night. I even kept paper and pencil by the bed because I would always awaken, thinking of ideas."



*Victor Goldberg presents Marcia Koven with a certificate of recognition
Bi Annual convention 1998*

Teri Levine appointed Executive Director of Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

Helena Jockel keynote speaker for Human Rights Day

by Joel Jacobson

More than 200 men, women and children in a Halifax audience sat in quiet awe as Holocaust survivor **Helena Jockel** told her story.

More than a few people wiped tears from their eyes as she told of the horrors she and so many others experienced in her year of incarceration at Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps between 1944 and 1945.

When she concluded her speech, the audience at Dalhousie University's Student Union Building rose in tribute to her courage, both in survival and speaking out.

Mrs. Jockel, who came to Halifax 10 years ago, was the keynote speaker during celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With her voice breaking, yet strong, she urged the young people in the audience to "Please, please, please be good to each other, help each other.

"This world is your world. Please make it a nice and happy world for everybody, no matter what his religion, colour of his skin, sexual orientation, or if he is damaged by nature or accident. We have to fight for good and for human dignity."

Speeches, dramatic presentations, songs and the first Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission journalism awards highlighted the two-hour session.

Mrs. Jockel, born in Czechoslovakia, and resident of Hungary during the war, was taken to the camp during German occupation. A university graduate and teacher, she

spent three weeks in an open ghetto with no shelter and little food and water. Transferred by cattle car to Auschwitz, she survived through what she termed "a humiliating experience."

Mrs. Jockel said the Germans, realizing the war was lost and wanting to destroy any witnesses, loaded everyone into cattle cars in January 1945 and sent them to four other camps. "I don't have the strength today to describe the suffering there until the time we were liberated. Maybe another place, another time."

Halifax Jewish university student **Lauren Abrahams** thanked Mrs. Jockel and reminded the students in the audience that "Human rights abuses still go on. It's up to all of us but especially you leaders of tomorrow to end these atrocities. "You can stand up when you see someone being picked on because of differences in their appearance or religion or race. It's up to you to build a better tomorrow."

The event also featured a presentation by **Voices**, an African-Canadian theatre and music group, which offered a brief history of black life and struggles in Nova Scotia.

Human Rights Day was sponsored by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canadian Heritage, Human Resources Development Canada, Atlantic Jewish Council, Dalhousie University Public Administration Student's Society, Cultural Awareness Youth Group of Nova Scotia and Scotiabank.



Helena Jockel speaks at Dalhousie University for Human Rights Day

The Divergent Attitudes of Chanukah

by Rabbi Elihu Milder, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

When we look at the origin of the holiday of Chanukah in the early literary sources, we are met by two divergent attitudes. On the one hand, the books of the Macabees emphasize the heroic quality of the military figure Judah Macabee and knows nothing of the miracle of the oil. On the other, the Talmud looks to the miracle as embodying the essence of the holiday and scarcely refers to the military prowess of the Judean fighters.

Why the divergence between these two sources? The books of the Macabees, although composed originally in Hebrew, were preserved and primarily studied in the Greek non-Jewish world. The Talmudic sections dealing with Chanukah, along with the rest of the Talmud, was studied almost exclusively by Jews. It was written at a time following the destruction of the

Temple in 70 CE and after the abortive Bar Kochba revolt in 130 CE; the Rabbis rightly understood the danger posed by glorifying the military exploits of Judah and his followers. It would have had the effect of stirring the ever smoldering desire of the Jews to rebel against their Roman masters, which would have resulted in the complete and utter destruction of Jewish life.

In their wisdom, our sages left it to the modern era for Jews to reclaim Judah Macabee as our ancient military hero. With the rise of the State of Israel and our appreciation of the bravery of its fighting force, Jews can now, with no danger, look back in time to the second century BCE and again marvel at the heroism of Judah and his small band of followers as they battle for religious freedom against the powerful Syrian-Greek forces.

From Around



MOL alumni at Dignity Day Program in Halifax, November 1998. L-R: Lauren Abrahams, Debra Freeman, Sarah Barkow, Aaron Ginsberg



AJC President Victor Goldberg looks on as the Kinleys light the menorah at the annual Lieutenant Governor's Chanukah Party, Halifax, December 1998



"It's a Small World!" Lieutenant Governor's Chanukah Party, December 1998



Chanukah sing-along at Bi-annual Convention, December 1998



"I'm King of the World!" Mark Rosen, Israel, November 1998.



Having a blast at the General Assembly in Jerusalem, November 1998. L-R: UIA Federations President Harvey Wolfe, AJC President Victor Goldberg, UIA Federations Executive Vice-President Steve Ain, AJC Vice-President and UJA Co-chair Mark Rosen

The Region



Canada Trust representatives present The AJC Bequest & Endowment Fund with \$214,376.96 from the Rebecca Cohn Trust. L-R: Heather Ferguson, Trust officer; Michael Murphy, Canada Trust Executive; Jack Prince, Chair of the B&E fund; Victor Goldberg, President of AJC; Jim Spatz, Co-chair of B & E Fund



Halifax's Hedda Medjuck sings up a storm at the Canada Reception, Jerusalem, November 1998



Attentive audience at Bi-annual Convention, December 1998



AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg presents Moncton's Sarah Gorber with a Community Service Award. Victor Goldberg and Francis Weil look on, December 1998



Wayne Nathanson, on behalf of his father Nardy, accepting a community award from Dorothy Riteman and AJC President Victor Goldberg, December 1998



Marjorie Blankstein, CM, Chair of UIA Partnership 2000, receiving thanks from AJC Past President Larry Freeman at AJC Bi-Annual Convention. December 1998

Highlights from 11th Bi-Annual Convention as covered by the Fredericton Daily Gleaner December 1998

Jewish community told it can accomplish anything

By Tracey Cole
for The Daily Gleaner

A Brooklyn, N.Y., Rabbi believes that a Jewish community can accomplish anything even if they're in the minority. "Just because you're in the minority and you're Jewish doesn't mean that you can't set goals and accomplish them," said Rabbi Edgar Gluck. We're able to get involved in government and change things."

Gluck, an Orthodox Jew, has traveled trying to educate and foster understanding of Jewish traditions and beliefs among non-Jewish people. Gluck has been with the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad since 1984. He has traveled extensively throughout Poland to assess the condition of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries to rebuild or stop their desecration. He spends 7 to 10 days a year rebuilding desecrated grave sites and catering to the needs of local Jewish people. He just came back from a similar mission to Kaliningrad, Russia formerly Koenigsberg, Germany. That trip uncovered 2,500 Jewish people no one knew existed. Because of the Holocaust, they knew nothing of their heritage. He also extracted a promise from a Russian governor that no more Jewish graves would be desecrated in his state.

He added the governor went on national television with a promise that no anti-Semitism would be permitted in his state while he was governor. Gluck has also done a great deal in the U.S. to create sympathy for Jewish beliefs in law enforcement. He was part of an effort to prevent autopsies from being performed on Jewish people unless a homicide or unexplained death has taken place. Autopsies are contrary to Judaism. His volunteer positions include Statewide Coordinator for Hatzolah Emergency Volunteer Ambulance Corps.; Chairman of the Rabbinical Police Liaison Committee of New York City; Chairman of Maimonides Medical Centre inpatient advisory committee; and board of directors 66 precinct council. In 1984,

he received the U.S. Presidential Award for Community Service. Gluck is also official chaplain for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Because of his position with the port authority, he was asked by New York Governor George Pataki to come to Nova Scotia to work with the Jewish families of victims of Swiss Air Flight 111. He said members of Halifax's Jewish community, through the Atlantic Jewish Council, reached out to the people he was working with and gave them someone else to lean on. Members of the ladies auxiliary cooked Kosher food and took people to the synagogue around the clock. "I don't have enough words to praise their efforts," Gluck said. Gluck also got to know Jon and Victor Goldberg of the Atlantic Jewish Council. The brothers are Executive Director and President of the Council respectively. They asked him to give the keynote address at the Council's 11th bi-annual convention being held here in Fredericton this weekend. He spoke to delegates from all four Atlantic provinces about Judaism in the 21st century at the gala Shabbat dinner Friday night. "It's not a plain conference. I'm coming to acknowledge the wonderful work they've done," Gluck said the afternoon before his speech. He could not be interviewed on Friday night because Jews celebrate their Sabbath from Friday night to Saturday night. The council is the umbrella organization for the Jewish community in Atlantic Canada. It is also an affiliate of the Canadian Jewish Congress which acts on behalf of Canadian Jewry on a national scale. Approximately 2,800 Jews live in Atlantic Canada, 1,600 of them in Halifax. Fredericton has about 80 Jews and this weekend marks the first time they have played host to the council's convention.

Gluck said the fact Fredericton was chosen proves it is on the map among members of the Jewish community. He feels more small Jewish communities like the one in Fredericton are identifying more with the synagogue and are starting to realize and recognize what their background is. "It shows a rebirth of the Jewish faith," Gluck said, adding that the Jewish faith is on the decline in many areas. "It is suffering but, at the same time, it's having a very large comeback in places like Fredericton and I wish them all the luck in the world," he said.

Expose racism says Jewish Congress

Law and public scrutiny are best weapons against hatemongers

by Tracey Cole
for The Daily Gleaner

Canadians, especially Jewish Canadians can't ignore racism and hope it goes away, said two advocates for the Canadian Jewish Congress. Eric Vernon and Bernie Farber were in Fredericton this weekend for the 11th biannual convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council. "You've got to shine the light into the dark corners. Nasty things happen there if you don't," said Vernon, director of the Canadian Jewish Congress's advocacy centre. Vernon and Farber, executive director of the congress's Ontario region office, were part of a workshop panel at the convention which discussed Jews in the news. They said people often ignore anti-Semitism, hoping they'll go away if they don't attract enough attention. However, history, through the Holocaust, has proven

they grow stronger.

"Our view is that the state has a responsibility to protect and support its citizens from hate," Farber said, adding the Canadian Jewish Congress fully supports the use of Canada's hate laws. He said most Canadians don't support hatemongers and when racists are forced to defend their views in the public eye, they become more ingrained as despicable human beings. "If this is the reputation the man wants, he's welcome to it," Farber said. Farber said Canadians also have to push to have Nazi war criminals prosecuted. He said that people shouldn't push war crimes aside as unimportant because they happened 50 years ago on the other side of the world. "We don't forget about such horrendous crimes," he said.

Continued on page 31

Terezin Project comes to Atlantic Canada

by Joel Jacobson

Jo Stern wasn't going to let this project be hindered by the perceived small size of Halifax. "When I heard about the opera *The Emperor of Atlantis*, and how **Viktor Ullman** composed it while incarcerated in a concentration camp, and then how it was smuggled out, I wanted to present it here," she told a small gathering at Beth Israel Synagogue's Breakfast Club.

The opera was presented at Dalhousie University November 11, 12 and 14, with Symphony Nova Scotia conductor emeritus **Georg Tintner** conducting and former University of Ottawa theatre program head **Tibor Egervari** directing.

But Stern and her committee of half a dozen enthusiasts did not stop there. They have assembled an extended art, lecture, cinema and video series tying in works from the camp at Terezin and Eastern Europe. "Terezin had a flourishing artist and music community," said Ms. Stern. "The artists in the group worked on German mapping and planning by day but at night, scrounged whatever materials they could and depicted life in the camp. These works, by children and adults, were smuggled out and will be shown here."

Art exhibits have been held since September 12, while films were shown starting October 16. Lecturers have included (eds: they appeared Nov. 8, 9, 10) author **James Young** on the Uncanny Arts of Holocaust Memory, **Sybil Milton**, former senior historian with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, **Michaela Hajkova**, curator of painting and graphic collections of the Jewish Museum in Prague and **Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer**, professor of French and Linguistics at Carleton University and music critic for *Le Droit* (Ottawa).

At the community gathering in Halifax, Mr. Egervari said the production of *The Emperor* is a new production, done from scratch in Halifax. The six-person cast is from Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Germany. **Blaine Hendsbee** and **Heidi Maegerlein**, were trained at Dalhousie and Acadia Universities, respectively.

The Emperor of Atlantis was presented in Ottawa two years ago. Mr. Egervari saw it in Ottawa, later attended a conference in Munich on Art and The Shoah, and determined to direct the opera.

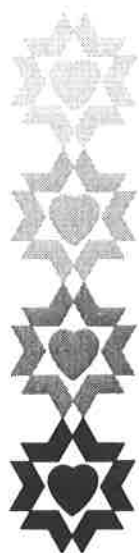
"I want to remind people, harshly, of the surrounding conditions, barbed wire, explosions. But we want to make sure this work is presented as a work of art."

He emphasized Ullman's effort, and that of other artists and musicians, were acts of courage. "They affirmed themselves as performing artists under terrible conditions. The only way they could resist (the Germans) was to do what they normally do. They fought with their violins, and singing, and brushes. They had no guns."

The Emperor of Atlantis was also presented in Wolfville and Antigonish, N.S., Fredericton, N.B., and Charlottetown, P.E.I. Ms. Stern said the project took nine months to assemble "but it should have taken two years. It was hard work but we had lots of help. And the community response so far has been great."

Among the sponsors are Atlantic Jewish Council, Atlantic Centre for Human Rights, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canada Council for the Arts, Nova Scotia Arts Council, Canadian Heritage, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Salter Street Films, Symphony Nova Scotia, and The Friends of Bernie Vigod.

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Claims Conference Goodwill Fund Deadline Extended to February 28, 1999

Individuals who failed to register claims for restitution of Jewish property in the former East Germany by the December 31, 1992 German Government deadline may apply to the Claims Conference Goodwill Fund.

The Claims Conference Goodwill Fund shares net proceeds from the recovery of properties which it obtained as the legal successor to unclaimed Jewish property.

Applications to the Goodwill Fund will be accepted through February 28, 1999. Please write to the address below, indicating:

- The address of the property
- The name of the original property owner
- Your relationship to the original owner
- Your name and mailing address

Claims Conference Successor Organization Goodwill Fund
Sophienstrasse 26
60487 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

To aid applicants who do not have complete information, the Claims Conference is establishing a Department for Property Identification. If you believe that you or your relatives may have owned Jewish property in the former East Germany, please include as much information as possible in your application and the Department will endeavor to identify such property. Please write by February 28, 1999 to Mr. Peter Heuss, Department for Property Identification, at the above address. There will be no charge for this service.

A letter to the Halifax Jewish Community about Messianic Outreach

by Alice Frost

To: Shaar Shalom, Beth Israel, Shalom Magazine:

I heard a member of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax went to a service at the Ner Tamid church in the same city (they misleadingly call themselves a synagogue), and was thrilled with the warm welcome. I know two children of Holocaust survivors who are associated with Ner Tamid and are raising their children to believe Yeshua (Hebrew for Jesus) is their messiah.

Ner Tamid's pastor, **Ian Solomon**, pretends to be a rabbi. His wife tried to present herself as a Jewish chaplain to the grieving families of the Swiss Air tragedy at Peggy's Cove.

When will Solomon and his followers show up in my child's classroom and explain how Chanukah is related to Jesus, and the three Passover matzos represent the Trinity?

Jews for Jesus recently toured Maritime churches to tell Christians that they are the 'real' Jews. They also taught Christians how to convert us by learning more about Judaism, befriending Jews and then telling us we can still be Jewish and believe in Jesus. They target the lonely, elderly, intermarried, unaffiliated and young single adults.

A Christian befriended me claiming to be curious about Judaism. When I finally cornered him he exclaimed, "But Alice, you can still pray to HaShem, believe in Rabbi Jesus and keep your Jewish culture. I love you like a sister."

Lubavitcher rabbi, **Mendel Feldman**, is getting more and

In reply

Dear Alice,

I am glad to see that you are taking the initiative in raising a concern about Christian missionary groups within our community. Indeed, with the Messianic "synagogue" in our midst, there is the possibility of much misrepresentation of Judaism taking place.

As contemptible as the tactics of these proselytizing groups are, however, they point to a deficiency within our own community. These people act only toward marginal and uninformed Jews. They know that it is no use to work on those informed and knowledgeable of our faith, tradition and history.

The fact that they bother with the Halifax area to conduct their missions shows that, unfortunately, we are, for them, a potentially worthy target for their efforts.

I would suggest to you that our Jewish community's response to missionary activities should be twofold. First of all, we should use every forum—the media, print, public lectures—to see that the general public is extensively informed about Judaism. There was a time when the Jewish community kept to itself and watched after its own affairs. It is no longer necessary or desirable to do so. There is a widespread interest today in matters Jewish, and we should seize the opportunity to make ourselves known on a whole range of issues.

Then there must also be a commitment to improving the standards of Jewish knowledge within our own community. As we

more calls from Christians wanting to buy prayer shawls. The Atlantic Jewish Council has increasing numbers of Christians asking to borrow Torahs, and attend services and seders. Are we aiding and abetting Christian missionaries to our people?

Solomon attends the Shaar's Yom HaShoah service and buys ritual items at the Beth Israel Synagogue's Chanukah fair. Aren't we giving him access to our members and credibility among both Christians and Jews?

"Pharisaic foolishness," snapped Elmsdale's United Church pastor when **Jon Goldberg** protested about Solomon speaking at his church. How many leaders of Christian churches support efforts like Solomon's to redefine Judaism and convert Jews to Christianity?

Six hundred fundamentalist Protestant evangelical groups spend 200 million a year to infiltrate and convert us, and according to the counter-missionary group, Jews for Judaism, they're succeeding.

More and more Christians we come in contact with are being taught to charm, disarm and convert us. Most Jews convert under the influence of a Christian 'friend.'

Do you know why Jews don't believe in Jesus? If you can't answer this question, you may be vulnerable to the new Christian missionary tactics.

I'm concerned.

Alice Frost, Member of Beth Israel Synagogue

discussed once, when our students have only a Bar Mitzvah education (which, as the saying goes, usually is more concerned about the bar than the mitzvah), they end their learning at a crucial point when they should be discovering the foundations of their religion.

But we rabbis have always complained of this deficiency—to no avail. My suggestion to you is apropos of our season, the time of the Maccabees. This was when a small band of Jews got together and insisted on standing up for their tradition. I call upon you to do the same..

You should assemble a handful of parents, with similar concerns about the missionary threat to their children. You should get together and discuss what you would like to see done education-wise within the community for our children.

It is imperative, in my opinion, for the initiative to come from the grassroots. It is difficult for the impetus to be created from above, from pulpit pronouncements or community-wide actions. If you show there to be a ground-level concern, then it would be proper for the synagogues, the rabbis, the teachers and the AJC to show their support. But without a consensus of concern on the part of you parents, it is difficult for us to effect anything.

So I wish you success in your efforts to raise the issue. Take your inspiration from the examples of the Maccabees, and you will fight a battle for our heritage in our days, in our time.

Rabbi David Ellis

Fredericton News
Sgoolai Israel

Sgoolai Israel Synagogue observed and celebrated the month of Tishrei in fine style this year. **Rabbi Yochanan Samuels** davened his first High Holy Days period with us, and did a fine job. He was ably assisted by **Yakov Feig**. And, this year, for the first time, a community Sukkah was erected in Rabbi Samuels' back yard. All kiddushes for Sukkot were held there. Rabbi Samuels said he was quite pleased with the number of people who availed themselves of the sukkah, and said that, in view of possibly larger numbers next year, the community sukkah just might be made "a little larger" to accommodate all comers.

December 13th saw our second annual community Chanukah Party. Last year, more than 90 people attended, and with some new additions to our community we looked for another phenomenal turnout. Look for the full report in this issue of *Shalom*.

Shabbos Vayera, 7 November, a *kiddush* luncheon was given to honour **Harry Levine** on his 80th birthday, the soldiers who had fallen in defense of Canadian freedom, and Rabbi & **Rebbitzin Samuels** on the anniversary of their first year in Fredericton. **Martin Payne** and **Ivan Levine** each spoke about the two living honorees; Harry Levine gave an emotional speech about his history with the shul and thanked all members for this *kiddush* in his honour. Rabbi Samuels spoke of how the assistance of various congregates had helped him and Carol "cross the border" with no difficulty. He mentioned that the care and concern showed in the first weeks of living and working in Fredericton made it easy for him to do his work without worrying about more mundane details. Rabbi Samuels also mentioned that with all the

friendliness shown him and the Rebbitzin, it felt like "good old Southern hospitality" transplanted to Canada. All in all, *Shabbos Vayera* was a family event that will long be remembered by the Sgoolai Israel family. The *kiddush* was catered by members of the Sisterhood: **Edith Levine, Roz Brown, Lil Freeman, Lois Levine, and Linda Payne**.

Rabbi Samuels is not ignoring the educational needs of Sgoolai Israel. The ongoing Torah study class meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. No prior experience is necessary, just an earnest desire to learn and discuss. Other classes offered at the shul are: *Level I Hebrew Crash Course*, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.; *Level II Hebrew Reading Crash Course*, Sundays at 12:00 noon. Both of these courses are sponsored by National Jewish Outreach Programs. *Basics of Judaism*, a series of lecture/question and answer sessions on such aspects of Judaism as Belief in G-d, Prayer, etc., is also held on Sundays at 12:00 noon. *Navigating the Siddur*, questions/answers and readings in the siddur to be able to understand better how services are structured, is held on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. There are no charges for any of the classes. As Rabbi Samuels says: "Learning is like eating chicken soup... It can't hurt."

Shabbat mornings are busy, busy, busy as *Talmud Torah* students and even their parents and friends, join in Junior Congregation. First we daven and then one of our older students leads us through the *Parsha HaShavuah*. After a small snack (*brachot* included) we usually have time for a game or two before joining Rabbi Samuels to help him finish services.

Review: A Fredericton production of *The Emperor of Atlantis* is theatre that is unashamedly about something - The Emperor makes a deal with death

by **Russell Hunt** in Fredericton
for The Telegraph Journal

Somehow, here at the end of the millennium, we've come to expect that theatre will be entertainment, that it won't be about much - and perhaps that it shouldn't be. We expect *Cats*, or *No Sex, Please, We're British*. Even when we produce, and attend, works with agendas and axes to grind, like Brendan Behan's or Bertolt Brecht's plays, we expect them, if they move or amuse us, to do it on a personal level, without bugging us about larger social and moral issues. We tend to think of theatre that's "about something," that wants to change our minds and our souls, as sort of old fashioned, lacking in proper postmodern irony and sophistication. We've also come to expect the arts to stand on their own.

Art that insists on our knowing the circumstances of its production, on our caring about just when and under what odds it was produced, always feels as though it were doing some special pleading or cheating, asking for our good will because the creator was working under such handicaps. But the whole experience offered Monday night at the Centre Communautaire Ste. -Anne in Fredericton by the Terezin Studio Project the production of *The Emperor of Atlantis* and the display of art from the Theresienstadt concentration camp that accompanies it, and the way the company

offers us their work - presents a striking challenge to such ways of thinking and reacting. I have to confess that ordinarily when someone gets up to introduce a theatrical production, and perhaps thank us for attending, I always feel uncomfortable. It seems embarrassing and awkward, an intervention in the clean, aesthetically distanced and ceremonial relation between theatre and audience.

Monday night, however, when Tom Kuttner got up to explain the role of the Atlantic Human Rights Centre and the Friends of **Bernie Vigod** in bringing the production to Fredericton, I didn't feel that. And I felt it even less when, before the house lights went down, Georg Tintner, the conductor, turned to face the audience and explained to us how the opera was written by Viktor Ullman and Petr Kien, prisoners in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. He noted its references to Hitler and to the paradox of Death going on strike because "the emperor" (Hitler) was overworking him, and he told us how it all came out of the experience of a "model concentration camp" where, before the work was ever produced, its creators were carted off to Auschwitz and gassed, two weeks after the last rehearsal.

Continued on page 26

Club Massada News

by Marianne Ferguson

The first meeting of Club Massada for the 1998/99 season was held on Thursday, October 22nd, in the meeting room of the Superstore on Barrington Street. There were 40 members present.

Edith Schneiderman, President, warmly welcomed everyone. In the absence of Naomi Judah, Secretary, the minutes were taken by Ella Morris.

Edith wished a speedy recovery to Bina Funt and Dr. Alfred Gordon and welcome Pinnie Green and Sarah Rose, who were present at the meeting after having been ill.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Betty Arron, who had been a member of Club Massada and condolences were extended to Shoshana Katz who recently lost a sister in Israel, and to Jean Zlatin on the loss of her sister-in-law in Winnipeg.

Congratulations were extended to Ruth & Ralph Garson on the marriage of their daughter, Andrea to Walter MacKinnon, as well as congratulation on the birth of grandchildren to Shirley Burnstein, Joyce & Mort Gordon, and a great-grandchild to Bessie & Max Rinzler.

The Zatzman



Ike & Edith Schneiderman at the Eastern Passage Boondocks with Club Massada, October 29, 1998

Family were given a mazel tov on the Bat Mitzvah of twins, Elana & Renee, as well as to Sophie Sherman on the forthcoming marriage of her brother, Leonard Kirsh, and to Mindy & Boris Jacobson on the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Shira.

Edith congratulated Marianne Ferguson on winning several awards at the Atlantic Winter Fair.

Doreen Gordon is unfortunately unable to continue writing the Massada News for Shalom Magazine. Edith warmly thanked her for the wonderful job she has been doing and announced that Marianne Ferguson will write the news during the coming year. (I hope I will be able to "fill your shoes" adequately, Doreen.)

Rabbi David Ellis was present at the meeting and spoke to us about his travels to the smaller centres of the Maritimes during the summer and fall.



President Edith Schneiderman presents Shirley with a leaf on the Northwood Tree of Life while Beatrice Zemel looks on

A trip to Eastern Passage was discussed and has since taken place. A good time was had by all those who attended. On behalf of all the members, the President wished a Bon Voyage to all the "snowbirds" who will soon be leaving for Florida.

Shirley Burnstein had arranged an interesting program of readings in Yiddish and English by the "Massada Players" - Ella Morris, Edith Schneiderman, Bessie Rinzler, Shirley Burnstein, Mindy Jacobson, and Marianne Ferguson. This seemed to be enjoyed by all.

The next meeting was held November 19th, when Rabbi Elihu Milder, of Shaar Shalom Synagogue was the guest speaker. On December 1st there was a surprise party for Shirley Burnstein on the occasion of her birthday, held at the AJC by Club Massada. We also put a gold leaf on the tree of life at Northwood in her honour.

On December 14th, we were all invited to a Chanukah Luncheon at Northwood and afterwards held our December meeting there. Club Massada presented Northwood with an electric menorah which they will keep in their chapel for use on Chanukah.



Shirley Burnstein and Martha Markus enjoying themselves at the Eastern Passage Boondocks



Are you Being Served? Club Massada at the Eastern Passage Boondocks, October 29, 1998

Edith adjourned the meeting and delicious refreshments were served.

Meanwhile, we also wish a speedy recovery to Ella Morris who has had a fall and was confined to hospital, but we are happy that she is once more at home and recovering.

Congratulations to Marianne & Lawrence Ferguson whose grandson Matthew McKnight has been chosen to be on the fencing team going to the Canada Games which are being held in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland in February.

It is nice to know that there will be two Jewish teenagers from Nova Scotia on the Canada Games this year - Matthew McKnight as well as Sharon Alexander who is on the swim team. congratulations to both of them and to their families.

The NB Internment Camp:

An Important Part of Canadian Jewish History

Few people know that there was a prison camp in New Brunswick during World War II. Fewer still know that the first group of internees held in the Camp were primarily European Jews who had managed to flee from their home countries to Great Britain prior to the outbreak of war in 1939.

By September 1939 Great Britain was housing over 74,000 adult refugees from Germany and Austria, four-fifths of them being Jewish. Churchill, worried that some of these refugees may in fact be spies or saboteurs and that they might assist Axis troops in the event of an invasion, asked the Governments of Canada and Australia to take these people. British police arrested and interned over 27,000 male refugees between the ages of 16 and 60. In June of 1940 they were sent to Canada and Australia.

Canada established a total of 26 Internment Camps across the country. The New Brunswick Internment Camp (also known as the Ripple Internment Camp) was the only one in the Maritime Provinces. The NB Internment Camp, 34 kilometers east of Fredericton, was in total an area of 58 acres on both sides of the Richibucto Road, today's Highway #10. The guards' quarters were located on the opposite side of the road from the prison compound. There were 52 buildings on the site. The prison compound itself covered 15 acres, and was enclosed by five rows of barbed wire and had six watch towers which were manned 24 hours per day, seven days a week and equipped with machine guns.

The first group of Jewish refugee internees arrived in August of 1940 and spent the next 11 months behind barbed wire. This period of the Camp's history is referred to as Phase 1. During Phase 1, the NB Camp held 711 internees. By the early summer of 1941, the government of the UK realized that the Jewish refugees posed no security threat. More importantly, they could contribute to the war against Germany. The internees were released. They were allowed to return to Great Britain or remain in Canada if they could obtain a sponsor who would take responsibility for them.

The camp was then closed for three weeks and enlarged for Phase 2. During this phase, July 1941 to September 1945, the Camp interned captured merchant marines, primarily Germans and Italians as well as Canadians who were suspected of subversive activities. The prisoner population of the NB Camp swelled to between 900 and 1,200 POWs at any given time.

On Sunday, September 2nd, 1945, one day after the end of World War II, the last internees of the Fredericton Internment Camp were taken to one of the Ontario camps. The camp became an instant miniature ghost town. Today the only visible reminder of the Camp's existence is the concrete base which had supported the water tower.

The NB Internment Camp Museum resulted from a school project. **Ed Caissie**, a teacher at the Minto Elementary and Junior

High School was trying to find a constructive education project for 12 at risk students. Ed had become fascinated by the history of the nearby internment camp and suggested to his students that they construct a model of the camp. Construction of the model began in late 1993 and by the time of its completion in the spring of 1994, over 70 students were involved. As word of this project spread through the community, students and local residents began to bring things related to the Internment Camp to the school. Interest in the project spread around the province and the model and related items were taken to 23 sites within NB for display. The students continued to expand the project by visiting the site and collecting some of the demolished items buried by the Military. They also start to record on video and cassette tapes, interviews with people who had memories of the camp. This growing collection of interviews now comprises part of the research collection. The Museum was officially opened to the public on the Sunday, June 22nd, 1997.

On Friday, July 10th, 1998 **Gerald Fry** and his wife, **Shirley Meyer-Fry**, visited the Museum. Mr. Fry was an especially important guest. As a 16 year old Jewish refugee in Great Britain he was deemed a suspect alien and, eventually, sent to the Canadian Internment Camps. After short stays in other camps he was sent to the New Brunswick Camp. He was the first individual to visit who had personal recollections of the Camp from the perspective of an internee.

Initially Gerry worked in the woods harvesting trees needed to fuel the stoves and heat the buildings during the cold New Brunswick winters. This work was physically demanding and unpleasant during the winter. After sustaining an axe injury to his foot, Gerry decided that work on the "honey wagon" would be preferable to working in the woods. The "honey wagon" was a euphemism for cleaning the latrine. The Frys came to Fredericton so Gerry could recount his memories for the museum's video camera. Mr. Fry added to the artifact collection with his generous donation of a cigarette case which had been made by a fellow internee and a 1940's cigarette which he had kept in it.

The museum is most interested in adding to its collection either artifacts or stories associated with the Camp. If you have anything you would care to share, the Museum is located in the lower level of the Minto Municipal Building, 420 Pleasant Drive, Minto, New Brunswick. From September 5th, 1998 to June 1999 the museum is open Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. The mailing address is: PO Box 128, Minto, NB, E0E 1J0. Phone (506) 327-3573 or Fax (506) 327-3041 or (506) 327-6008. E-mail kelmac@nbnet.nb.ca. You can also visit on the village of Minto's website at www.minto.net.

The existence of the NB camp, and the other 25 across the country, was perilously close to being forgotten. To paraphrase the ancient Greek historian, Herodotus, "Those of us who forget our history are doomed to repeat it."



NB Internment Camp Heritage Committee Chair Ed Caissie (left) with former Phase I internee Gerry Fry.

Whitney Pier Festival of Visual Arts

by Evelyn Davis

From September 13th to 21st a Festival of Visual Arts was held in the Whitney Pier section of Sydney, NS. This multi-ethnic community is where many early Jewish settlers to Cape Breton made their home.

According to the Yiddish minutes of 1906, the "Hebrew Congregation of Sydney" was born with **Philip Cohen** as president, **Max Bonavitsky** as Vice-President, **Hyman Brody** Secretary and **Harris Green** Treasurer.

The first task was to find land for a burial ground. Later entries disclose that \$100.00 was paid for the land.

In April of 1913 they applied to the local legislation for a permit to build a house of worship. The building was ready for Rosh Hashana.

At the same time, single men in the community formed a club, the Y.M.H.C. - and in 1915 built their own premises.

The Daughters of Jacob Aid Society was formed in 1912 and the original constitution was displayed.

The minutes were translated by the late **Jack D. Moraff** and **Evelyn Davis** and presented by Evelyn Davis.

The President of the Whitney Pier Historical Society, **Sandra Dunn**, introduced **Martin Chernin**, President of Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney who brought greetings from the congregation and related his family history when they resided in the "Pier."

Harold Davis presented an introduction to the importance of the Sabbath in Jewish life. He was joined the singing of familiar tunes by Jewish persons in the audience.

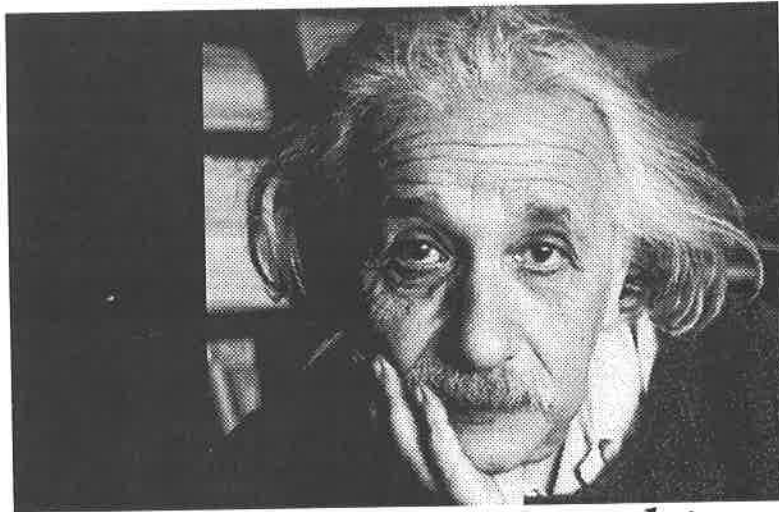
Joe Sherman reminisced about his early years growing up in Whitney Pier. As editor of *Arts Atlantic* he presented some of his earliest poetry, from two of his published books. The audience made inquiries about his parents who were residents for many years, and especially of his father who grew up in Whitney Pier.

Of the 80 Jewish families that once resided in Whitney Pier, only Evelyn & Harold Davis remain.



Evelyn & Harold Davis with Joe Sherman

the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



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Second Annual Sgoolai Israel Chanukah Party

The place: *Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.*

The date and time: *Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 p.m.*

The reason: *Chanukah of course!*

A large crowd of people congregated in the Social Hall of Sgoolai Israel to celebrate the opening night of Chanukah. The entertainment this year was a little different than in the past. Announced by **Rabbi Yochanan Samuels**, the *Mighty Sgoolai Israel Junior Art Players* put on a script reading of *A Candle Lighting Script*, a historical and emotional look at Chanukah, and a modern interpretation of the meaning of the candles. Then, again led by Rabbi Samuels, the *Channukiot* (*menorahs*) were lit by one and all, and delicious dairy dinner was enjoyed by everyone present. The traditional songs were sung, the young (and young-at-heart) played dreidel, and

special "goodie-bags" prepared by **Rhoda Fransblow** were given to all the children present.

A tip of the "Sgoolai Israel hat" to : **Roz Brown, Cheryl Abrams, Rebbetzin Carol Samuels, Carol Airst, Rhoda Fransblow, Ellen Levine, Bobby Brown** (sold raffle tickets), **Miriam Cohen, Marilyn Kaufman.**

This year a raffle was conducted at the Chanukah party. A basket of goods and services from Fredericton businesses was offered as a prize. It was won by a member of the larger Fredericton community, which will make for a merry holiday season for the lucky one.

Ellie Marshall says Good-bye

Saturday, October 31, 1998 - "Lech L'Cha"

Continued from page 13

Syd Lipkus as I have said time and time again, performs the biggest *mitzvah* of all in our Jewish religion - he heads the *BURIAL SOCIETY*, directs the execution of the burial rituals, sees to the workings of it, that it is carried out according *Halachah*. He does it mostly by himself, and he is to be lauded for it.

Three other persons I wish to make some remarks about, and I must mention that they were appointments to my 'cabinet.' Three great ladies - Fanny Cohen, **Shirley Chernin**, and **Jenny Cherun**. Everyone knows my feelings about women - oops, I'd better qualify that remark - that is 'women and Shul' - that's better.

There's a good title for a poem I must consider. While I say this, I remind myself of a great story about that 'Great Lady of Valour' - Golda Meir. Golda Meir was once describe the then Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben Gurion, as "the only man in my cabinet."

As you know, the Ladies Auxiliary do a great job in their line of duty re the Shul and the Talmud Torah, but I'm talking beyond the line of duty: helping us with administration of the Congregation business in various ways. I wish to acknowledge this special function that they have served and heap upon them the greatest praise. It was indeed a pleasure to work with all of them.

And so you see, as President, I just had to administer delicate authority and guide the "ships and Shul." It was a wonderful and comfortable time for me. I enjoyed the experience immensely and I feel privileged to have done what I could for the betterment of the community.

And now, would I dare give a peach and not finish with a poem? Not a chance! Before I recite, there are certain words in the English language that are hard to rhyme, so my title *Our Congregation, Our Crowd* become *Our Cong, Our Crowd*

1. It goes to show, we're very proud
We're always ready to shout out loud,
Glance at things bright, not with rain or cloud,
That tells the story, about our crowd.
2. That's our gang, that's our Cong.,
We try our best to do no wrong.
We may seem weak, but we roll along,
Cause our spirits uplifting, and our prayers strong.
3. Take a look. Get it straight.
No one can tell, foresee our fate.
Of course we have issues on our plat,
But we'll resolve them, before we close the Gate.
4. Believe, believe, its real. It's for certain,
We don't think about the Final Curtain.
And don't ever figure, that it's a factor,
'Cause with our crowd, there's still another chapter!

Review A Fredericton production of *The Emperor of Atlantis* is theatre

Continued from page 21

This is theatre that is unabashedly "about something," and what is particularly powerful is that the whole company the six actor-singers, the dancer, the musicians, and presumably the backstage folks as well are clearly and obviously telling us this story because they think it's an important one, because they want us to "get it," they want us to understand. They want us to understand something otherwise inexpressible perhaps about the resilience of human beings, perhaps about the fact that art is always produced under a sentence of death and in denial of the realities of suffering and injustice all around us. Appropriately, then, as in a Brecht play, the storytelling is right up front; the production invites us to see all the workings, from **Simon Fournier** as "The Loudspeaker" introducing the characters and the story to the way **Susan Dalton**, "the darker," bridges scenes by drifting on stage during a scene to begin the next by tying back the crude salmon-coloured curtains, letting us see the Emperor in his seclusion complaining because the soldiers in his war seem to have some strange sickness, and aren't dying.

The story is presented swiftly and efficiently, in a series of what are almost tableaux. Death goes on strike, the Emperor discovers no one can die and eventually tries to make this a triumph ("Death has been defeated!" he cries, not realizing that, for example, once someone is mortally wounded, death is release; there are things much worse than death). Eventually, and perhaps improbably, the Emperor comes to his senses and decides to make a deal with Death; Death will go back to work but only if the Emperor dies first.

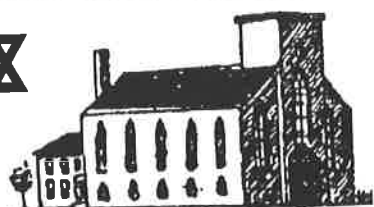
Steven Horst, as the Emperor, has one of the most powerful moments of the opera, as he confronts, in an extended aria, his own death, and the idea of death. The production values - the tacky curtain, the rough-sewn platform on which the action takes place, and the cheap backdrop of the Emperor's throne room revealed when the curtain is tied back - are all those you might expect the denizens of a concentration camp (one full of artists, but nonetheless still a concentration camp) to come up with. They want us to understand something otherwise inexpressible - perhaps about the resilience of human beings, perhaps about the fact that art is always produced under a sentence and in denial of the realities of suffering and injustice all around us. The music is absolutely appropriate. The orchestration is wonderful, with saxophone, banjo, and an electronic keyboard punctuating and "modernizing" the traditional strings, and adding now and again

a whiff of Kurt Weill, a hint of Alban Berg, and rather more of the sort of music we associate with Berlin between the wars - a kind of Cabaret of the concentration camp. Some of the music is utterly lovely, like the duet between **Phoebe MacRae** as the Girl and **Blaine Hendsbee** as the soldier who has just escaped the lures of **Heidi Maegerlein**, the Drummer Girl, celebrating the power of love even in the face of Death. And some of the music will give you chills, like the fleeting parody of Deutschland Ueber Alles, or the last, chilling chorus when the characters appear back on stage, lined up, out of costume and back in their concentration camp clothes, with the yellow Star of David on each chest, and sing the finale welcoming Death.

As much a part of the power of the evening as the opera itself - part of the story we were all being told by the evening - was the stunning display in the lobby of the art produced in the Theresienstadt camp by its children, most of whom died there, or in Auschwitz or other camps. Our experience of the art, like that of the opera - even like the plaintive Viktor Ullman string quartet which began the evening - was completely shaped by what we know about the circumstances under which it was produced. Perhaps the simple pencil drawing of Disgrace, for example (one figure pointing accusingly at another, turning toward us with an expression of uncomprehending terror and despair, drawn with three or four simple lines), wouldn't have seemed so overwhelming if we simply saw it on a wall in a gallery. Or the pictures of how "home" used to look and feel, or the pencil sketch of Fear, might have seemed less resonant in a context where we hadn't all just seen one of the flowers of Theresienstadt produced and thought about art under a sentence of death. (The pictures are available in a book called *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, published in 1978. Check it out at your local library.) And perhaps even the production of the opera itself, if it had been simply broadcast on the Saturday afternoon opera, or presented as part of a set of one-act operas in a commercial opera house, might have seemed less moving, less powerful, less resonant. But I don't think that matters. When someone plucks you by the sleeve in the lobby or at a party, or on the street like the Ancient Mariner, and tells you a story intended to change the way you think and feel, and it does, you don't assess the telling. You say, "thank you."

Russell Hunt is a professor at St. Thomas University in Fredericton.

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Remembrance Day Service Held at Temple Sons of Israel

by Dr. Garson Lecker

Saturday, November 7th, being the nearest *shabbos* to Remembrance Day, a special service was held in the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney. Each ex-serviceman (there are no women personnel) participated in some aspect of the services. With some members from the Glace Bay congregation in attendance there were approximately 60 people present.

Immediately after the Torah reading, a two minute silence ensued to remind us of all the Canadians, men and women alike, who made the supreme sacrifice, or engaged in military endeavors, to preserve our freedom and to protect our Canadian way of life.

Three members of the Sydney Harbour Fortification Society - Fort Petrie, then addressed the Congregation. Fort Petrie was a fortified installation at the entrance to Sydney Harbour for its protection against possible enemy incursion during World War II and the site had been a fortified area off and on for about 200 years. Sydney Harbour was next to

Halifax in importance for the assembly of convoys carrying needed supplies to England. The fort was armed with six inch naval guns, had search lights, an observation tower, and below ground quarters for personnel and storage.

After the war, Fort Petrie was decommissioned and gradually fell into disrepair. In 1990 the Society was formed and after hard negotiations, gained control of the area. Through its efforts, much of the fort has been restored and there are plans for future work on the site. Recently a cairn was erected with plaques for the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada commemorating the role of the fort and honouring the Society and Signal Corps for its preservation. This address brought home to those present, the war effort in their own immediate area, plus the importance of remembering those who fought to ensure Canada's continued existence and freedoms.

A *Kiddush* sponsored by **Edith & Garson Lecker** followed the services.



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by Dr. Michael Steinitz

I was doing what my family enjoyed calling my "streetwalker thing." Haifa has never had much of a problem with terrorists, but like most Israeli towns it had instituted a "Civil Guard," which some wags also called the "old crocks brigade," or worse. This involved some members of the citizenry who would, once each month, voluntarily undertake armed nighttime street patrols in groups of two, under the supervision of the chronically undermanned police. The rate of terrorist attacks was too small to show a measurable difference, but the rate of nighttime burglaries had shown a satisfying decrease - if one ignored the almost equal increase in the rate of daytime burglaries. Among other benefits I got to spend long hours in conversation - with my partner and on the walkie-talkie (known in Hebrew as *HaMotorola*) to the police. At least my fluency improved, if not the delicacy of my language.

My partner that night was an old sea-dog. He had retired from the Israeli Navy at about 65, after a life at sea - at first in the merchant marine, and then in the Israel Defense Forces.

His first question was essentially "where're ya from, kid?" to which I dutifully replied "Nova Scotia" in my best Hebrew, swallowing what little remained of my professorial dignity after my daily encounter with the admittedly bright, but sometimes disconcertingly abrupt and direct Israeli students I was teaching.

"I'll bet I know a place in Nova Scotia you've never been," he then continued. Feeling my pride at stake, I replied "try me!" "Dingwall!" he said.

"My favourite place," I replied honestly, having spent several weekends in this wonderful spot every summer with my wife and children since arriving in Nova Scotia in 1973 from points west. It is an idyllically situated little village a few miles off the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton, with mountains

descending straight into the sea, sandy beaches, the rough North Atlantic, almost no people, and our very favourite motel, which had only four spotless cottages. "But how did you ever get there?" I asked, and thereby hangs the following tale.

In 1948 Israel was invaded by six Arab armies and found itself with very few arms and fewer friends. Among the desperate needs was the need for vehicles, especially Jeeps. But no one would sell the newborn country any Jeeps, for fear of angering the Arab states. Finally, Canada agreed to sell Israel 48 used World War II surplus Jeeps, but under very strict conditions: no one must know of the sale. No one must even be able to see the delivery taking place. Thus the delivery would not be permitted to take place in Halifax, or even in Sydney in Cape Breton, as the risk of someone seeing it taking place would be too great. It would be Dingwall, Nova Scotia or nothing. Take it or leave it, and, of course, as beggars can't be choosers, Israel took it.

At that time my partner was the captain of a small freighter, and it fell upon him to pick up the Jeeps. He was told that he must enter Dingwall harbour through a narrow space in the stone breakwaters at night, without lights, and that he must be at sea before first light in the morning.

"Do you know what *meshuggah* is?" he asked rhetorically. "*Meshuggah* is someone who takes a big ship into Dingwall harbour at night without lights - that's *meshuggah*!" But he got his load of Jeeps, was at sea before morning, "hightailing it for the Med" as he put it and Dingwall had played its part in the history of Israel. It may have been very important.

Postscript: I recently heard from a friend of a friend that "Of course I know about those Jeeps - those were the Jeeps that Moshe Dayan used to take the town of Ramle, on one of the decisive battles of the War of Independence!"



*On behalf of Halifax Regional Council and our citizens,
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members of our Jewish Community.*

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*Walter R. Fitzgerald
Mayor
Halifax Regional Municipality*

Precious Things Come In Small Packages: Some Reflections On Judaism In Small Communities

by Rabbi Saul Aranov, Beth Isreal Congregation, Halifax

Jewish history records the rise and decline of major centres of Jewish activity throughout the ages. Whatever was the plight of great centres was also the destiny of smaller communities. Still, small Jewish communities made a major contribution in social and cultural endeavours. National leaders can and do emerge from small communities.

There is a heroic quality manifested by small communities and their leaders who, with courageous persistence, sustained a minyan, kept kosher, and provided Jewish education for their children. At the recent conference of the Maritime Provinces held in Fredericton, New Brunswick during the first weekend in December, 1998, a number of such devoted leaders were honoured for their many years of Jewish communal service. It is noteworthy that those conferences take place when we read the Biblical book of *Bereshit* (Genesis) which relates the heroic experiences of our Patriarchs and Matriarchs. In our communities we are blessed by Patriarchs and Matriarchs. Among them is our own **Bernard (Nardi) Nathanson** who gave devoted service in two Maritime Provinces, at St. John's, Newfoundland and at Beth Israel in Halifax.

The weekend in Fredericton was also a spiritual lift for the members of that community and their new spiritual leader, **Rabbi Samuels and Mrs. Samuels**. And interesting program of sessions pertaining to international, national and regional Jewish affairs was presented.


In Talmudic times the establishment of academies of Jewish learning in Babylonian communities such as Sura, Pumbedita and Nehardea catapulted them to the centre of Jewish life for almost 1,000 years. This tradition was continued in Spain during the Middle Ages when the Babylonian centres were on the wane. Some Eastern European communities, in the century before the Holocaust, that achieved eminence because academies of Jewish learning were situated in those locales were Radun, Telz, Mir, Slobodka and Pressburg in Hungary. Some Chassidic centres were located in small towns such as Gur, Lubavitch, Satmar and Belz, among others.

All those communities, many of which numbered only a few thousand Jews, were all destroyed in the Holocaust. A surviving remnant was transplanted to Israel and Diaspora communities. Today great numbers of men and women throughout the Jewish world devote themselves to Torah studies so that our cultural continuity was established.

The question is posed why are the small communities not able to attract young spiritual leaders. One answer

appears in the sixth chapter of *Ethics of the Fathers*: "Rabbi Yose son of Kisma once met a person while journeying who offered him a position to serve as the Rabbi of his small community and offered him high wages as an inducement. Rabbi Yose responded that he presently resides in a large community which has many Torah scholars. He would only reside in a community where Torah institutions and personalities abound."

Today, young Rabbis want not only a day school for their children's education, but also the availability of a kosher restaurant. There was a time some decades ago when young Rabbis were willing to serve in smaller communities for four or five years, until their children require a day school. Now is not the heyday for many smaller communities which have become demographically diminished. This is the real situation. That is why the Atlantic Jewish Council was obliged to meet the religious needs of those communities by appointing a chaplain to those communities.



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Hanukkah celebrated at St. Anne's school

by Sharon Montgomery

Reprinted from the Cape Breton Post

Grade 4 students at St. Anne's Elementary School in Glace Bay shared a piece of their teacher's culture Tuesday.

Myron Cohen's students celebrated Hanukkah.

"The kids recognize the fact I am Jewish and celebrate a holiday other than their Christmas," he said.

"They always wish me a Happy Hanukkah and some even bring in a gift." Students always question Cohen on the holiday, so he decided to bring retired New Waterford music teacher **Sylvia Allen** in to celebrate Hanukkah with the children.

"She is one of the best people available to explain to the kids what I want to say about Hanukkah."

December 13 marked the beginning of Hanukkah, the annual eight-day Jewish celebration called the Festival of Lights.

The holiday dates back to 165 B.C.E. when, after three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Syrian tyrant Antiochus, driving the Syrians out of Israel and reclaiming their temple in Jerusalem.

Allen told the students Hanukkah does not have anything to do with Christmas.

"It is just another holiday which sometimes falls in December and sometimes in November.

She said it started 165 years before the birth of Jesus. There was a temple in Israel where Jewish people would go to worship God.

Bad guys invaded the temple, she said. "Judah Maccabee, his brothers and friends formed an army and got rid of the bad guys."

The Jewish people found their temple smashed. There was a light over the altar which burns all the time but they only had enough oil left to burn for one day. It would take a week to get more oil in.

"By a miracle it burned for eight days and from that time on the Jewish people celebrated Hanukkah."

Allen had the children light the candles assisted by **Shirley Chernin** of Glace Bay. They played traditional Hanukkah games and sang songs.

Allen said she can't begin to express how important it is for children to learn about other cultural celebrations such as Hanukkah.

"By accepting other cultures we accept other people."

Allen said any kind of prejudice in the world is based on ignorance.

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Expose racism says Jewish Congress

Law and public scrutiny are best weapons against hate-mongers

Continued from page 18

"Don't be fooled by what they look like today. As young men, they committed terrible crimes against innocent people and should be brought to justice." "It's important to realize it's not revenge and it's not vengeance," Vernon said. "It's justice." Vernon said it's equally important for Jews to work with other ethnic communities and Canadians to promote respect for diversity. He said they have an obligation to deal with being both Jewish and Canadian and should submit briefs on bills regarding issues such as immigration, gun control, child care and health care. He encouraged them to write to their MPs and MLAs about issues they're worried about. "The Canadian Jewish Congress is trying to make a contribution towards

Canadian society — towards a society which is based on values of equality and social justice," Vernon said. "We have a responsibility, given our lengthy history, to teach and to educate." This weekend marked the first time the Atlantic Jewish Council's conference was held in Fredericton, which is home to nearly 200 Jews. About 2,800 Jews live in the Atlantic Provinces, 1,600 of them in Halifax where the council is based. The Atlantic Jewish Council is the affiliate of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Atlantic Canada and the umbrella organization for the region's Jewish community.

Jews want teaching of Holocaust

by Tracey Cole

for The Daily Gleaner

Atlantic Canadian Jews are working to develop a coordinated effort to promote Holocaust education in the region. "In New Brunswick we have a strong section on Holocaust education in the history books," said Israel Unger, dean of science at the University of New Brunswick and a child Holocaust survivor. "The problem is it's not taught." Unger was joined by Larry Riteman of Halifax, a child of a Holocaust

survivor. The two panelists brought their views on a discussion about Holocaust education at the convention. The Atlantic Jewish Council wants to become the main source for educators to access information beyond what's available in textbooks on the Holocaust. "Holocaust education is tied up with anti-Semitism," Unger said and explained those who deny the Holocaust existed are anti-Semitic.

However, many teachers are loath to teach the Holocaust because they don't know much about it.

He said Atlantic Canadian Jews need to write letters to their ministers of education, demanding Holocaust education be included in the curriculum and ensure it's taught. Unger said the council should provide speakers and information for schools, service clubs and university groups. Riteman had suggestions about how the curriculum should be taught. He said teachers should draw parallels to discrimination so students can relate to the concepts. Otherwise, Riteman said, students' reactions to something as sinister and grandiose as the Holocaust "is like slowing down at an accident scene."

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