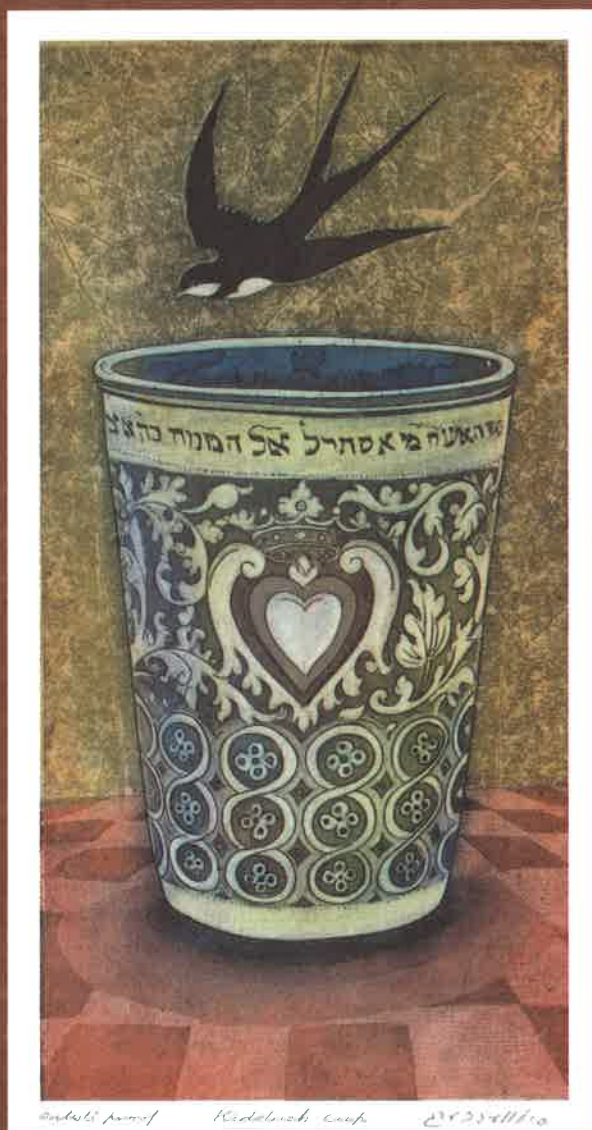


Shalom!

Spring 1999 Vol. 24, No. 2 Aviv 5759

שלום!



"Kiddush Cup and Swallow"

by David Silverberg, B.A., R.C.A., F.R.S.A.

from an original engraving on a steel plate, 4" x 8"

The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation is enriched by the presence of Artist-in-Residence David Silverberg. An internationally acclaimed artist/printmaker, he has had the honour of exhibiting his work in over 200 solo exhibitions in all the major cities of the world.

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- ▶ News from around the region

שְׁלוֹם

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Victor Goldberg



President: Victor Goldberg

The Atlantic Jewish Council
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Supervising Editor:

Jon Goldberg

Assistant Editor

Marie Herschorn

Copy Supervisor:

Marie Herschorn

Contributing Editor:

Yakov Feig

Features:

Joel Jacobson

Design and Layout:

Stuart MacNeil

Printing:

The Printer

We encourage input from our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor, or articles relating to Jewish life in Atlantic Canada.

Address all correspondence to:

Editor, c/o *Shalom*

5675 Spring Garden Road Suite
800

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H1

Tel. (902) 422-7491

Fax (902) 425-3722

Email:

e-mail: jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

Website:

www.theajc.ns.ca

This publication is printed by

The PRINTER
We want to be your printer

Phone: (902) 423-2679

Fax: (902) 422-3706

The unforgettable family moments, nostalgic melodies and delicious but fattening meals of this year's Seders are barely over and I cannot stop thinking of Passover's central theme - emancipation from slavery and freedom for the Jewish people. Although our freedom has been interrupted and our history fraught with tragedy ever since we left Egypt, out of the depths of the Holocaust we managed to reclaim our land of Israel and can today boast a strong and vibrant nation homeland.

Lest no one forget our Six Million, every April we observe Yom Hashoah - Holocaust Memorial Day. We recall our brothers and sisters who were slaughtered in the Death Camps of Europe as the whole world watched with apathy. As the generation of survivors is dwindling, valiant efforts such as **Steven Spielberg's** Shoah project are endeavoring to record individual stories for perpetuity. Movies like "*Life is Beautiful*", a comedic tragedy set in the Holocaust backdrop are consumed by the viewing public and feted by the Academy of Motion Pictures. Reparation and war crimes prosecutions are intensifying. The Atlantic Jewish Council and other groups are bolstering funds for Holocaust education and outreach. In fact, the more we offer the greater the demand by Jew and non-Jew alike.

Yet, while we are drinking our four cups of wine and reading the Passover Haggadah and just as we are planning our biggest and most ecumenical Yom Hashoah ceremony, Yugoslavian strongman, Slobodan Milosevic and his thugs are conducting "ethnic cleansing" of some 1.8 million ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia, even in the face of NATO's bombing campaign. How can it be that barely 50 years after the

worst genocide that this world has ever known, people are ridding themselves of their ethnic foes under the familiar banner of jingoistic nationalism? Unfortunately, despite all the lessons of the past, education and human rights accords, the world has not seen the last of totalitarian despots and ethnic violence.

While admittedly the Jewish Agency extricated most Jews from war-torn Yugoslavia some years ago as part of our covenant to be responsible for one another, we still have a duty borne of the shackles of Egypt and the ashes of Auschwitz to forcibly speak out against and combat the Milosevics of the world and their followers. It is incumbent on Jews to ensure that the fate of our people in World War II is not shared by anyone, anywhere ever again. I urge everyone to do whatever is in their power to encourage NATO and its allies to stop the "ethnic cleansers" in their tracks, to bring the murderers to justice and provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced Kosovars.

One of the principal tenets of Judaism is justice for and in the world. Let us see whether the politicians and public are merely paying lip service to us and themselves in their increased interest in and awareness of the Holocaust. Let us not sit idly by content that we are free and uninvolved. Let us use our political lobby responsibly but firmly to help save others so that basic human rights and dignities are upheld. Only when intolerance and bigotry are totally eradicated will all of us really be safe and free.

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a Happy and Kosher Passover.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

Pesach is over! Now as we hurry to get the latest issue of *Shalom* to the printer, everything is ready to go but my article. I can't procrastinate any longer, yet for some reason, I found it very difficult to sit down and write. Maybe it's because the office has been closed for four weekdays and with so much work piling up, I couldn't concentrate or maybe with my brother as President, I'm a bit leery about duplication. Well, **Victor's** article is in. I didn't read it on purpose although I asked him about his general topic. As much as we argue and disagree, I know that as our parents' sons, there is much we share, both in values and in the goals and objects for this organization.

This year, for the first time in four years, I was in Halifax for Pesach. The past number of years I've spent with my cousin in Fort Lauderdale or with my sister and her family in Allentown, PA. I think now, that part of the reason I went away all those years was to avoid the nostalgia and even a bit of sadness that one feels when you reflect on the Seders of your youth and realize that time has taken so many of your family away. Oh, I enjoy visiting and being with my family in the U.S. but my heart was always in Halifax.

The day before the first Seder I drove by Rosebank Avenue where my grandmother, **Sarah Goldberg** lived. It was a small home but always well kept. Her sons had purchased it in the 1930's and enabled our family to get out of the Lower Water Street cramped quarters that Granny and her seven children had lived in for many years.

Granny Goldberg was always "old". As long as I remembered her, she was matriarchal in a family sense. I really never communicated with her although every now and then she would tell me

stories of her life in Halifax and her family in the old country. However, I always remember Passover for it was the one night – the first Seder – that our entire family squeezed into her living room. I remember the dill pickles she made and the smell of geflite fish coming from the kitchen. My mother and my aunts were helping her prepare while my father and uncles were checking out the Haggadahs, the wine, and of course, the layout of the table. I remember as far back as the mid-fifties through the late sixties. Every year there was a new grandchild to ask the "Four Questions" – at least it seemed that way. Usually my Uncle **Earle** sat at one end and Granny at the other. I didn't realize, of course, that this sense of warmth, comfort and security doesn't last forever. My grandmother is gone, along with my parents and all my aunts and uncles, but for the youngest and his wife. My cousins have grown up and most live away, as does my sister, with their own families. Yet the Seder continues, year after year. It's our tradition, our custom and part of our faith as Jews. I guess when one hits middle age one begins to understand the meaning of life and I realize after all these years what my father and mother passed on to their children. "From generation to generation" is the Jewish heritage that has bound our people for over 5000 years.

As I sat at the first Seder this year and heard my niece of six years ask the "Four Questions" a tear came to my eye. It was a tear of sadness for I was longing for what was and could never be again, and also a tear of joy, for I knew now that my young niece would take her place in the unbroken chain that links our Jewish lives forever.

L'DOR VADOR!

About the cover

By **Yakov Feig**

The cover of this issue of *Shalom* is a coloured engraving entitled "Kiddush Cup and Swallow" by **David Silverberg**, artist in residence at Acadia University. It is from an original engraving in a 4" x 8" steel plate and is part of an ongoing series that also includes a Megillah, an Etrog container and an Alms Cup.

I had the opportunity to watch David Silverberg in action over the process of several months, as this piece evolved from a sketch, to an engraving on steel, and finally to a coloured version done on a printing press. This pain-staking process of being both an artist and a printmaker is a lost art and David Silverberg is one of only a handful of artists around the world with the skill, knowledge and ability to combine these techniques and utilize them in creating images such as the one on the cover of this magazine.

However, Silverberg's commitment to doing works on Jewish themes does not cease with the works mentioned above. A new series depicting Scribes is ready to start printing in colour at the end of March. They too are engraved on steel and are 7 3/4" x 9". These join the suite on Old Testament Heroines, on Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts, Polish Jews, Moroccan Jews, Jewish Writers, the Prophets, the Songs of Songs and the Story of David

and are testament to Silverberg's decades long dedication to his Jewish heritage.

We are very lucky to have the presence of the Artist-in-Residence David Silverberg at nearby Acadia University in Wolfville. An internationally acclaimed artist/printmaker, he has had the honour of exhibiting his work in over 200 solo exhibitions in all the major cities of the world. If you are interested in seeing David Silverberg's works, please call to set up a visit at his studio on 11 Westwood Avenue, Wolfville, NS, or phone him at (902) 585-1722.

Also a limited number of designer cards depicting the cover picture (Kiddush Cup and Swallow) in full colour and blank on the inside are available from the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students' Federation. This is not a mass produced card and is perfect for special occasions (i.e. Shavuot, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, or Birthdays for Judaica/Art Lovers). They are available through the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students' Federation by phoning (902) 422-7491, Ext. # 27, (Fax) (902) 425-3722, or (e-mail) ai993@chebucto.ns.ca or at the AJC Offices for \$2.50 per card or 5 cards for \$10.

YAKOV'S CORNER *Programmer Yakov Feig*

Springtime in Atlantic Canada

As I am sitting here in the AJC office writing my Shalom article, it is a beautiful warm and sunny Friday afternoon at the end of March. People are walking up and down Spring Garden Road, and many Jewish families are getting their last minute cleaning, shopping, hair-cutting, and other errands done before Pesach. At this time, I would like to pause and reflect on what a great winter we've had here (Programming wise, that is!). I still can't believe how much has gone on! January began with a wonderful trip to St. John's, Newfoundland on January 8th -10th, which included wonderful hospitality by **Ruth and John Noel, Claire and Messod Salama, and Ken and Ann Klein**. We had a great reaction to the last leg of our "Israel at 50 Tour" by the Jewish Community (special thanks to **Liat Alon** for joining me on stage), and a great response by the teens, youth, and University Students to our Programs that weekend. Also in January, over 30 grades 3-6 enjoyed an Israeli Style Beach Party at the Spryfield Wave Pool in Halifax. Kudos to **Joanne Nozick, Steve Rappaport, Sue and Mark David**, chaperone **Daniel Pink** and all who helped organize this successful event! January also saw a wonderful book review take place at **Anita Salem's** home on the 25th, a terrific A.P.J.S.F. Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel on the 22nd, A.J.T.L.C. meeting, and speaking engagements in the Halifax area Public Schools about Chanukah/Racism/Judaism and much more.

Without going into too much detail, February was even more hectic. Highlights included The Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student's Federation R.I.S.E. Convention/Ski Trip at Cape Smokey on February 4th-7th. This year over 55 students attended from across the region and we were blessed with the presence of the dynamic personalities such as **Susan Jackson** (Jewish I.D.), **Michael Soberman**, and **Shula Afir** (The Israel Experience), **Rabbi Benjie Jacoby**, and **Dave Gordon** (Afterword). As well, we were thrilled to have **W.U.J.S. Arevim Yoel, Vered Kretzmer and Liat Alon**. Also, special thanks to students **Ian Epstein, Darcy Richler, Aaron Platt, Erin Sperling**, and **Charles Rak**, (Halifax is going to miss you when you leave this June), and all the other students who helped make the weekend such a great success. February also marked programs such as a great grades 3 - 6 Shabbat Dinner on February 12th, Lasertag/Meet Sobes and Sheldon for grades 7 - 12 on February 13th, AJC's Chanukat Habayit, grade 7 - 12's Winter Carnival at Martock and more presentations to Public Schools. However, one notable event happened on February 28th as over 85 youths came to the Shaar Shalom to enjoy the Metro Youth Committee's annual Purim Carnival. This year's carnival was bigger and better than ever and could not have been done without the exhaustive work of **Joanne Nozick, Steve Rappaport and Sue David** as



MAKING A GAME OF IT APJSF SKI TRIP
CAPE SMOKEY FEBRUARY 1999

well as all the parents and volunteers that helped out, (too numerous to mention!). Thanks to all of you for helping make the event such an incredible success!

Of course, March is beginning to be a blur as well. It all started with a brief trip to Mount Allison to see some of our students, Purim in Saint John (Todah to **Janet and Norman Holtzman** for the dinner and lift) which featured a nice service and craft making with the kids, and a Purim Seudah in Fredericton (thanks to **Rabbi and Carol Samuels**) which included craft making with the kids as well. A big Todah Rabah to **Bassie Feldman** for all her help with craft making ideas!

Of course, things didn't end there! It was great to see over 50 students and seniors show up for an Intergenerational Shabbat Dinner on March 19th. Kudos to **Moshe Sadofsky and Shirley Burnstein** for your roles in helping facilitate a wonderful evening. It was also great to help chaperone Israeli teens **Or Ellencweig and Yael Rosen** as part of an Israeli Youth Delegation, as they spoke to 5 different High Schools in Moncton and Saint John about life in Israel. They represented themselves and their country with dignity and all Atlantic Canadians can be proud to be associated with such eloquent and bright youth. A special thanks to **Janet Holtzman, Terri Levine, The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, Yoel and Vered Kretzmer, Francis Weil**, and the **Attis and Lampert families** (especially **Leyla and Mindy**), for all your help in making their visit to our region an unforgettable experience.

Of course, I can continue talking about the different events, visits to Public Schools, etc. in March but like the clocks, it is a time to spring forward. We are looking

forward to a great spring which will include for our Young Adults (thanks in advance to **Loraine Tobia** who is hosting our next event), youth, teens (including **P.E.I. PARTY ON APRIL 16 - 18** for teens across the region), events in all of our small communities, community events including our annual Lag Ba'omer Picnic, Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha'atzma'ut and much more! I can't wait to spring into action.

Wishing everyone across our region a Happy and Kosher Passover and looking forward to seeing most of you in the months ahead.



CHILLING OUT AT APJSF SKI TRIP
FRONT ROW, IAN EPSTEIN, ERIN SPERLING,
JASMINE OORE, ERIC SALEM
BACK ROW HAIM BAREL, DAVE BERGER



MAKING WAVES AT THE POOL
HALIFAX GRADES 3-6 JANUARY 1999



"ALL DRESSED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO"
PURIM CARNIVAL HALIFAX FEBRUARY 1999

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Rabbi David Ellis

ZICHRINO LIVRACHA—MR. FRANK DAVID

He was like one of those characters you might meet in a Shalom Aleichem story. Whenever you came to shul in Sydney, you would always find that **Frank David** had beaten you there—always being first to open the doors for the others.

As we would wait for the tenth man to show up for the minyan, he would run his finger over the bronze yearzeit plaques, recounting those who had come before, re-enacting their lives. He never spoke of anyone in the negative, but always in fond remembrance and pride.



MR FRANK DAVID

He was a mitzvah doer. Everytime I came there, I heard of someone who had received his help. Every day he visited the Breton Bay Nursing Home to visit his sister, **Minnie Cohen**.

What I will recall most about Frank David are his Sunday morning brunches. After the davening, everyone would be treated to a delicious spread and the occasion for memorable conversations and discussion. Of course, he had been there long before preparing it all. Once noting a particular delicacy on the table, Frank told me, "Oh, that's baked gefillte fish." Assuring me that it could be made such, not only boiled as I had thought, he gave me the recipe for it.

I last saw him on Purim. He and I joined in a jig to "Chag Purim." Several spoke with him the next day and he seemed fine. Then we all were saddened to learn that he had passed away.

So now when I go to the shul in Sydney it will be different. Someone else will open the door. His name will join the list of those on the wall he spoke so fondly of. And someone, I hope, will carry on his Sunday morning breakfasts.

Frank David was, in short, a distillation of that marvelous Jew who has come from Cape Breton over the years—the hard-working small businessman, the lover of the synagogue, a mensch in all of his dealings with everyone.

We pray that the others who feel his loss, his sister Minnie and his son Raphael of Toronto, should know that the whole Cape Breton community, both those there at present and those who grew up there, share the sorrow in the passing of a pillar of the community. May they be comforted among the other mourners for Zion and Jerusalem.

KASRILEVKE IN YARMOUTH

Speaking of Shalom Aleichem, he wrote a fascinating short story, "Dreyfuss in Kasrilevke." The Dreyfuss Case, you will recall, occurred in France a hundred years ago. Alfred Dreyfuss was convicted on trumped up charges of being a spy

for the Germans. The incident became a rallying point for Jews throughout the world.

In the story, Shalom Aleichem relates how even the far away shtetl of Kasrilevke followed the fate of Captain Dreyfuss. Not having the benefit of instant communication, they had to get their reports from newspapers, which often arrived weeks late. Nonetheless, the belated news provided a lively forum for discussion.

Yarmouth is our smallest identifiable community, and, it would seem, about as far from the mainstream of events as Kasrilevke was. I was therefore pleasantly surprised to find on a recent visit, that Yarmouth has a group of people who are as well-informed on Israel and affairs of the Jewish community as anywhere else in the region. No matter what the topic, there were vigorous discussions and presentations of opinions.

Shalom Aleichem would undoubtedly have written about Yarmouth, were he still around and lived in the Maritimes! Meanwhile, you are always welcome to visit this quaint and scenic town, with its much diminished yet vibrant Jewish community. They would love to have anyone visit and meet the community. Call Rosalie and Victor Indig, 902-742-5333, to make arrangements.

INTEREST IN YIDDISHKEIT: FROM YARMOUTH TO GLACE BAY

Wherever I go in the region, I meet the non-Jewish communities, whether it be in civic groups, churches, schools or universities. There is a groundswell of interest in Jewish topics: the Bible, our history, the land of Israel. I have of late made presentations in Yarmouth, Wolfville, Antigonish, Bridgewater, Amherst and Cape Breton. Upcoming events will take place in Cape Breton, PEI and Saint John.

We must look upon ourselves as the witnesses of a rich and vital history of nearly 4000 years, which the world at large is now coming to see is a light to our current historical and spiritual setting.

In memoriam

This issue is Dedicated to the late Ronald Shapiro (Z"L), Advertising Coordinator for Shalom 1996-1998.

Moncton News

By Nancy Cohen

Readers of Shalom may have noticed that the report from Moncton was missing in the last two issues. There has been so much going in Moncton lately that we've been too busy to write.

In October we bid a sad farewell to our areivim, **Aviel** and **Sarah Zwebner**, who were heading back to Israel after a successful year in Moncton. Sarah and Aviel were loved by all who knew them and a large contingent showed up at the airport to see them off. We felt a little nervous as the plane waited on the tarmac while Sarah and Aviel tried to convince Air Canada officials to take their extremely overweight luggage. They must have collected lots of souvenirs during their year in Moncton. The best souvenir by far, however, was their Canadian made baby. We recently got news that Sarah gave birth to a baby girl named **Adi Margalit** on March 11.

Just before Sarah and Aviel left, our new areivim, **Joel** and **Vered Kretzmer** arrived in Moncton, and we have once again been lucky to get a



MONCTON PURIM PARTY
CHILDREN'S GAME CARNIVAL

capable and endearing couple. Joel and Vered have been working hard to make things happen in this community. They teach the children with patience and love, hold several adult classes, and have organized (with the assistance of others in the community) several wonderful programs. For our Channakah party they directed the Cheder children in a play based on the folktale "It Could Always Be Worse" and also had the teenagers present a game of Jewish Jeopardy. A lovely Tu B'shvat Seder was held for the children in February, and both young and young at heart had a great time playing all the games at the Purim carnival. Following the carnival there was a Purim cafe which featured a Purim spiel by Tiferes Israel Sisterhood's "Prime Time Fools" and (not to be outdone by the women) a humorous rendition of the Megillah by several male congregates.

The megillah reading was quite an experience this year at Tiferes Israel. Joel Kretzmer read the megillah, and flawlessly changed hats with each character change in the story. Different members of the congregation gave introductions to each chapter, some humorous, some more serious. There was a song, a rap, and a poem acted out with a parade of beauties.

Another popular program held recently was Yiddish night. The audience of about forty people enjoyed hilarious stories in Yiddish



MONCTON PURIM CARNIVAL
ANNETTE COLEMAN & LINDA COLEMAN
IN THEIR PLAY: "SISTERHOOD PRIMETIME FOOLS"

and English and took part in a sing along of traditional Yiddish songs led by **Evy Carnat** and **Jack Brodie**.

Many children and their parents had an unforgettable introduction to Pesach this year when the Halifax Chabad brought their model matzah bakery to our shule. Making and tasting their own delicious matzah and designing their own matzah covers left quite an impression on the children.

The library at Tiferes Israel has taken on a new life with the hard work of volunteer librarian, **Carol Savage**. Many new books and videos have been added to the collection. The library is open several days a week as well as Wednesday evenings when coffee and tea are served, so that just like Chapters, you can browse while you sip Carol's special brew.

Speaking of books, a mazel tov is wished to

the authors in our community. **Gerard Etienne** has recently published three new books, and **Anne Albert-Weil** has written four books in a series of textbooks on French literature and is now working on the fifth.

Condolences are extended to **Frances Doak** and family on the loss of her husband, **Harry Doak**.



MONCTON PURIM PARTY
FRANCIS WEIL AS MORDECHAI IN THE
PURIM SPIEL

From the Director's Chair

By Sheldon Cohen

KADIMAH UPDATE

Camp Kadimah Kadimah '99 is only two months away and excitement is building for another fun filled summer. Our enrollment has soared to over 250 with many new campers and a Giborim section over twenty. Among our returning staff will be **Michael Soberman** – Assistant Camp Director, Camp **Marty Zatzman** – Special Programs, **Belarie Zatzman** – Fine Arts, **Zena Haberman** – C. I. T. Director, **Stephanie Levitz** – Program Director, **Raven Wilder** and **Melanie Kazman** Dance, **Merav Shiner** – Song, **Jonathon Bender** – Drama, **Saul Offman** – Sports, **Leah Epstein** – Water-skiing, **Shelby Hirsch** – Assistant Arts & Crafts and **Leigh Lampert** – Administration. **Heidi Lipkus** – Rosh Machor, **Gabe Kuriloff** – Sigan Rosh Machar,

Kochot Section Head – **Jo Mirsky**, and Giborim/Goshrim Section Head – **David Cashman**. We are happy to report that a new Machar Programming Centre will be built for Machar. Many new programs and special days and outings await all and are guaranteed to thrill everyone. **Melanie Dohrman**, the camp nurse, will be back and a team of doctors will be on rotation throughout the summer. Kochot, Machar and C.I.T. sections are filled, but there are still a few openings in Giborim and Goshrim.

We look forward to seeing all at camp and with all a very successful year in your studies.

See you soon.

Dateline Halifax

Mazel tov to **Nordeau Goodman** on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mazel tov to **Dave Sherman** on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Mazel tov to **Molly Rechnitzer** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Melanie**.

Mazel tov to **Mr. and Mrs. Allan Gordon** on the birth of their twins – **Eli Joseph** and **Sandler Vivian**.

Mazel tov to **Marlene Sable** and **Lawrence Green** on the birth of granddaughter, **Carly Rachel** on January 25, 1999, and to Carly's parents, **Howard** and **Andrea Green**.

Mazel tov to **Howard Budovitch** who has successfully completed the Canadian Securities course, has been appointed a Financial Adviser with **Henry Hicks and Associated Limited**.

Mazel tov to **Harry Block** on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Mazel tov to **Ethel** and **Gerry Stein** on the birth of their first granddaughter, **Aliya Rae**.

Mazel tov to **Risa & Lev Gwirz** on the birth of their daughter **Ariana Rachel**. The proud grandparents **Carol Lee & Ralph Loebenberg** and **Sam & Brenda Gewirz** of Montreal and great grandparents **Rita & Sol Urman** of Montreal.

Mazel tov to **Jordan Schelew** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah in December, 1998.

Mazel tov to **Frank Cordon** on his installation as Potentate of Philae Shriners which covers Nova Scotia and PEI.

Mazel tov to **Diana Wolfson** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah in March, 1999.

Congratulations to **Steve Indig** who represented Yarmouth Y Whitecaps at the Maritime Life Swim Nationals in Victoria.

Congratulations to **Noah Pink** who has achieved youth national levels in swimming and is going to Victoria for the youth national competitions.

Congratulations to **Debra Pink** who is a member of the University of Virginia rowing team and has won all races. Her team is placed second to the University of Washington in the US.

Congratulations to **Matthew McKnight** who was a member of the NS Fencing team at the Canada Games in Corner Brook,

NF recently. **Matthew** is an accomplished fencer and has won numerous medals including the Tri-sword trophy two years in a row.

Congratulations to **Sharon Alexander** who was a member of the NS Swim team at the Canada Games in Corner Brook, NF recently.

Congratulations to **Joe Herschorn** who won the Shootout Competition in the Midget A division of the Joe LaMontagne Hockey Tournament during March Break. He was also named MVP of the game prior to the competition and his team won the gold medal for the championship.

Congratulations to **Adam Osborne** who received his first promotion as an Air Cadet, after only being with Air Cadets for 7 months.

Congratulations to **Daniel Zatzman** who won the "Campbell Award" from the Nova Scotia Camping Association for "Best Camper of the Year".

Congratulations to **Adam Conter** who recently represented his school at the Nova Scotia Debating Championship and placed in the top 10 in individual ratings. He was also chosen as one of four Nova Scotians to represent the province at the National Commonwealth Conference to be held in Ottawa in May. **Adam** will have a starring role in HGS's musical production of "Lucky Dollar – Private Eye".

Condolences to **Bessie Rinzler** and family on the passing of **Max Rinzler**.

Condolences to **Harry** and **Nathan Kardish** on the passing of **Ruth Kardish**.

Condolences to **Ian Epstein** on the passing of his grandfather.

Congratulations to **Jim Spatz** on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Anybody wishing announcements for the next Shalom contact Marie Herschorn on or before June 30th

Mishlachat Hano'ar
Israeli Youth Delegation

SJHS Students get glimpse into young Israelis' lives

By John Chilibeck,

From the Times Globe, Saint John, New Brunswick, March 19, 1999 You're 17 only a few months away from graduating from high school, and the future is staring you in the face. What do I do? Sign up for combat duty or as a programmer for the army radio network.

As students at Saint John High School learned yesterday, these are some of the options facing senior high school students in Israel, students who must take up to three years of compulsory military service once they turn 18.

The students in the Grade 12 World issues class were lucky enough to meet two counterparts from the Middle East as part of the Israeli youth delegation visit, a program sponsored by Israel's Foreign Ministry and the Atlantic Jewish Council.

The two 17-year-olds, **Or Elleneweig**, a sports enthusiast from Herzelia, and **Yael Rosen**, a dancer from Kochav Yair, were finishing a month long cross-Canada tour after visiting classes in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and other cities.

They were selected by the Israeli government after being carefully screened. The students seemingly represent two schools of thought in Israel - Mr. Elleneweig is a Likud party member and does not believe in swapping land for security with the Palestinians, whereas Ms. Rosen is more left-wing, and believes peace agreements will lead to better security for Israelis.

"It's not that one side wants peace any less, it's just that we have a difference of opinion over how it should be achieved," explained Ms. Rosen.

The Israelis gave a short presentation on their country, showing students, among other things, how to write their names in Hebrew, right to left, and some highlights of their desert country - the Dead Sea, for instance, allows bathers who can't swim to float because of the high salt content of the water and if that doesn't appeal to you the beaches are 20 degrees Celsius in the winter.

They presented a crash course on Israeli history and showed a fast-paced video, obviously slanted to an American audience with the cross-cultural references, before opening up the floor to discussion.

Students in the class seemed most interested in the compulsory military service, something none of them have ever had to consider as Canadians. But as the Israelis explained, it's no big deal for them.

Said Ms. Rosen: "Only when we came to Canada did we hear: 'How does it feel to have to go?' For us, it's just a fact of life, and we don't think about it - like going to school, or going to work." Added Mr. Elleneweig: "I don't think we even know anybody who doesn't want to go. There's always jail for them, I guess," he said to hearty laughter in the classroom.

Questions also revolved around Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Everyone wants peace," they said.

About lifestyles they said, "We watch American movies too, but they are maybe one or two months late."

About politics: "Ninety-five per cent of Israelis vote. We follow closely because it impacts our lives directly with all the security concerns."

The two students were a hit with their New Brunswick counterparts, and many lingered after the 50-minute session to ask more questions.

"I learned quite a bit about Israel," said Dale Smith, 18 "I wouldn't mind going. It sounds like it would be a lot better than Canada, with the weather and everything."

Natasha Floyd, 17, agreed.

"I didn't realize what it was like. I thought they were really different, but now I realize we're so similar. I'd love to go, if I didn't have to do the military service when I go over there."

The Israelis wrap-up their Canada - wide trip today with appearances at Moncton High School and Riverview High School.

CJC Turns 80 years Old

Montreal, March 3, 1999 — Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), which was originally founded as a result of the emergency of the First World War, is turning 80 years old. It was on a Sunday March 16, 1919 that Montreal's Monument National Theatre played host to the organization's first National Plenary Assembly.

More than 200 delegates arrived from across the country, in addition to 2,500 observers. The auditorium was decorated with British, Canadian and various Jewish flags, the orchestra played, an air of joyful expectancy and subdued enthusiasm filled the spacious hall. The curtain rose and the eyes beheld a compact group of school children, boys and girls, dressed in blue and white. Behind them were seen the figures of men about to take a leading part in the deliberations of the CJC.

"I think members of the Canadian Jewish community can be very proud of the work our organization has done over the past 80 years," said CJC President, Moshe Ronen. "Some of the issues may have changed since 1919, but remain every bit as committed as the

organization's founders to serving as a true representative body where democracy is a hallmark."

At the first CJC plenary, delegates discussed the issue of minority rights in the various new emerging states after the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as well as where there was a history of ill-treatment of minorities. Delegates moved to support all efforts to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine and bring reality to the Balfour Declaration. It was also agreed to set up an immigrant aid society which today is known as Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS).

Canada's Jewish community has grown significantly in number over the past eight decades to some 360,000 individuals. CJC continues to serve as the only organization of its kind in North America, democratically holding elections every three years. Mr. Ronen is the 15th president in CJC history. The late **Samuel Bronfman** was the longest serving leader of the organization, holding office from 1939 to 1962.

News from the Rock

By Claire Frankel-Salama

Unbelievable! Three days before Pesach, and instead of shoveling snow or sprinkling salt on ice; I'm counting the crocuses and measuring the tulip shoots. This will truly be Chag Ha-Aviv! Passover orders were received and distributed as usual by Manna Bakery (honestly!) and the wine should be crossing the gulf between Nova Scotia and the New Founde Land at this very moment. In fact, at the same time we are celebrating the Seder, all confederate Newfoundlanders will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our union with Canada. Many people rue the day the "Canadians" got their hands on the fish, forest, and mineral riches of this province, particularly since Newfoundland actually had a surplus in 1949 due in part to the stimulation provided by the war economy. In fact, had the government opened the doors to the thousands of Jews clamouring to enter this British colony just prior to and during the Second World War.

Newfoundland would probably have developed more quickly and in surprising ways (see Bassler, Dr. Gerhard, *Sanctuary Denied: Refugees from the Third Reich and Newfoundland Immigration Policy 1905-1949*).

Back to the present... Our tiny, valiant Jewish Community has been busy. In January we welcomed **Yakov Feig** who, along with our



Seder in St. John's 1942. Many many Jewish soldiers, pilots, etc. were stationed in various parts of Newfoundland during and immediately after the second World War. The Community helped organize this Seder which was held at the American base

Areva Liat, put on a nostalgic show of mainly Jewish music of the last fifty years. Middle aged members kept bursting into song much to the amusement of their children who kept pointing and laughing for some strange reason. During February, Liat attended the Student Ski Weekend, and finally saw some snow. March, of course, meant

Purim, and once again, our beloved **Ernie Mauskopf** read the Megillah while we shook our Greggors and drowned out **Haman**, the would-be scourge of the Jews. This was followed, of course, Hamantaschen and other, less traditional snacks, and goodies were distributed to all the children.

This coming week sees the Canada Conference in St. John's marking the beginning of "Soiree '99", or the official start of the commemoration of union. Professor **Messod Salama** will be attending as AJC representative, although as we count down the last few days until Pesach, every free moment becomes precious. Perhaps I should ask the Prime Minister to bring us some

fresh almond macaroons from a nice kosher bakery in Ottawa. Now where is that number for the P.M.O.'s office? In any case, as you lift your glasses and listen to the youngest members of your families recite "Ma Nishtanah", remember that the youngest members of Canada are already digging into their Knaidlach, as it is "half an hour later in Newfoundland".

Passover Message from Canadian Jewish Congress

National President Moshe Ronan

On the eve of Passover, and as Canadian Jewish Congress marks its 80th anniversary, it is perhaps fitting to look back on just how far we have come as a community in this country of ours.

As you sit down at the table for the first Passover Seder and retell the story of the "Festival of Freedom", the Exodus of Jews from Egypt, consider as well how less than 60 years ago we had a Federal government with a policy of "None is too Many" with regard to accepting immigrant Jews fleeing the Holocaust. Fast forward to 1999 where the Prime Minister of Canada, **Jean Chretien**, visited the grounds of the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in the company of myself and my father, a survivor of this terrible place where 1.3 million Jews met their deaths. We look forward to a government announcement following on this historic pilgrimage regarding the establishment of a national holocaust memorial museum in Ottawa.

Today, Canada is bringing Nazi war criminals to justice and vigorously combating those who spread hatred against identifiable groups. In Ontario, the Legislature has adopted a bill marking Yom Hashoah as a permanent fixture on the provincial calendar, beginning April 13 this year.

Over the years CJC has made every effort to assist fellow Jews and others in need in Canada and around the world. We participated at home in emergency relief efforts for victims of the Quebec and Manitoba floods and the Quebec-Ontario ice storm, to provide recent

examples. Abroad, likewise, we have distributed humanitarian aid on a non-sectarian basis in such disparate places as Honduras, the Caribbean, the Balkans, Ukraine, Romania, and Rwanda. This includes everything from supplying Cuba's Jewish community with Passover food or raising funds to help Central American victims of last fall's Hurricane Mitch.

At the Seder, we must also recognize that Israel is one of the most spectacular achievements of the 20th century. The Jewish people, beginning more than 50 years ago, while on the brink of destruction and against all odds, established an independent state in their historic homeland, revived an ancient language and produced one of the most prosperous and technologically advanced economies in the world. It also is projected that Israel, early in the new millennium, will be home to the majority of the world's Jews, thus fulfilling the dream of in gathering the exiles. Just as we wonder about the generation of the Exodus from Egypt, historians looking back on our times will wonder about, and will be in awe of, the generations that reconquered the land and came home in a modern-day redemption.

On this Passover let us not dwell on what divides us but coalesce around that which unites us. The Jewish community desperately needs bridge-building of its own. We see it as an important role for Canadian Jewish Congress to foster such unity.

Let us, with G-d's help, go together from strength and success to success.

Fredericton News

By Jennie Brown

Anniversary greetings, with wishes for good health and happiness to **Harry & Edith Levine** – 55 years, **Joe & Jennie Chippin** – 41 years, **Marty & Linda Payne** – 41 years, **Rabbi Yochanan & Carol Samuel's** – 30 years, **David & Anita Adilman** – 25 years. Congratulations to **Natasha**, daughter of **Steven & Rhonda Fransblow** and granddaughter of **Harry & Sarah Lang** upon receiving Silver Medal from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. The medal was awarded to **Natasha** for obtaining the highest standing in grade 4 level on the conservatory's annual music exams in the Atlantic Provinces.

Sid & Reta Tobin have returned from Toronto, where their children **Aaron & Judy** of Austin, Texas, **Barry & Debbie** of London, Ontario and **Beverly & Eti Gibli** of Toronto hosted a dinner party honouring their father's 70th birthday. All eight of their grandchildren were present. Best wishes Sid, wishing you many more with good health. The Fredericton community was saddened by the death of **Carolyn Budovitch** who passed away at her home on March 25, 1999 surrounded by her family. All who knew **Mitchell** and **Carolyn** knew of their devotion to one another, to their children and of Carolyn's devotion to the Jewish and wider community. Carolyn is survived by her husband **Mitchell**, son **Jason**, daughter **Amy**, her parents **Gwen and Charles McGarvie** and parents-in-law **Daisy and Frank Budovitch**, two brothers and a sister. May the mourner's be spared further sadness. Welcome home Snowbirds,

Fredericton **Holocaust Commemoration**. His Excellency **Jan Olof Stahl**, Ambassador of Sweden to Canada and the Bahamas spoke at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton on April 11, 1999 at the Annual Inter-Faith Holocaust Commemoration. **Ambassador Stahl** described the Swedish Living History Project

on the Holocaust. The project was inspired by an appeal from the Old Testament: "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation." The idea for the project was launched in a parliamentary debate held during the summer of 1997. It immediately met with full and vigorous support of all party leaders. By choosing active dialogue - instead of silence - the Swedish Government chose to initiate a discussion on how to develop a democracy, strengthen its powers of resistance and increase understanding of the challenges to it.

"We wanted to make everyone aware of the driving forces that led to the Holocaust," declared Prime Minister **Goran Persson** in his opening address to the Stockholm Meeting on the Holocaust last May. "It is becoming frighteningly evident that unspeakable evil can take the stage again, the Prime Minister added. "If we recoil, if we turn a deaf ear, if we avert our glance, we betray democracy and human dignity." **Ambassador Stahl** is a 35-year diplomat in the Swedish Foreign Service. Holocaust survivors **Eta Berk**, **Joseph Landau** and **Israel Unger**, current generation representative **Natasha Fransblow**, **Mr. James Steward**, an RAF veteran who was imprisoned in Buchenwald concentration camp, and **Rabbi Yochanan Samuel's** lit memorial candles. **Carey Grobe** was the master of ceremonies and **Mr. Allen Ruben Q.C.** and Sweden's Consul in Fredericton introduced **Ambassador Stahl**. The event was co-sponsored by the Fredericton chapter of B'nai Brith and Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

A reception was held in the social hall of the Synagogue following the program.

Growing Up In Glace Bay

By Nardy Nathanson

My parents moved to Glace Bay, on the eastern tip of Cape Breton Island, in the summer of 1938. At that time I was 11 years old and there were 125 Jewish families in the community. It was quite a change for our family, as we came from an even smaller community of only 3 Jewish families.

The one synagogue in Glace Bay was and still is orthodox and because of that, Hebrew school children received a solid Hebrew base. For me, going to Hebrew school for the first time was a primary reason for my being quickly integrated into the Jewish community.

At the time of our arrival in the community, a few of the older boys, under the direction of **Israel Mendelson**, decided they would like to try their hand at conducting their own Shabbat services for the community youngsters, making it a separate entity from the senior service. A gentleman by the name of **Charles Cohen**, who settled in our community from England a short time prior to my family, was very encouraging and offered support by leading us in building our own Aron Kodesh. He needed a few young people to help him and made the only stipulation that we all became Shomer Shabbat while the ark was in construction. I was one of that group. Keeping in mind that everyone else had a full time diversion, the construction took a few weeks. Those few weeks in themselves

gave us an opportunity to strengthen our knowledge and understanding of Judaism.

When the Aron Kodesh was completed, we were given a Torah by the senior men. It turned out this small project became a tremendous asset to our junior congregation. For years to follow, the "Young Israel" congregation prospered in the quality of its service. It gave the young people a chance to learn and lead the Shabbat services. It was especially wonderful for those about to become Bar Mitzvah. This opportunity stood the members of the junior congregation in very good stead throughout their lives in Glace Bay and wherever else they settled.

From the formation of this Young Israel Congregation came one of the greatest exports the Jewish community of Glace Bay had – its young people. With their relocations throughout the years to come, they were able to enhance a multitude of Jewish communities elsewhere.

Today the community of Glace Bay has shrunk to approximately 12 families. But still, to the best of their ability they try to continue to have Shabbat and Holy Day Services on a regular basis. I firmly believe that my being involved in some small way in this project was instrumental in forming my future path in being heavily involved in community activities.

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum Report

By Teri Levine
Executive Director

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was delighted with the huge crowd of people who came out on the 13th of December for the Candle lighting of the Chanukah Menorah. More than 200 people were present to see **Mayor Shirley McAlary** and **Elsie Wayne, M.P.** light the first candle. Both spoke glowingly of the Saint John Jewish Community's tremendous contribution to life in the City.

After the lighting, a brief presentation by the Hebrew School children took place in the vestry of Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. The children's presentation included songs and stories about the holiday. Chanukah cookies and juice were served to everyone after the program. A good time was had by all.

The Museum cookbook, "*From our Grandmothers' Kitchens*" has just had a second printing. The first 2000 copies had been sold and it was time to do a reprint. The book has been re-vamped to standardize the spelling of words and the use of terminology. It has a new cover and a user-friendly binding that will allow it to be used without braking the back. The original drawings, done by **Sidi Schaffer** have been enhanced to make the book a real collector's item. Don't miss out. Order your copy now. (See attached order form) All profits will go to the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.

Tuesday, April 13 is Yom Hashoah and the Museum will feature **Mr. Robbie Waisman**, a Holocaust Survivor, from Vancouver as the guest speaker for this year's commemoration which will be held in the sanctuary of Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

Local High Schools will once again participate in a Holocaust essay competition. The title students have been given is "The Liberation of the Camps" from the standpoint of the internees or the liberators. Mr. Waisman will speak to several groups of students from area schools while he is visiting Saint John. He will also be the Guest Speaker at the Yom Hashoah function in Moncton.

The Museum opens to the public, for the season, on Tuesday, May 18th. This year is our Bar Mitzvah year. We will feature three new exhibits which include, A Tribute to **Marcia Koven** – Founder and Curator, The Michelson Memoir – An exhibition of memorabilia from the life of Louis I. Michelson – and A History of Jewish Business in Saint John.

This season promises to be an interesting and exciting one. **Robert Selby** will produce and direct "*The Jewish Home Beautiful*", which will be staged in the vestry of the synagogue at the end of June. An admission fee of \$7.50 will be charged and all the proceeds will go to the Museum. It is anticipated that the production will run for three nights. We encourage everyone to come and bring his or her friends. For more information please call the museum at 1-506-633-1833.

If any of you, who do not live in the Saint John area, are visiting during the summer we would love to see you. Please drop in to see us and take a trip down memory lane. You will be glad you did.



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(a fundraising project of the Saint John Jewish Historical Society)



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A PASSOVER MESSAGE: LIBERALISM HAS ITS LIMITATIONS

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov
Beth Israel Synagogue

It is appropriate to dwell upon aspects of Freedom during the Passover season which tradition has designated as "z'man chayrutainu" - the time of our liberation.

Liberality is predicated on one being able to experience freedom for only such an individual can possess a generosity of spirit. This applies not only to one who possesses the trait of benefactor in charitable endeavors. It also relates to one who has a tolerant nature. We ought to beware, however, of advocating freedom from all restraint.

The famous psychoanalyst, **Viktor Frankl** has aptly stated that in addition to the Statue of Liberty the US needs a statue of responsibility. Judaism does not countenance that one may at all times act as one pleases even though it places paramount value on the doctrine of free-will. Such action would be the conduct of a libertine. For example, there must be a limitation on the absolute exercise of freedom of action and speech beyond the ordinary bounds of civility. This means, for example, that in matters pertaining to freedom of the press one should not publish what one pleases if it will result in mischief or will be injurious to groups or individuals.

The far-flung Jewish communities of Canada have experienced the diatribes of some Journalists and Holocaust deniers who spew forth falsehoods against the Jewish people and distort Jewish history.

The Passover festival makes us recall and even vicariously re-live our experience in Ancient Egypt. Despite our suffering at the hands of Egypt the Torah warned us against harboring a grudge against Egyptians. The Torah states unequivocally "Do not abhor an Egyptian for you were a resident in their land".

Yet, the same cannot be said of present day Egypt. After twenty years of a declared peace the propaganda mills of Egyptian journalism spew out hate against Jews and against Israel. They propagate the calumny of the blood libel and the notorious protocol of the Elders of Zion. The earliest diatribes of Anti Semites were expressed in the Egyptian city of Alexandria more than two thousand years ago. These are the dividends of Arab peace.

What then can one expect of Palestinian followers of Arafat. They want a peace program only as a diplomatic offensive which is a spring board for the total destruction of Israel. They say as much to their Arab followers that they want a piece of Israel while to the US State Department they say we want peace with Israel. The trouble is that

the term piece - peace sounds homonymous.

This is the season when at our Passover Seder we emphasize the education of our children. The Palestinians teach their children to hate Israelis and to desire to kill them.

What do we teach our children? Some parents claim that to be tolerant in the way they will raise their children means not to give their children information about Jewish beliefs and traditions because they will be guilty of inculcating a bias in their children. Instead they declare let the children find out for themselves. This approach is a contravention of the whole spirit of Passover. The Torah teaches "V'Heegadeta" - you shall relate to your children that we were slaves in Egypt and only because of Divine intervention were we liberated.

Our children will not learn anything in a vacuum. If parents are ill-equipped to teach their children then they have a responsibility to hire Jewish educationists to provide their children with the knowledge that they will need to be able to cope with the challenges of the majority culture and the secular orientation of that culture. Hiding behind the fig leaf of tolerance of spirit and liberalism is a sham and a cop out.

How Should Jewish Education Be Funded?

Some Jewish educationists in Canada argue that funding for Jewish education should come totally from the monetary resources of the Jewish community since they fear that if the government would expend funds that they would intrude in the curriculum development of the Jewish Day School movement. Others maintain that, just as Catholic and Protestant schools receive public funding, it is unfair that tax paying Jewish citizens should be denied the right to receive funds at least for the secular portion of the Day School curriculum, which is in any event administered according to Provincial Standards of Education.

It is important that provincial funding should be forthcoming since the cost of educating a Jewish child is prohibitive. How can Jews in free Canada feel truly free if they are discriminated against by not receiving government funding for education especially in the Province of Ontario where the majority of Jewish families reside. Indeed the struggle for equal treatment still goes on in some parts of Canada.

Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah

Submitted by Evelyn Davis

The Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah -Wizo held a Medical Services Tea at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue. The Guest Speaker was **Charlene Schneiderman**, Director of Preoperative Services at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Complex.

Charlene outlined steps the Complex has taken towards continuous quality improvements in research on hip and knee replacements. She also spoke on the new lymph node biopsy technique now in use at the complex. The technique is a major advance in the diagnostic staging and treatment of cancer. A donation to the Assof Harofeh Hospital was made in Charlene's name.

Plans are underway for the 31st Hadassah Bazaar to be held once again at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue on May 12th.



GUEST SPEAKER CHARLENE SCHNEIDERMAN WITH EDITH LECKER, PRESIDENT OF QUEEN ESTHER CHAPTER OF HADASSAH WIZO

Arthur Saffron Story

By Joel Jacobson

Editor's Note: Mr. Saffron is a long time supporter of the Jewish people, both in Israel and Atlantic Canada.

At present he is a member of the National Executive of Canadian Jewish Congress representing Atlantic Canada and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the AJC Bequest & Endowment Fund Of the United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

It's a Sunday afternoon and **Art Saffron** is relaxing at his furniture store, catching up on paperwork, with a radio entertaining in the background.

"Even though I've sold them, I've never owned a TV. It's a matter of time. If there were 50 hours in a day maybe" he smiles.

Working hard is not unusual for the 73-year-old Springhill man who has, for the past 46 years, operated the store his father started in Springhill in 1914, soon after emigrating from Poland.

Saffron has remained in the town of his birth even though the small community has suffered through mining disasters in 1956 and 1958 and a subsequent loss of economic viability. His is the only furniture store in town, rebuilt after a downtown fire in 1957 and has provided room pieces for the likes of Springhill-native and international singing star **Anne Murray** (at her summer cottage in Tatamagouche) and the Murray family in their still-existing Springhill home.

But it's not all work for the perennial bachelor. Saffron has shared his abilities and talents with many community groups including the Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Family Children's Services (formerly Children's Aid), and the Canadian Jewish Congress. He was among those honored in the second year of The Atlantic Jewish Council awards for community service.

Now he has committed a major part of his estate to United Jewish Appeal. "I have no children or grandchildren to leave my

money to," he says. "My brother **Leonard** (a teacher in England) and sister **Dorothy**, (a physician in New York) are older and don't have to be provided for so who else would I leave it to other than my people. Where else should it go?"

Art is a member of the Board of Trustees of the AJC's Bequest and Endowment Fund and realizes the Atlantic Jewish community, which could benefit from the fund, is dwindling. "I don't feel my money has to stay here necessarily. It can be used for Jewish causes anywhere."

Despite being in a community with but a handful of Jewish families (he's the only one left) when his father settled there, a minyan could be roused. The Saffrons maintained a Jewish identity.

"We kept Kosher, and I still do" says the jovial man with the shock of white hair.

He never married and laughs off his bachelorhood with a Groucho Marx line. "Anyone crazy enough to marry him wouldn't want to marry anyone that crazy" he chuckles. Then he adds, "ask my sister, the psychiatrist, maybe she knows why I never married."

He does admit retailing may be part of the reason for his single life. He studied engineering at Dalhousie and Nova Scotia Technical College but returned to the store when his brother and sister showed little interest in the business his father had built. "I didn't like to see the business decline even though my father never encouraged any of us to go into it. He left it for us to

decide.



Capturing the Future

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Federations Canada, 4600 Bathurst St., Suite 315, Willowdale, Ontario M2R 3V3, Phone 416-636-7655

News from Saint John

By Janet Holtzman and Marcia Koven

We celebrated Chanukah with a community supper in the social hall of the Synagogue. As usual the room was decorated in keeping with the holiday and each table was adorned with a menorah which was lit as the prayers were recited over a large menorah at the front of the room. Several people in the audience were invited (for specific reasons) to light a candle on the big menorah. The children of the Hebrew and Sunday Schools entertained and once again a hearty thanks go out to special ladies of the community who prepared the delicious meal and great latkas. We were fortunate indeed to have **Yakov Feig** as our guest Megilla reader for Purim. The children were supplied with greggors and masks and our "special" ladies served hamontashen that they had made for the occasion.

It is a rare occasion that we announce the birth of a child in our community, but we congratulate **Tammy and Matthew Earl** on the birth of their first child a son. We also congratulate the grandparents, **Sandra and Ron Levine**. Congratulations to **Susan Isaacs Lubin** on being appointed Judge of Small Claims Court.

Congratulations to **Marcia Koven** on receiving an award of appreciation for years of service at the Jewish Museum from the AJC at their annual meeting in Fredericton.

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of **Mort Gordon**, a member of our community and the passing of two former members, **Joe Caplan** of Florida and **John (Joe) Gordon** of California.

Religious services continue under the direction of **Jerry Koven, Gabbai Richon** and with the help of several men of the community: **Dan Elman; I.J. Davis; Ben Smith; Joe Arditti; Harry and Moe Holtzman; Abe Davis; Dr. Lewis Freeman; and Abe Goldberg.**

Hebrew School continues with about 9 children under the guidance of our longtime teacher **Moishe Granik**, and Sunday school is being held every Sunday with our faithful teacher **Rhonda Cyr.**

Passover supplies can be obtained from the Union Deli. Our thanks go out to Sandra and Ron Levine for supplying this service to the community.

Shortly the snowbirds will be returning to the community and we will be happy to welcome them back.

Many of our residents will be visiting family in other cities for Passover and we extend to them and to those who remain in the city, a Happy and Kosher Passover.



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A SURVEY OF THE JEWISH POPULATION OF THE GREATER HALIFAX REGION 1998

by

Sheva Medjuck, Ph.D.

Prepared for the Atlantic Jewish Council

This survey was made possible through funding from the Human Resources Development Corporation (HRDC) Student Summer Career Placement Program.

A SURVEY OF THE JEWISH POPULATION OF THE GREATER HALIFAX REGION 1998

During the summer of 1998, a socio-demographic survey of the Halifax ¹Jewish community was conducted. Using the Atlantic Jewish Council's Directory and supplemented by names of individuals not in the Directory, 339 households were contacted. In addition to obtaining detailed information from one respondent in each of these 339 households, information was also obtained about all family members residing in that household. In this way information was obtained on the household generally, as well as on all 856 individuals who resided in these 339 households. Most of the surveys were conducted by telephone (90%) while the remainder were conducted in person.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

These 339 households represent 856 individuals, with a mean size of 2.5 individuals per household. A significant minority (25%) of individuals live by themselves. In fact, almost two-thirds (61.4%) of households surveyed had only 1 or 2 persons. Very few of the households in this survey were large households. Less than 10% (9.2%) of households had five or more people.

Age:

Of the 856 individuals on which data were collected in this survey, 49% are male and 51% are female. As table 1 indicates, about 10% of the population are under the age 10, while less than 15% are teen and pre-teen (10-19 years old). The age grouped 20-29 constitutes only 7.6% of the population. (It should be kept in mind that this survey was done during the summer months and so the population of university aged individuals may be somewhat distorted). The population tends to be older with 17.6% 70 years of age and over, with an additional 18.5% 60-69 years of age. An additional 30% of the population is between 40-59 years of age.

Table 1
Age of Population

Age	No. of Individuals	% (n=856)
birth-1 year	14	1.6%
2-9	79	9.2%
10-19	124	14.5%
20-29	65	7.6%

¹ Halifax refers to the Greater Halifax region including Dartmouth, Bedford and environs.

Age	No. of Individuals	% (n=856)
30-39	79	9.2%
40-49	146	17.1%
50-59	112	13.1%
60-69	73	18.5%
70-79	98	11.4%
80+	53	6.2%
no response	13	1.5%

Marital Status:

If the individual was 16 years of age or over, information on marital status was collected (assuming that almost all those under 16 would be single). As table 2 indicates, almost two-thirds of the adult population (those 16 and over) are married, while almost 10% are widowed. About one-fifth are single. The number of widowed individuals is to a large part accountable because of the relative age of the population.

Table 2
Marital Status

Marital Status	No. of Individuals	% (n=679)
Single	139	20.9%
Married	436	64.2%
Divorced	24	3.5%
Separated	6	0.9%
Widowed	63	9.3%
Other	11	1.6%

Secular Education:

As an examination of table 3 indicates, Jews in Halifax have high levels of secular education. Almost half of the population has a university degree (22.5% with an undergraduate degree, and

21.9% with some or completed graduate education).

Table 3
Secular Education

Education level	No. of individuals	% (n=856)
no formal education	40	4.7%
Some elementary	74	8.6%
Completed elementary	15	1.8%
Some high school	80	9.3%
Completed high school	89	10.4%
Some post secondary	105	12.3%
Trade school diploma	66	7.7%
Undergrad University degree	193	22.5%
Some post-graduate	19	2.2%
Higher university degree	169	19.7%
Other	2	0.2%
No response	4	0.5%

Jewish Education:

While the secular education standards of the population included in this survey are very high, their Jewish educational levels are more modest. Almost a quarter of the population have no formal Jewish education. The vast majority of the population's Jewish educational experience is Sunday and/or afternoon school. Very few have had Jewish day school experience (see table 4)

Table 4
Jewish Education

Educational level	No. of individuals	% (n=679)*
no formal education	159	23.4%

Educational level	No. of individuals	% (n=679)*
1-2 years afternoon school	38	5.6%
3-4 years afternoon school	39	5.7%
5 or more years afternoon	325	47.9%
1-2 years Jewish Day school	2	0.3%
3-4 years Jewish Day School	6	0.9%
5 or more years Jewish Day	27	3.2%
Other	79	11.6%
not response	4	0.6%

*This does not include children under 16 years of age

Jewish identification:

Of the 856 individuals covered in this survey, almost 80% were born Jewish and consider themselves Jewish. Of the remainder, about 7% are converts to Judaism, and an additional 1% were not born Jewish, have not converted, but consider themselves Jewish. The remaining 12% do not consider themselves Jewish.

Table 5
Jewish Identification

Identification	No. of individuals	% (n=856)
Born Jewish, consider self Jewish	676	79.0%
Born Jewish, do not consider self Jewish	13	1.5%
Not born Jewish, converted and consider self Jewish	57	6.7%
Not born Jewish, converted, and not consider self Jewish	7	0.8%

Identification	No. of individuals	% (n=856)
Not born Jewish, not converted, consider self Jewish	10	1.2%
Not born Jewish, not converted, not consider self Jewish	67	7.8%
Other	15	1.8%
No response	11	1.3%

Occupation:

Of the 584 individuals (children and students were removed from this calculation) about which occupational information was obtained, over 40% are in professional occupations, while 30% are in business. An additional 12 % are homemakers. The remainder include 4.3% in the Arts (e.g music, design, etc.); 1.7% in technical, 1.8% as labourers, and 1.7% unemployed.

Table 6
Occupation

Occupation	No. of Individuals	% (n=584)*
Professional	241	41.3%
Business	176	30.1
Technical	10	1.7%
Arts	25	4.3%
Self-employed	11	1.9%
Labour	10	1.7%
Homemakers	70	12.0%
Unemployed	10	1.7%
Other	30	3.5%

*While 17.1% of the population are retired, their occupation prior to retirement was included.

A closer examination of the occupational profile of the Jewish population of Halifax, indicates

that among professionals, there are a significant number of individuals who are lawyers, physicians, and professors/scientists. In fact, these three categories alone account for over 50% of professionals. Among those in business, almost half (46.6%) are in sales related fields. Thus, there is some homogeneity of the occupational profile of Halifax Jews.

Birthplace:

The vast majority (78.6%) of the Jewish population of Halifax were born in Canada, the majority in Nova Scotia (54%). As table 7 indicates, there has not been a substantial recent immigration of Jews into the region. Most immigration that has occurred, has occurred from either the other Atlantic provinces or from Ontario and Quebec. In this respect, the Halifax Jewish population is homogeneous.

Table 7
Birthplace

Birthplace	No. of Individuals	% (n=856)
Nova Scotia	462	54.0%
Other Atlantic Provinces	61	7.1%
Ontario	62	7.2%
Quebec	65	7.5%
Western Canada	20	2.3%
Other Canadian (unspecified)	3	0.3%
United States	60	7.0%
Western Europe	36	4.2%
Eastern Europe	52	6.1%
Africa	8	0.9%
South America	3	0.3%
Middle East	11	1.2%
Other countries	5	0.5%
no response	8	0.9%

Birthplace of Parents:

If we examine the birthplace of parents of the population of Halifax we can determine how long the families of the current residents have been in the region. We asked all adult individuals where their parents were born. As table 8 indicates, only about one-fifth of Jewish parents of the adult population were born in Nova Scotia. On the other hand, one-third of Jewish fathers and almost thirty% of Jewish mothers of the adult population of Halifax were born in Eastern Europe. Thus, while the majority of the population is Canadian-born, a significant number have parents who immigrated from Eastern Europe.

Table 8
Birthplace of Parents

Birthplace	Mothers (n=682)	Fathers (n=682)
Nova Scotia	19.2%	22.4%
Other Atlantic Provinces	8.9%	5.7%
Ontario	6.9%	5.0%
Quebec	10.0%	7.2%
Western Canada	1.5%	1.5%
Other Canadian (unspecified)	0.6%	0.7%
United States	9.2%	7.3%
Western Europe	8.7%	9.4%
Eastern Europe	27.9%	33.3%
Africa	1.2%	1.3%
South America	0.1%	0.4%
Middle East	1.2 %	1.2%
Other countries	1.0%	0.9%
no response	3.7%	3.6%

Household Income:

When asked about household income a significant number of respondents (almost 40%) chose not

to answer this question. Of those who responded, almost half (48%) have a household income of \$75,000 or above per year. Only about 10% (10.7%) have household income of less than \$25,000 a year, while about another quarter (23.3%) have a household income of between \$25,000-\$49,999 per year. An additional 18% have a household income of between \$50,000-\$74,999. These figures must be interpreted somewhat cautiously as there is a significant non-response to this question.

JEWISH ISSUES

Synagogue Membership and Attendance:

In almost 70% (69.3%) of the 339 households surveyed, all household members belong to a synagogue. In an additional 4.4% of households, only some family members belong to a synagogue. The remaining 26% have no synagogue affiliation. In terms of synagogue attendance, as table 9 indicates, over one-fifth of respondents attended synagogue 4 or more times a month in the past year, while 15% had not attended synagogue at all in the past year. Over one quarter attended several times a year, while another quarter attend between 5-12 times a year. The majority of people attended synagogue on a consistent, albeit not frequent, basis.

Table 9
Synagogue Attendance

Attendance	Number of respondents	% (n=339)
have not attended	51	15.0%
1-4 times a year	93	27.4%
5-11 times a year	63	18.6%
About once a month	24	7.1%
2-3 times a month	36	10.6%
4 or more times a month	72	21.2%

Sense of Religiousness:

Of the 339 respondents, almost one quarter (23.6%) consider themselves Orthodox, 45% consider themselves Conservative, 11% consider themselves Reform, while almost 7% consider themselves Agnostic. In addition over 12% consider themselves something other than these categories with responses here ranging from Reform and Orthodox, Conservadox, culturally but not religiously Jewish, culturally and traditionally Jewish, half Jewish, secular Jew, non-practising,

etc.

In terms of kashruth, 17% of respondents said their households are strictly kosher, 31% said they are somewhat kosher (e.g. no pork/shellfish, do not mix meat and milk, separate dishes, etc.). When asked if they use a kosher bakery, only 12% said they use a kosher bakery all of the time, while another 16% indicate that they use a kosher bakery most of the time. Almost 40% of households in Halifax rarely or never use a kosher bakery.

On the other hand, there are Jewish customs and traditions which the vast majority of respondents do practice. Thus, for example, almost 80% of respondents said that they lit Chanukah candles in their homes last Chanukah. Clearly, Chanukah has taken on important symbolic importance in Jewish life in Halifax.

When asked to describe their sense of religiousness, almost 15% said they were strongly religious, almost half of respondents (49.3%) said that they were somewhat religious, 21% said they were slightly religious, while almost 15% said they were not religious.

Opinions on the Synagogues in Halifax:

Respondents in the 339 households were asked their opinion on the synagogues in Halifax. In particular, respondents were asked whether Halifax should have one synagogue, two synagogues, or more (table 10). Almost half (49.6%) felt that Halifax should have one synagogue; over a quarter (26.2%) felt that Halifax should have two synagogues; while 8.8% felt that Halifax should have more than two synagogues. Fully 15% had no opinion on this question.

Table 10
Opinion on Synagogues in Halifax

Number of synagogues	no. of respondents	% (n=339)
one synagogue only	168	49.6%
Two synagogues	89	26.2%
Two or more synagogues	30	8.8%
No opinion	51	15.0%
No response	1	0.3%

Respondents were further asked whether or not they felt that more than one congregation could be run out of a single building. In this question 56% felt that more than one congregation could be run out of a single building, while 28.1% do not think that more than one congregation can be run out of a single building. Again over 14% had no opinion or did not respond.

Existing Jewish Facilities and Programs:

Respondents were also asked about the extent to which they, or any members of their household utilize Jewish facilities and programs (table 11). Jewish adult educational programs are generally not well utilized. Almost 58% of respondents said they never attend Jewish adult education programs, while an additional 16% said they attend such programs only rarely. Only 8% of those surveyed said they attend Jewish adult education programs all or most of the time.

Jewish cultural events are somewhat more popular among those surveyed. Less than 15% said they never attend Jewish cultural events, while 21% said they attend such events all or most of the time. An additional 43% said they attend such events occasionally. Thus almost three quarters of those surveyed attend cultural programs at least occasionally if not more often.

A similar pattern to the above is noted when respondents were asked about attendance at Jewish entertainment. Almost two-thirds said they attend Jewish entertainment occasionally or more often, while only 15% said they never attend Jewish entertainment.

Finally, respondents were asked about their usage of Jewish Youth programs by members of their household. Almost two-thirds of the households surveyed said that this question was not applicable (i.e. they did not have children of an appropriate age within the household). Of the remainder, almost 60% of households indicate that they would use Jewish Youth Programs occasionally or better (with almost one-third indicating they attend most or all of the time). While it is important to keep in mind that most households do not have appropriately aged children to attend these programs, of those that do, these programs are well utilized.

Table 11
Utilization of Existing Facilities
(n=339)

Utilization	Adult Education	Youth Programs	Cultural Events	Entertainment	Kosher Bakery
All the time	2.1%	4.1%	5.3%	5.0%	12.4%
Most time	5.9%	6.8%	15.9%	14.4%	16.2%
Occasionally	17.4%	8.8%	43.4%	43.1%	30.1%
Rarely	16.5%	5.6%	19.1%	19.8%	11.5%
Never	57.2%	8.0%	14.5%	15.9%	28.0%
Not applic	-	64.3%	-	-	-
No response	0.9%	2.4%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%

Potential Jewish Facilities and Programs:

Respondents were asked to what extent they or members of their household would use a number of potential Jewish facilities or programs. When asked whether they would use a Jewish Day School, two-thirds of respondents said this question was not applicable (i.e. they did not have children of appropriate age). Of the remainder who replied, over half (53.8%) felt that they would not use a Jewish Day School, while 36% said they would use it all or most of the time. An additional 10% indicate that they would use it occasionally. In sum, most households do not have school age children, and of those who do, less than half would make use of such a facility.

Respondents were also asked whether any member of their household would utilize a Jewish student House. Here again most respondents (78.5%) indicated that this question was not applicable to their household. Of the remaining, 22% said they would use it all or most of the time, another 22% said they would use it occasionally, while 56% indicated they would rarely or never use a Jewish student house. While these numbers would indicate that a Jewish student house is not a priority among Jewish households, it should be kept in mind that this survey was undertaken in the summer when many out of town students would have returned home. Similarly many of the Halifax university students who attend universities elsewhere would not use such a facility.

A Jewish community centre was a potential Jewish facility that respondents were more likely to use. Almost two-thirds of respondents indicated that they would use a Jewish community centre occasionally or more, with 35% indicating that they would use it all or most of the time. Less than one-fifth (18.6%) indicated that they would never use such a facility. A Jewish community centre appears to be a facility that would be used fairly regularly by members of the Halifax Jewish community.

Finally, respondents were asked whether or not they would use a kosher butcher and also a kosher restaurant if they were available. While almost one-third indicated that they would use a kosher butcher most or all of the time, over half (53.1%) indicated that they would never or rarely use a kosher butcher. Similarly while 28% said they would use a kosher restaurant most or all of the time, almost one third (31.1%) said they would never or rarely use a kosher restaurant.

Table 12
Potential Jewish Facilities and Programs

Utilization	Day School	Student House	Community Centre	Kosher Butcher	Kosher Restaurant
All the time	8.0%	2.1%	15.6%	23.0%	12.1%
mostly	3.2%	2.1%	19.2%	8.0%	15.9%

Utilization	Day School	Student House	Community Centre	Kosher Butcher	Kosher Restaurant
occasionally	1.8%	4.1%	30.4%	14.2%	37.8%
rarely	1.2%	2.1%	11.2%	14.2%	12.7%
never	16.5%	8.6%	18.6%	38.9%	18.6%
not applic	66.5%	78.5%	2.1%	-	-
no reply	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%	1.8%	2.9%

Jewish Camps:

The centrality of the Jewish camp experience has often been noted in maintaining and enhancing the quality of Jewish life. Of the 856 individuals surveyed, almost half (46.1%) had attended a Jewish camp. Of those who have attended a Jewish camp, 70% indicated that they have attended Camp Kadimah. Of the entire population surveyed, almost 25% (24.5%) have attended (or are attending) Camp Kadimah. It is obvious that this camp plays an important role to Jews in the Halifax area.

Travel to Israel:

Another salient aspect of Jewish identity is typically identified as trips to Israel. Of the 856 people in this study, 46% had been to Israel. A significant number of individuals have been to Israel more than once (table 13). Clearly, Israel is central to the lives of many Jews in the Halifax region.

Table 13
Travel to Israel

Number of trips to Israel	No. Of Individuals	% (n=856)
never	461	53.9%
Once	156	18.2
Twice	82	9.6%
Three times	42	4.9%
4 or more times	71	8.3%
Number of times not given	44	5.1%

Charitable Contributions:

While there is enthusiasm for the expansion of Jewish services in Halifax, this also implies sources of funding. Respondents were asked if they contribute regularly to Jewish and non-Jewish charities and of the former where they would want their donations to go.

Almost 85% of households reported that they regularly contribute to charitable organizations. Of the 339 households contacted, almost two-thirds (63.4%) report that they regularly contribute to Jewish charities. Table 14 indicates the breakdown of their contributions to Jewish causes.

Table 14
Jewish Charities Supported by Households
(N=215)

Charity/Organization	No. Households	Support in % (of those who indicate that they support Jewish Charities, n=215)
UJA	98	46%
JNF	71	33%
Hadassah	71	33%
Synagogues	60	27%
UIA	45	20%
Youth Alivah	26	12%
Shul	19	9%
Jewish Camps	16	7%
Sisterhood	14	7%
AJC	13	6%
Weisenthal	12	6%
Jewish Universities	8	4%
Israel Bonds	6	3%
Mizrachi	6	3%
Jewish War Veterans	5	2%
Israeli Hospitals	5	2%
ORT	5	2%
Trees	5	2%
Israel	4	2%
Masaddah	4	2%
Other	29	13%

In terms of secular causes, the most common charitable donations went to health related charities

with about half (46.6%) of the households regularly contributing. Interestingly only 12.7% of households indicated that they contribute *only* to Jewish charities, indicating that Jews in Halifax do not limit their charitable giving to Jewish causes.

Respondents were further asked about their contributions to Jewish causes. In particular they were asked where they would want their funds distributed. Of those who had an opinion and made a contribution to Jewish charities, almost 15% indicated that they would like to see all donations to Jewish charities distributed to Israel only; 15.7% indicated that they would like to see all donations to Jewish charities distributed locally; while the vast majority, almost 70% (69.4%) indicated that they would want their contributions distributed both to Israel and locally.

Quality of Jewish Life in Halifax

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of Jewish life in Halifax. Almost 40% of respondents indicated that they rated the quality of Jewish life as good or excellent, while an additional 40% rated it as fair. Less than 13% rated the quality as poor or very poor, while 7% either did not respond or felt that they were not involved enough in the community to give an accurate response.

Table 15
Quality of Jewish Life

Rating	Number of Respondents	% (n=339)
Excellent	11	3.2%
Good	124	36.6%
Fair	138	40.7%
Poor	29	8.6%
Very Poor	14	4.1%
No response	8	2.4%
Not qualified or uninvolved	15	4.4%

These results indicate that most respondents are not dissatisfied with the quality of Jewish life in the Halifax region.

Arnold Feder, 67, a leader in Jewish community, dies

By Yvonne Chiu

Sacramento Bee, Friday, March 26, 1999

Editor's Note : Arnold Feder and his wife (the late Carol Silverman) spent many wonderful years here in Halifax. They had their family here and both were active in Jewish and community causes. All of us who knew him remember a gentle and kind individual who cared for his people, his synagogue and all mankind

Adding brick and mortar to the Sacramento Jewish community was as important to Arnold Feder as nurturing its spirit. Mr. Feder, who died Monday in his home, directed resources into both constructing local Jewish institutions and strengthening Judaic traditions in the community. His family said he probably suffered a pulmonary embolism, and since Jewish law prohibits autopsies except in certain special circumstances, the exact cause of death will not be determined. Mr. Feder was 67.

Recruited in 1981 to head the Sacramento Jewish Federation, which was then a small fund-raising organization consisting mostly of volunteers, Mr. Feder was charged with its expansion.

Mr. Feder quickly saw the need for a vibrant school to provide Jewish education and fixed his vision on the Shalom School on Wydn Way. "Before his arrival, there were fewer than 20 students enrolled", said Jon Merksamer, Mr. Feder's son-in-law and a federation board member. Today, there are about 280 students, and the school has added programs for infants and preschoolers.

"They thought they couldn't sustain the Jewish Day School," Merksamer said. "Arnold really oversaw and developed and coaxed the community into a bigger vision." In addition, under Mr. Feder the federation developed numerous programs at the Jewish Community Center and created Jewish Family Service, providing counseling, refugee resettlement and senior services.

"Jewish Family Service was talked about in the community for about 25 years before it was actually created", said Davida Feder, Mr. Feder's widow and the agency's former executive director. Family members said Mr. Feder frequently was an agent in the background. He helped establish the Keneset Israel Torah Center by providing a space for the congregation to meet, and aided the completion of the Albert Einstein Residence Center.

These developments fundamentally changed the role of the federation, which during Mr. Feder's 10-year tenure as director had grown into a more professional and active group.

More of the money it raised was being funneled back into the local Jewish community.

"He was always the guy telling people we can do this," Merksamer said. More importantly, Mr. Feder cared about the soul of his community, relatives said.

Mr. Feder was the son of a jeweler on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. "The family was actively involved in the synagogue there, which probably is why Mr. Feder chose to work

for the federation" said his cousin, Evelyn Davis.

He lived in Nova Scotia until he left to attend Yeshiva University in New York. After he graduated he went to work in 1968 as a fundraiser for the Zionist organization in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After a year, he left to become Associate Director of the Jewish Federation in Seattle. He stayed more than six years before accepting a promotion to director of a federation in Flint, Mich.

His extensive experience landed him in Sacramento about six years later. Relatives said he went beyond his responsibilities by taking an interest in the Jewish life in Sacramento, which for a city of its size, was not as dynamic as it could be, they said.

"It was one of his dreams and reasons why he liked federation work; it allowed him to build a community," said his son, Rabbi Baruch Feder.

"It was just as important to him to see the flourishing and nurturing of an observant tradition," added Bob Gittleman, Mr. Feder's son-in-law. "Arnold and his family have had a traditional background. He was trying to find ways to subtly instill some of those traditions in Sacramento."

Despite his traditional background, relatives said he was very accepting of all the branches of Judaism in the community and often tried to bridge any gaps:

"He didn't push his religious beliefs on anyone," his son said.

Outside of his work, Mr. Feder was an avid reader, collector of Judaica and a sports fan.

"After his retirement, he also became somewhat of a home chef. He would watch the food channel and would talk to anyone about cooking who would listen," David Feder said.

He also served on the board of the Natural Foods Co-op in Sacramento and read to the blind.

"He was a wonderful family man and the most loving individual I ever met," she added.

According to Jewish custom, Mr. Feder was buried shortly after his death.

The family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Keneset Israel Torah Center.

Survivors include his wife, Davida; daughter, Shira Gittleman of Sacramento; daughter Corrine Merksamer of Sacramento; son, Rabbi Baruch Feder of Passaic, N.J.; daughter, Anne Sayah of Howell, N.J.; and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Feder was preceded in death by Carol (Silverman) Feder, his first wife, who died in 1990.

From Around



"ONE SCOOP OR TWO" GR 3-6
WAVE POOL/ISRAELI BEACH PARTY
JOANNE ARGAND, KIM UR JANUARY 1999



"GONE FISHIN"
PURIM CARNIVAL, HALIFAX FEBRUARY 1999



ALLAN LIEBERMAN PER-
FORMED PURIM "SCHTICK"
IN HALIFAX & FREDERICTON
FEBRUARY 1999



HELPING OUT AT THE PURIM CARNIVAL
FROM L to R: SUE DAVID, LYSSA APRIL, LORRAINE TOBIA,
JENNIFER RUBENSTEIN



AN OUTFIT FIT FOR A QUEEN
AARON LUDMAN
PURIM CARNIVAL, HALIFAX
FEBRUARY 1999



"GETTING THE GANG TOGETHER"
APJSF SKI TRIP CAPE SMOKEY FEBRUARY 1999

The Region



AJC PRESIDENT VICTOR GOLD-
BERG ASSISTED BY CHAPLAIN
RABBI DAVID ELLIS DEDICATE
MEZUZAH ON THE FRONT DOOR



AT THE AJC OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE
L/R DARRYL PINK, TED TAX, ELIZABETH PINK



READY TO PLACE A MEZUZAH
MR. RALPH MEDJUCK HIS SON-
IN-LAW MR. MANI SUISSA



AT THE AJC EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD IN HALIFAX
IN FEBRUARY 1999 L/R DAVID KORN, DOV HARRIS,
SHELDON COHEN, SHIRLEY BURNSTEIN



JIM SPATZ, REGIONAL CHAIRMAN UJA AND
DOV HARRIS NATIONAL SMALL COMMUNI-
TY DIRECTOR UJA-CZF DEDICATE A
MEZUZAH FOR OUR UJA OFFICE



HAVING A KIBBITZ
BARRIE ROSS AND IRWIN LAMPERT

Stephen Markus - March 16, 1999

By Paloma Hanlon

"I am a second year journalism student who is interested in the Holocaust. JakovFeig of the Atlantic Jewish Council asked me to interview Steven Markus and tell his story after my roommate told him about me. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to meet Mr. Markus and to help him share his important and fascinating testimony. I would like to thank Mr. Markus and also David Korn who helped me immensely"

Steven Markus' family had lived in Hungary for many generations before the persecution of the Jews began there. His father was taken to a forced labour camp in Russia when Steven was still in high school. Steven was taken to a forced labour camp two years later, in March 1944. A month later his younger brother was shipped to the same camp. Their work consisted of clearing debris after bombing and walking through places that were suspected of landmines. They were together about four months before they were taken to Budapest.

The deportation of Hungarian Jews to concentration camps started in June 1944, under the rule of **Horthy**, the head of state and a collaborator with Germany, but in October 1944, the Germans took his son hostage and he proclaimed that he would no longer collaborate with them. In response to this, the Germans replaced Horthy with a puppet head of state named **Szalasy**. He was the Hungarian Arrow Cross leader - the Hungarian Nazis.

"The Arrow Cross were much more vicious than Horthy's men," says Markus, "ruthlessly shooting Jews and throwing them in to the Danube River."

In October, the Budapest Jews were marched to concentration camps in Germany because there was a lack of train transportation. Steven and his brother knew that if they were taken to Germany they would not return, so they succeeded in escaping.

They went to their uncle's home. He was the owner of a sanatorium and had opportunities to meet the high ranking Hungarian officers. Steven's aunt and uncle were afraid to hide the boys because their house was under surveillance.

"The only reason they had not been taken out of Budapest was that my uncle had earned a gold medal in the First World War," Markus says.

Their aunt sent them to her neighbour, a photographer, who hid them for a few days. A day later their aunt arranged a meeting with a high-ranking Hungarian officer whose name was **Gidofalvy Lajos**.

"Gidofalvy knew we were Jewish" explains Markus "and at that time a group of Hungarians from Transylvania were arriving in Budapest to join the Hungarian army. Gidofalvy told us to go to Vilmos army camp, where he was the head officer, and say we belonged to the Transylvanian group."

In this way they joined in the Hungarian army without taking the necessary medical exam. Because they were Jewish, Lajos knew he could trust the Markuses in his fight against the Germans. Steven was chosen for his personal guard and was present when he contacted **Raul Wallenberg**, the Suede diplomat, who saved many Hungarian Jews.

"People don't realize that Wallenberg could not have saved Jews without Gidofalvy's military protection" says Markus.

"The Arrow Cross continued to kill Jews mercilessly, including Jewish children. As part of Gidofalvy's company of about a hundred men, my brother and I helped to save thousands of Jews, by

guarding the buildings they were living, which were under the protection of the Swedish Embassy".

One time in particular Lajos learned that the Arrow Cross was planning to ship 200 children from an orphanage to a concentration camp, so his men took the children secretly to a vacant building where they were safe. "Another time," Markus remembers, "while I was waiting for a trolley to go back to my army camp, a Hungarian officer who had lived in my village recognized me 'I know you, you are a Jew' he said. I told him, 'you have made a mistake,' and he said 'I know who you are.' Then he shrugged it off as if to say 'forget it', and walked away. My life was saved again."

The Russian army occupied Budapest in January 1945, and because they were in Hungarian soldiers' uniforms, Steven and his brother were put in a prison camp. Six months later, the Russians were taking the prisoners to Russia, but they said they would release those who were sixteen and younger.

I said to my brother, 'you will be fifteen and I will be sixteen', recalls Markus. "I was already out of the camp when they changed their minds and said only 15-year-olds and younger would be freed".

They threw Steven back in the camp, and his brother refused to go without him. He convinced his brother to stay with the 15-year-olds, telling him there was no reason for them both to die. Then back in the camp, a Russian officer saw Steven crying.

"He asked me what happened, and I told him my brother had gone and I was left in the camp alone," he says. "He made a special paper that freed me with the 15-year-olds. We were lucky. There were about 20,000 Hungarian prisoners that were being sent to prison camps in Russia, and very few returned. But we were saved together".

After they were released Stephen and his brother went back to their village, but they could not find their parents or their sister. They had perished in the Auschwitz death camp. Steven stayed in Hungary until 1948. On June 1 of that year he immigrated to Israel with the first Hagana Aliyah. He enlisted in the newly established Israeli army and fought in the Israeli Independence War, but Steven wanted to be with his brother, who at that time was already in Canada, so he came to Halifax in 1959 and has stayed here ever since.

"It is hard to understand why we survived out of the millions who perished in that terrible time" says Markus.

But he believes that it was some sort of Divine Intervention. When his parents were taken away on the kettle wagons they slipped a letter for their sons through the slats, asking G-d to save them both. Steven says he thinks G-d was working through those people who saved him so many times, to fulfill his parents' wish.

"Looking back I have a good feeling that because I was saved, I was able to save many other Jewish lives in Hungary and Israel", he says, adding this is also the reason he feels an obligation to tell his story.

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The Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoa was established by decree of the Federal Council of Switzerland as a humanitarian gesture to aid needy victims of the Holocaust worldwide. This is a humanitarian fund, not reparations or restitution of assets deposited in Switzerland which must be claimed under separate procedures.

Any individual who meets all of the following criteria may apply for a one-time grant from the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoa through the system established by the World Jewish Restitution Organization, and administered by the Canadian Distribution Committee:

- You are a Jew who lived in a country under the Nazi regime, under Nazi occupation, or under the regime of Nazi collaborators
- You are a citizen, a permanent resident or other legal resident of Canada
- You are in need: meaning that wherever you live, you are having financial difficulties meeting your basic needs such as housing, food, clothing and additional health care

The modest amount to be paid to each person will depend on the total number of needy applications approved.

Any eligible individual in Canada wishing to apply must submit a completed application to the address listed on the application form so that it is received prior to May 24, 1999.

Application forms can be acquired at the following location

Atlantic Jewish Council, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Suite 800, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H1
Phone: (902) 422-7491 Fax: (902) 425-3722

The Atlantic Jewish Council is in the process of updating our e-mail addresses and website. Debbie Osborne will be taking a course in web design in the very near future. The new web page should be up and running in a month.

The AJC now has its own domain and the new website address will be: www.theajc.ns.ca

E-mail addresses for employees of the Atlantic Jewish Council are as follows and will be up and running by the time you receive this issue of Shalom

Jon Goldberg – jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

Camp Kadimah – campkadimah@theajc.ns.ca

Marie Herschorn – mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

Yakov Feig- yfeig@theajc.ns.ca

For general or generic mail we've set up a mail box – atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

5675 Spring Garden Road, Suite 800, Halifax, NS B3J 1H1

Sometimes life's directions take a dramatic turn when they're least expected. For Genia Gitkis, or Jenny, as she prefers to be called, life began in a small Ukrainian town called Vinnitsa, a five-hour train ride from Kiev. She grew up in a typical Communist family believing that life's ultimate objective was to "be a good citizen of the Ukrainian State." She had no inkling that she was Jewish by birth until, at the age of eight, she asked her mother what strange language her grandparents were speaking. When she discovered they were conversing in Yiddish, she was shocked. Her grandparents, who reassured her that Yiddish was of no importance, encouraged her to study Ukrainian, to be involved in Ukrainian society, and to make her future in the State. "I think because of anti-Semitism and 70 years of the Communist regime, they were very afraid that religion would hurt my life," she speculates. To reinforce Ukrainian ideals, Jenny's parents sent her to State schools where she was the only Jew among 1,000 students.

At fourteen, Jenny was so alienated from Jewish life, she found a Passover seder, to which she and her mother were invited, distasteful. "It was the first time I had ever been among Jews," Jenny recalls. "I felt out of place. I didn't like their Yiddish songs and the dancing."

But Jenny's attitude changed dramatically in 1992 when Eli Taran, a UJA Federation-funded Jewish Agency emissary, appeared one day in Kiev. An enthusiastic kibbutznik, he talked about the Agency's plans to open Jewish clubs and summer camps in the former Soviet Union. Jenny wasn't all that impressed at first, and when Taran asked the students to sit in silence for a moment and to look at him, "I was sure he was crazy," says Jenny. "Why did I have to look at him? Suddenly he came over to me and asked for my name. I said, 'I'm Genia and what do you want from my life?' He answered, 'I don't know who you are, where you are

from, or what are your future plans, but I'm sure you'll work with me and you'll make *aliyah* to Israel."

Jenny couldn't get over Taran's *chutzpah*. Even when he called her persistently to invite her to Kaballat Shabbat services and meetings, she declined. Finally a leadership seminar with two guest Israeli psychologists triggered her interest. "I guess these psychologists saw something in me, because by the end of the seminar, I was surprised to know that I was chosen to be a counsellor at the first meeting of Jewish students from all over the former Soviet Union."

"That seminar really changed my attitude toward the Jewish people. I realized to be Jewish is interesting and I wanted to know more."

This thirst for knowledge lead Jenny to participate in the Jewish Agency student club, *Shachar* (Dawn) where she learned Hebrew, attended Shabbat services and studied Jewish life. After three months, she, herself, became a Hebrew teacher for younger children. She introduced Shabbat traditions to her mother and they began to light candles together.

At an Agency seminar in Israel, after touching the Kotel (Wester Wall), she telephoned her mother to say, "I have found the only place for me in the world. I need it and feel it inside my heart." She decided on the spot to raise her future children in a Jewish environment and to make *aliyah*.

In 1994, Jenny moved on her own. Now she is studying for a Master's degree in educational counselling while working part-time in the Jewish Agency's *Aliyah* Department.

"During my four years in Israel, I have returned to Jewish Agency winter and summer camps in the FSU. It's very exciting for me to go back as an Israeli *shlichah* (emissary)," she says. "If not for the Jewish Agency, I wouldn't be where I am today. They've changed my life." ♦



GENIA GITKIS IS NOT ALONE

Since the recent mass *aliyah* began in 1989, the UJA Federation-funded Jewish Agency has brought more than 847,000 *olim* to Israel. Of the 723,000 from the former Soviet Union, over 258,000 are children and youth under the age of 24.

♦ Over 1.1 million Jews remain in the former Soviet Union, some of whom live near areas of civil unrest where conditions are stressful and uncertain. With the declining ruble, Russian Jews are particularly at risk.

♦ 250,000 remain in the Ukraine, where large numbers live in small town. These Jews need to be identified and prepared for *aliyah*.

♦ There are 720 *ulpanim* (Hebrew language courses) in the FSU, which need further funding to continue. The Jewish Agency provides scholarships for 3,000 Jewish youth to attend summer camps in the FSU. 20,000 more youngsters could benefit from this first taste of Judaism.

♦ Thousands of Jewish teenagers are making *aliyah* without their families. The Jewish Agency maintains special programs to help prepare them before they leave and to absorb them when they arrive.

CANADA AND ISRAEL MARK SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CIFTA

International Trade Minister **Sergio Marchi** concluded a business development mission to Israel that was highlighted by meetings to review the two-year old Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA). The trip to Israel was the final portion of a Middle East trade mission that also brought the Minister and a delegation representing 46 Canadian businesses to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the West Bank and Gaza.

"We are ending our trade mission to the Middle East where our free trade efforts in the region began", said **Mr. Marchi**. "Our review of CIFTA with Israel has served to further enhance the already tremendously successful trade relationship between our countries."

The CIFTA is the only free trade agreement Canada has outside of the Americas.



FROM LEFT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER SERGIO MARCHI
SHARES A HANDSHAKE WITH ISRAELI MINISTER OF EDUCATION
YITZAK LEVY

Two-way trade between Canada and Israel reached a record \$650 million in 1998; an increase of 30 percent since the CIFTA was implemented. Sectors of interest for Canadian business in Israel include agri-food, biotechnology, building and construction, education, information technology and telecommunications.

On Thursday, Mr. Marchi met with **Natan Sharansky**, Israeli Minister for Trade and Industry, to review the operation of the CIFTA. The two ministers agreed to begin negotiations to expand free trade benefits over a wider range of products in the agri-food sector. The CIFTA Commission agreed to pursue the creation of a

Canadian-Israeli Business Advisory Group to develop and promote the commercial advantages of the CIFTA for both corporate communities, including small-and-medium sized businesses. They also discussed a number of other areas, including customs procedures and rules of origin.

On Sunday, the Minister witnessed the signing of an agreement between Canadian Highways International Corporation (CHIC) and its partner Africa Israel Investment Ltd. to conclude the final financial arrangement to build the \$1.1 billion Cross-Israel Highway. This electronic toll highway will reduce the strain on Israel's existing highways, while respecting environmental considerations. The deal establishes CHIC as a world leader in transportation infrastructure development and creates new jobs in Canada and Israel.

In Jerusalem today, the Minister signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural, Academic and Sports relations with **Yitzhak Levy**, Israeli Minister of Education, Culture and Sport. He then announced a Canadian studies grant of \$60,000 to contribute to Canadian studies in Israel. Mr. Marchi also signed a Protocol of Discussion on Communication with **Limor Livnat**, Israeli Minister of Communications that will result in increased co-operation in the telecommunications sector.

In Tel Aviv, Mr. Marchi met with former Israeli Prime Minister **Shimon Peres**, head of the Peres Centre for Peace. They discussed the Center's activities, including its projects in the West Bank and Gaza that encourage joint venture activities between Israeli and Palestinian Businesses. Mr. Marchi also attended a meeting with the joint Palestinian-Israeli Environmental Management Committee, whose goal is to improve management of common environmental resources. As well, he cut the ribbon at a new Second Cup franchise, the fourth of this Canadian-owned franchise to be opened in Israel.

"This mission promoted and enhanced Canada's already strong commercial relations with Israel," said the minister. "It has also reaffirmed the long standing cultural and social ties that bind our two countries."

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Leslie Swartman

Office of the Minister for International Trade

(613) 992-7332

Media Relations Office

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

(613) 995-1874

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:

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5675 Spring Garden Road, Suite 800

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The AJC would like to acknowledge as a founding patron a donation of \$2,500.00 from
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Rediscovering Tova Ben-Zvi

By Yakov Feig

Atlantic Jewish Council
Halifax

As a programmer for the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax, I often meet many interesting individuals of various backgrounds. There are Jewish Community members inquiring about the different programs that we offer. There are people inquiring about Jewish customs and culture, or about art and music. Every day different people come into my office to discuss a variety of different topics. Yet, very few of them would intrigue me to the point where I feel compelled to write about them or what they are pursuing. **Greg Swiatkoeski** is one of these people. A couple of months ago, Greg called me and asked if I had ever heard of **Tova Ben-Zvi**. I admitted that I could not recall if I had. Greg then proceeded to tell me about her works and the circumstances in which he discovered her music.

Here is his story:

Greg Swiatkowski was born in the city of Poznan (German Name -Posen) in Poland in 1967. Growing up in communist Poland, young people were made acutely aware of the realities of World War II by the education system and the official line of the Communist Government as well as family members who lived through the war. In 1989 Greg came to Canada, but always kept in touch with his community at home and established an extensive selection of Polish music. So you may ask, how does Tova Ben Zvi fit into the picture? In 1998 Greg started volunteering for CKDU Radio Station, 97.5 FM at Dalhousie University and began a regular radio program under the name Warsaw Beat which features a mix of Traditional and Contemporary Music. During his search for various musical resources, he found a review from *Nigdy Wiecej* ("Never Again") Magazine, a publication dedicated to the exposure of Neo-Nazi tendencies and racial hatred surfacing in small segments of Polish Society. This review focused on Tova Ben-Zvi's works and resulted in Greg contacting Studio Vega, Tova's publisher in Warsaw Poland. Upon receipt of Tova's cassette he was mesmerized by the sheer beauty and range of emotions brought on by her songs. From the depths of hell itself, came through a voice of the street, singing songs about the things that bring meaning to life. In the song, "Nit kajn rozinkes, nit kajn mandlen" ("No raisins nor almonds"), Greg says that you can almost experience what it must have meant not to be able to have food readily available. Or another example is the song "Wajl ich bin a jidele", ("Since I am a Jew"), Music is used as a celebration of life, to lift one's spirit in circumstances of utter despair. Tova's works range from "Songs of Ghetto Lodz", a collection of songs sung in the ghetto, and "Songs of Holocaust" to "A Zemerl", a collection of Jewish Folk Songs. All of them are published by Vega studios, a small independent publisher in Poland. Upon hearing these works Greg has felt compelled to share them with the listeners of his program and has approached me as well. Greg is interested in making others aware of her talents and the incredible value of this music as a time capsule of an era that is slowly fading away from people's consciousness. It is of this danger, that Greg fears most. If people disregard the past, there is a danger that the same acts may be repeated in the future. Already today, all over the world, there are those that wish to ignore the past or even try to deny it. That is why it is more important than ever to publi-

cize these works and to educate people in areas such as world history, music, art, and general awareness of different people's culture and contributions to society. This is particularly poignant to Greg as someone who had both sets of grandfathers perish in World War II, and to myself who has had both sets of grandparents perish as well. A few weeks ago I heard Tova's works for the first time. In the tape "Songs of Ghetto Lodz", I too felt the sadness and despair in Tova's voice slowly work its way towards a feeling of hope in song like "Kajarden" the Jordan River. In "A Zemerl", Jewish Folk Songs, she sings many of the classics with feelings and gusto. I am happy that Greg Swatkowski has introduced Tova Ben-Zvi's works to me and I hope that others can rediscover her works as well. If you are interested in obtaining Tova's music, please contact Greg at R.R. # 2, Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, BOJ 2EO, or e-mail him at warsawbeat@hotmail.com, or phone at (902) 627-2247.

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Masada News

By Marianne Ferguson

Club Masada continues to be very active. In January we had a very interesting meeting which was ably chaired by **Barbara Alberstat** as our president, **Edith Schneiderman**, was ill.

Our guest speaker at the meeting was **Andrea Leonard** from Northwood Care. Andrea explained about the various services Northwood Care offers to help seniors. **Rabbi Ellis**, who was also present, educated the appropriate staff about cleaning for Passover and they can now send out people who are knowledgeable and able to do this special cleaning. That will certainly be appreciated by many of us.

Harry Block has celebrated his 85th birthday and we wish him good health and many more birthdays in the future.

Mr. Brown, of Northwood, has arranged with **Shirley Burnstein** to set aside a meeting room for us which we can use twice a month. This room will be used for our regular monthly meeting and we can use it again, perhaps for a social get together - to play bridge or just sit and talk with each other.

At our executive meeting on February 16th, Edith presided, feeling better already. We were very happy to see her. **Sara Yablon** brought old photographs of people at various functions in the Jewish Community. They were very interesting and can be shown at a future meeting.

The executive felt that there are many people in Halifax in the 50 and up age group who may not be aware of Club Masada and we issue a warm welcome to them to join us. We would like to increase our membership and want to assure you that there is something of interest for everyone.

Some of our members went to see the movie "Life is Beautiful" which was enjoyed by all.

On March 18th we had our first meeting at Northwood at which Edith presided and on March 19th a number of our members attended a very nice Shabbat dinner at Cambridge Suites which was arranged by **Yakov Feig** for students and seniors. All who attended had a good time.

We wish **Jean Zlatin**, who is in the hospital, after hip surgery a speedy and complete recovery. To Bessie Rinzler, we extend our deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved husband, Max.

In closing, may we wish all of our community a very Happy and enjoyable Pesach.

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To all Jewish War Veterans and Associates of Atlantic Post # 4:

By Gar Meltzer

Post Commander

I have returned after being away for the past 4 months and I have been plowing through my correspondence. I want to thank you for organizing and participating in the Remembrance Day activities in your community. I cannot emphasize enough how essential this is for public relations.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the manifest from a convention of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters and Camp Inmates, held in Tel Aviv from October 13-15, 1998.

Of course each point covered is important, however, we have ticked off several items which we think are of vital importance now.

In each city across Canada where we have a Jewish War Veteran Post, there is a viable Jewish community that must take action to answer the concerns of the enclosed manifest.

There are people that are trying to silence and to end the request for additional education to younger people about the Holocaust. We must never allow this to happen. The Holocaust is the symbol of what happens to mankind when hatred, bigotry and racism are allowed to run unbridled.

As a member, you have a responsibility to your family, to your post members and to the community as a whole, to assemble your Jewish leadership in your area, and discuss the fears outlined and to set up a plan of action.

You, as a member of a veteran organization that fought those that brought the Holocaust to the world, have every right to bring this to the leaders of your community. Many Canadians gave their lives in the struggle against racism and hatred. We must not stand idly by our brothers' blood and allow others to deny history. We will strive to adhere to this manifest.

I also wish to advise you about a trip to Israel being sponsored by the Jewish Veterans of Canada, leaving Toronto on April 18, 1999 and returning on May 2, 1999. The cost of trip is \$3,350.00 Canadian funds, includ-

ing air fare. All hotels are 5 star rating. Tax receipts are to be given for this trip. For further information contact Mr. Lou VanDelman at (416) 663-8387.

I wish everyone a very healthy and happy Passover.

World Convention of Holocaust Survivors, Jewish Fighters Partisans and Camp Inmates

Manifest

Convention Held on 13-15 1998

1. Expresses deep concern about the rise of anti-Semitic, Racist, and neo-Nazi movements all over the world, and warns of the danger facing the Jewish Communities in the Diaspora.

2. Warns of the attempts to deny the Holocaust and categorically rejects pseudo-academic proclamations on the subject.

3. Appeals to "Yad-Vashem" and all other Research Institutions and Education Centers to enhance the Second World War studies on Jewish participation in the resistance and fight against Nazi Germany.

4. Appeals to the Ministry of Education, the I.D.F., and the various Education and Research Centers in Israel and the Diaspora to deepen the studies of the Second World War period, thus increasing the awareness of the younger generation to the Holocaust and the Jewish Resistance and Fight. The above quoted Institutions are called upon to encourage visits of our young men and women to the Nazi Death Camps and battlefields of the Jewish Resistance to the Nazis.

5. Demands from the Mass Media - Radio, Television, Press - to dedicate effort and space to the subject of the Holocaust and Jewish heroic Resistance and Fight against the Nazis.

6. Appeals to the World Jewish organization and the Jewish Communities in the Diaspora to support and finance the commemoration activities of the Jewish Heritage, and to learn the moral of the Holocaust atrocities.



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Chanukkah

By Gila Cohen

Editor's note: Gila Cohen, age 12 daughter of Aryth and Lillian, wrote this composition and presented it at the Lieutenant Governor's Chanukah party in December

Chanukkah is my favorite holiday. I like it because I enjoy the story behind the festival, I like to light candles, and it is a nice time for my family and my friends to get together and celebrate. Of course I like the presents too! In my family, and in my school in Israel, Chanukah is celebrated as a religious festival. We learned about the Maccabees' fight to worship in their own way, and the miracle of the oil lasting eight days so that the temple could be rededicated. Living in Israel made the story so much more real, since we could take class trips to the places where the Maccabees defeated their enemies and could visit the site where the Temple used to stand. When I came to Halifax, the first thing I noticed about the holiday season were the houses decorated so beautifully with Christmas lights, and the Christmas trees in the shopping malls and other public places.

I didn't know much about Christmas, and assumed that we

would learn about the story of Christmas in school. I also wondered if I would feel left out. To my surprise, in class we talked only about the celebration of Christmas, and not about the religious meaning behind the holiday. We also discussed the holidays of other religions and cultures. My teacher made special efforts to include me in these discussions, and encouraged me to tell the class about my religion, and for that I feel very grateful.

In the school concert, there were songs about Kwanza and Chanukah, as well as Christmas. This gave me a really good feeling, and I learned something too! I realized that the Christmas message being taught in school was that all people should be able to worship in their own special way, and that we should all respect each other's religions, which is what the Maccabees fought for so many years ago. I want to wish you all a very happy holiday season.

The Silent Tears of Jewish Immigrant Children in Canada

By Dr. Michael Briks

You are six years of age and you've just been told by your momma, or your papa... perhaps your Bubbie or Zadie, that in a little while you are going to move far, far away. You don't quite understand why you are moving and you can't quite grasp where you are moving to, other than this magical place is supposed to be better than where you are living now, whatever that means. Your momma now spends countless hours sorting out "stuff" that will be going with you and "stuff" that will remain - to be given to others - nothing to go to waste. Relatives come and go - they have tears in their eyes. They tell you that they will visit soon (whatever "soon" means) and that you are going to be very happy far, far away, even though as happiness goes you are doing fine where you are now. Close neighbors usher in your playmates to bid farewell. Awkwardly they sit with you. One child graciously offers a biscuit, another the small wooden car to which you claimed ownership several arguments ago. The playmates are not reassuring; somehow they sense that they will never see you again, never play with you again. This is the final good-bye.

You are six years old and you are about to embark on a journey that will lead you to a new life; new experiences, new neighborhood, new school, new synagogue. You are pale. You feel very

small and frightened. It is difficult to speak. So much is whirling about you - packing, kvetching, packing, laughter, packing, tears - tears and hugs. Everything uncertain. Everything changing. The plight of the immigrant child - not a chance. A family move from Toronto to Vancouver; from Winnipeg to Ottawa or perhaps from Windsor to Halifax. Stressful, indeed, traumatic...perhaps.

To your delight, little one, you soon discover that "magic land" looks strangely familiar. There are shules-upright and proud; a Jewish Community Center - even a Kosher Style deli! Over here, an Eaton's and there a K-Mart, even a Royal Bank nestled in a mall. People sound the same; drink water from the faucet, use flush toilets and buy all sorts of things with the coloured money with the picture of a crowned lady on it. Kids flock to playground swings and shiny plastic slides and bat balls in groomed grassy fields - just like back home. They even pull their ballcaps on tightly and backwards, wear faded jeans and chew bubble gum. Thank goodness momma didn't throw out the baseball glove!

Now picture if you would, a single day in the life of a newly arrived Jewish immigrant child from Donetsk, or perhaps Kiev or Zvornik...

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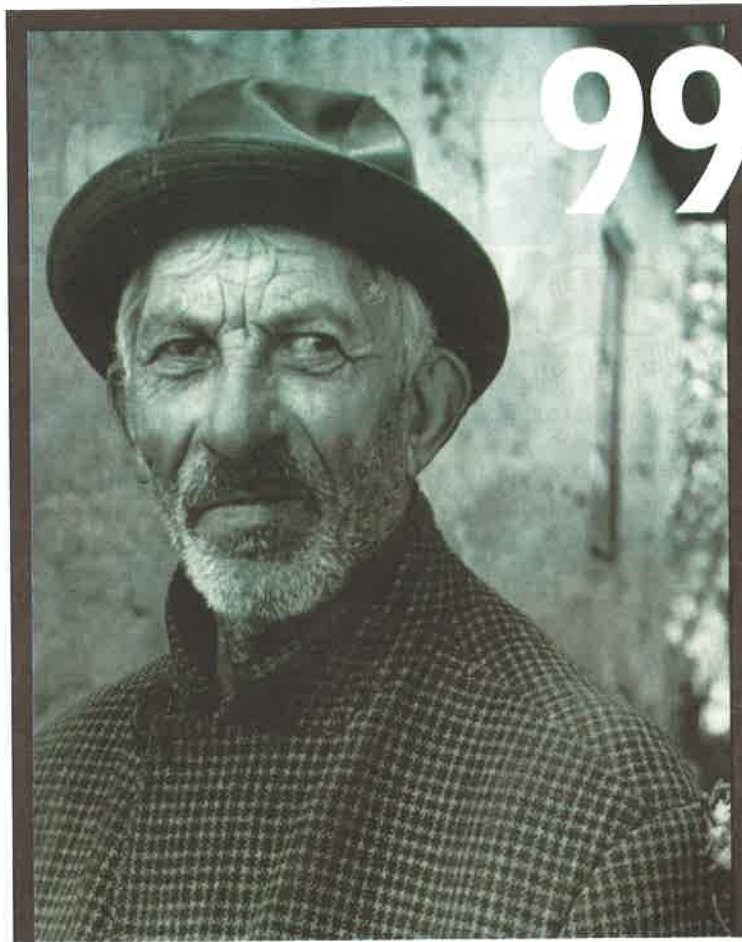
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Let my people go never meant let my people go hungry.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA OSTROVSKAYA

For years, Jews all around the world chanted "Let My People Go". When the Iron Curtain fell, the Jews of Canada supported Operation Exodus through our United Jewish Appeal/Canadian Jewish Appeal and United Israel Appeal Campaigns. Hundreds of thousands left for Israel - but many stayed behind.

Most are elderly. Many are too frail to travel to Israel. Holocaust survivors with no family. They are hungry, isolated and need your help. Your campaign donation is a local act of tzedakah that has an international impact. Food parcels, home visits and medical care are provided to homebound elderly through your generosity.



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