

# Shalom!

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# שלום!



*Wishing you a Pesach that's rich in happiness  
and a year filled with many blessings.*

# שלום

## President's Message

By Victor Goldberg

**President:** Victor Goldberg

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Donors often ask where their money goes and especially that portion of their gift retained in Canada. One of the major nationally-funded organizations is the Canadian Jewish Congress, a body rich in history and deeply connected to Atlantic Canada. When I assumed the AJC presidency almost 3 years ago, I also became Eastern Chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress, since the AJC carries out the Congress agenda in Atlantic Canada. As I became immersed in the issues of the day, such as national unity, combating anti-Semitism, judicial intervention and political lobbying, I developed a better understanding and respect for the professional way Congress staff and volunteers represent the interests of all Canadian Jews.

One of Congress' priorities has been Holocaust education and the confrontation of deniers and revisionists. Enshrining Yom haShoah in the provincial statute books is a cornerstone of these efforts. During the summer of 1999 **Moshe Ronen**, Congress President, and **Jack Silverstone**, Congress Executive Vice President, requested the AJC to help arrange a meeting with **Premier Hamm** to discuss enacting a Holocaust Memorial Bill in Nova Scotia similar to the legislation passed in Ontario. Moshe and Jack had already made inroads in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and were confident that these two provinces would enact the legislation. Our request to meet was quickly granted and Premier Hamm greeted us with enthusiastic support. During the next months we worked with government as our initiative gradually worked through the system.

In early March of this year I received word that the Government intended to introduce the Holocaust Memorial Day Act on the opening evening of the Legislature, and I was invited to participate in the drafting of the Bill. The matter was given priority and, with the able assistance of our resident constitutional expert and Community Relations Chair, Professor **Tom Kuttner** (who had helped in New Brunswick), and some small tinkering on my part, Chief Legislative Council **Gordon**

**Hebb** readied a Bill for Monday, March 27, 2000.

Premier

Hamm had decided to introduce the Bill himself and Caucus scheduled second reading the following day on Tuesday, March 28, 2000. A quick refresher course in parliamentary procedure revealed that speeches and debate occurred during second reading, and we decided to invite a representative group of survivors, together with a serviceman who had been shot down and interned in a concentration camp, to attend the Legislature for the second reading.

Unfortunately I was scheduled to be out of town on Tuesday and could only attend on Monday for the first reading. I invited **Simon**, **Jim** and **Josh Spatz** and my son **Eric** to accompany me to the Legislature. I have known and respected Simon Spatz, a survivor, all my years and felt that his attendance would personalize the event. His son Jim is a close friend and AJC Executive Member and his grandson Josh and my son Eric are best friends. Shortly before the House was opened, Premier Hamm met us in his office and expressed his genuine privilege at being able to table the Bill. We then proceeded to the gallery together with my brother Jon and **Peggy Walt**, whose assistance was invaluable. The Legislature rose with respect and admiration as the 3 Spatz generations were introduced and acknowledged.

Finally the Premier rose to table the Bill and the emotion of the moment was palpable. I gazed into the eyes of the Senior Spatz, whose humility is as large as his accomplishments, as he was surrounded by his son and grandson. I could barely imagine the conflicting emotions of sorrow and anger for a lost family and stolen youth and appreciation for his adopted home's gesture coupled with the unbridled pride and pleasure at being surrounded by his son and grandson. The Premier's work completed, we left the Legislature and were excited to hear that on Tuesday the Bill received unanimous support and was given

*continued on page 3*



continued from page 2

second and third reading. Before the debate, the Legislators and citizens, including a very rowdy group of protesting steelworkers, rose in solemn tribute when our invited guests were introduced.

All of our survivors who bless us with their presence in our communities are constant reminders of the Shoah and the perfidy of whole nations consumed by anti-Semitism. While they will not be with us forever, they can now be assured that the Holocaust Memorial Day is one small step in remembering and honouring the six million men, women and children who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. The government and people of our province have shown their support and respect. We must seize the moment to bolster our education and awareness efforts so as to remember the past and pave the way for a future free of racism.

When my presidency concludes at the end of this year, I will surely consider the Holocaust Memorial Day Act and the look on Simon Spatz face as the Premier rose in the Legislature as one of the defining moments of my term. I finally

appreciated the true value of Canadian Jewish Congress and its community relations and Holocaust remembrance agenda, and how good a return we receive as donors for our investment. On May 2, we commemorate Yom haShoah this year and it would be fitting if the Lieutenant Governor gave Royal Assent on the actual day. The Act is short in length but long in meaning, and it is in memory of those that were annihilated, empathy for those that survived, gratitude for those that educate and appreciation to all who assisted in the Act being passed, that I reproduce the Legislation below.

It is fitting that in a short time we will celebrate Passover, a family festival of freedom. During the Festival, let us reflect upon the price of freedom and the importance of family, especially in the context of the Holocaust Memorial Day Act, and remind ourselves of the many millions of our fellow Jews who were denied the joy of asking and answering the Four Questions.

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish you all a happy and kosher Passover.

## BILL NO. 27

### An Act to Recognize Yom haShoah As Holocaust Memorial Day in Nova Scotia

**WHEREAS** *haShoah* (the Holocaust) refers to the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945;

**AND WHEREAS** six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators;

**AND WHEREAS** other atrocities were planned, organized and carried out by Nazi civil and military authorities and their collaborators, victimizing Jews and many others because of race, religion, physical disability, mental disability or sexual orientation;

**AND WHEREAS** during the Second World War, Canada and its allies took part in a prolonged armed struggle, costly in human life and human suffering, to defeat the Nazis and their collaborators;

**AND WHEREAS** it is desirable to observe a day to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to honour those who fought to defeat the tyranny and genocide of the Nazis and their collaborators;

**AND WHEREAS** such a day would provide an opportunity to reflect upon and educate Nova Scotians about the enduring lessons of the Holocaust and to consider other instances of the systematic destruction of peoples, human rights issues and the multicultural reality of modern society;

**AND WHEREAS** *Yom haShoah* (the Day of the Holocaust) is determined in each year by the Jewish lunar calendar;

**THEREFORE** be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1. This Act be cited as the *Holocaust Memorial Day Act*.
2. Throughout the Province, *Yom haShoah* as determined each year by the Jewish lunar calendar shall be kept and observed under the name of Holocaust Memorial Day – Yom haShoah.

The Honourable John F. Hamm, M.D.  
President of the Executive Council



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

By Jon Goldberg

The Yom haShoah legislation causes all of us to remember man's inhumanity to man. However, in addition, I believe this legislation will serve to honour thousands of Nova Scotians who fought to free the world from Nazi tyranny. Nova Scotians of all creeds and faiths made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in peace in this wonderful Province today. Our military history is full of the honours won by the famous Nova Scotia Regiments – from Lunenburg to Yarmouth, throughout the mainland and Cape Breton; Nova Scotians served with pride and distinction.

It gave me great pleasure to acknowledge as a visitor in the Gallery, House of Assembly, Mr. William Gibson, RCAF-Retired. His plane was shot down over Europe. When captured he was thrown into Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp against the Geneva Convention where he witnessed the horrors perpetrated not only against the Jews but the other minorities and dissidents from around Europe. He survived to tell his story to hundreds of thousands of our Nova Scotia youth that they hopefully will learn from history.

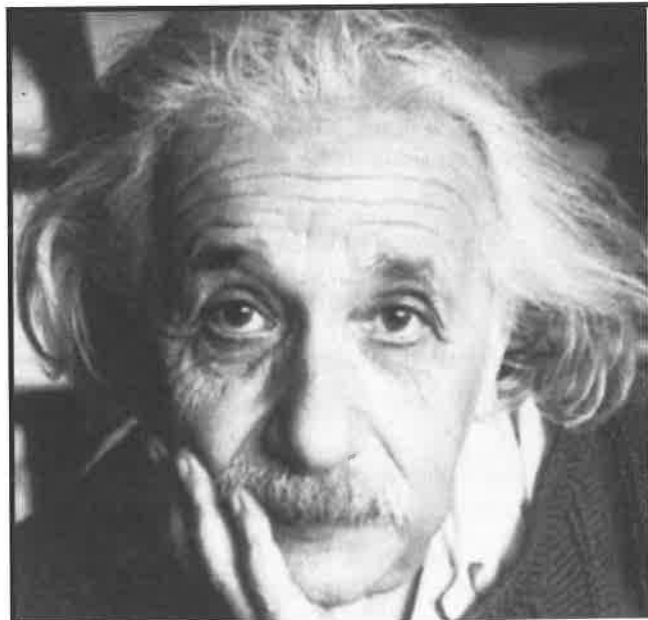
The Holocaust Memorial Day Act is more than simply a private member's bill. For Holocaust survivors, this Act will

ensure a perpetual day of remembrance for the millions who were murdered by Nazi brutality. Now, in Nova Scotia there is a law to memorialize the victims of the worst state-sponsored mass murder in history.

The Jewish Holocaust of 1933-1945 is a unique event in human history and its enduring lessons are universal. Remembering Holocaust victims and recognizing survivors are part of our solemn promise and abiding commitment to "never again" allow the world to be caught up in hatred and bigotry. The Holocaust reminds us that our multicultural Nova Scotia, with its diversity of ethnocultural and faith communities, is based upon an open and democratic society, which must be vigilantly protected from those bent on seeking to shatter this great mosaic.

This Act and its call for the enhancement of Holocaust and anti-discrimination education in our Provincial school system will enrich Nova Scotia's heritage by giving our young the tools with which to fight anti-Semitism and racism, while promoting understanding and acceptance.

To all our readers I urge you to commemorate Yom haShoah in your community and I extend my best wishes for a happy and healthy Passover to all.



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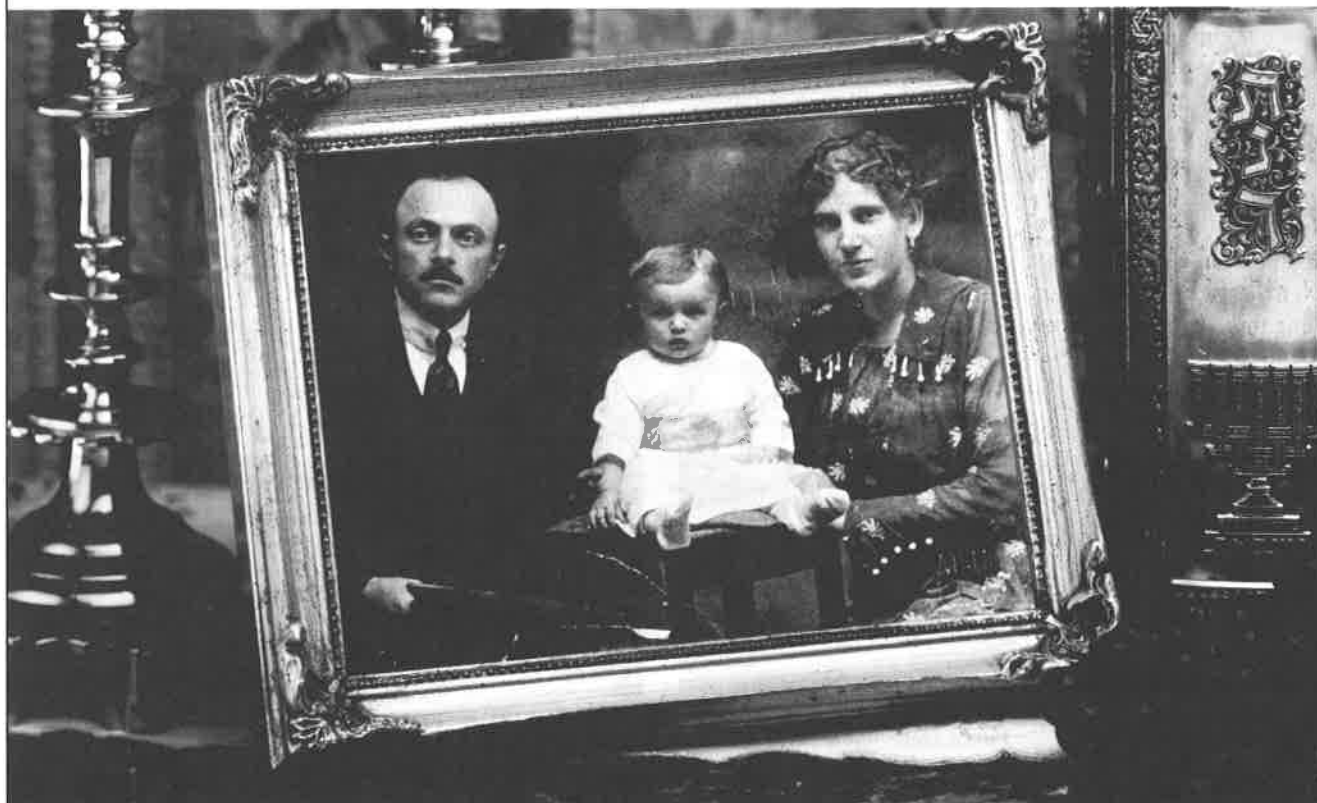


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## YAKOV'S CORNER

### *And Thou Shalt Teach Them Diligently To Thy Children, "Part One"*

*By Yakov Feig*

In almost five years of working for the Atlantic Jewish Council, there have been many changes in our Communities. However, one area remains constant. We are continually facing the challenge of perpetuating our religion, our culture, traditions and beliefs to our children. At a communal level, the AJC works together with our synagogues, communities and concerned individuals to try to create programming that will inspire our youth, teens, University Students and Young Adults to continue "doing Jewish" and instill Jewish pride. Below, please find a pictorial report of some of these type of events from the past three months.

At an individual level, I have decided to take some time off to teach my own child. My plan is to go on Paternity Leave beginning this September. As my wife has been accepted to do a Fellowship in Pediatric E.N.T. in Boston beginning in July, 2001, this will also mark the end of my tenure at the AJC. However, plans are underway to ensure that there is a smooth

transition and that someone capable will be hired in my stead. I'll mention more about this in the next issue of Shalom!

Finally, part of sharing our legacy and values with our children involves the demonstration of long term commitment to Jewish continuity at home and abroad. This is why my wife and I have decided to make the Atlantic Jewish Foundation (United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada's Bequest and Endowment Fund) a beneficiary. While we are unsure as to where we may be years from now, one thing is certain. We want Jewish programs and services available for every Jewish family in Atlantic Canada! We also want to be part of the effort of rescuing the imperiled, absorbing new immigrants into Israel, and all of the work that the United Jewish Appeal is doing for our people around the world! We also hope that many others will join us to help ensure a bright future for us all!

Wishing everyone best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Passover - Chag Pesach Kasher V'Sameach!!!



*"Having a Latke Fun" – Annapolis Valley Chanukah Party, Wolfville, December 1999.*



*Annapolis Valley Chanukah Party, December, 1999. L-R: Andrew Honey, Liat Honey, Naomi Honey, Yakov Feig, Larry Honey.*



*"Hop Aboard" – Gela Cohen, Ethan McAuley. Indoor Maccabiah Games, Halifax, January 2000.*



*Metro Youth Committee – Indoor Maccabiah Games, January 2000.*



*"Snacks Anyone?" – Leon Trakman, Jewish Community Purim Carnival, March 2000.*



*"Step Right Up" – Aviva Silbert, Hannah Zatsman, Community Purim Carnival, Halifax, March 2000.*



*"Smile" – Jewish Community Purim Carnival, March 2000.*



*Fun for the whole family. Purim Seudah, Fredericton, March 2000.*



*Community Purim Carnival, Halifax, March 2000.*



*Purim Presentation by Hebrew School, Saint John, March 2000.*



*Purim Presentation by Afternoon Hebrew School, Saint John, March 2000.*



*"Our Future Leaders" – helping out at Jewish Community Purim Carnival, March 2000 – Mike Stern.*

# Eulogy for Dr. Jim Hammerling,

August 17, 1907-December 12, 1999

Delivered by Dr. Ed Rosenberg

Written by Dr. Victoria Rosenberg and Dr. Judith Gold

Friends and relatives have been telling the family that Dr. Jim was the kindest, nicest man they had ever met. What can one say about someone who was so well loved and admired?

Here are the facts of his life:

He was born in Philadelphia. He grew up in Margate, England, then in New Orleans and Atlantic City. He graduated from City College of New York and the New York Medical College. He then took specialty training in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. And when he was Chief Resident he met a young intern from Halifax, **Dr. Anne Linder**. They married and practiced medicine in New York City until 1941 when he volunteered for the US Army Medical Corps immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor. This gentle man found himself in charge of the first Medical Evacuation Hospital Unit on Omaha Beach following D Day. He took his unit through France, Belgium and Germany, where they liberated inmates in one of the infamous concentration camps. His hospital at Malmedy survived the Battle of the Bulge. For his bravery on these occasions he was awarded the Bronze Star and 5 Citations, as well as a personal letter from **President Truman**.

After the war, he joined his wife in Halifax, passed his Canadian medical examinations, and began a practice in Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. He was the first Jewish physician appointed to the staff of a Halifax hospital. He became a member of the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University, and when the Departments of Eye and Ear, Nose and Throat were divided he was appointed the first Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology. He was the Physician-in-Chief, Otolaryngology at the Victoria General Hospital, the Halifax Infirmary and the IWK Children's Hospital.

He developed the residency training program in Otolaryngology. Always committed to bettering his medical skills for the good of his patients, he attended many courses that enabled him to introduce a number of new surgical procedures including the stapes mobilization operation that restored hearing to so many. He bought the necessary surgical equipment himself as the hospital did not have it. For many years he provided care for numerous patients without fee both in hospital and in his office. Indeed, he only stopped practicing a few years ago and patients still call asking to see *their* doctor.

He retired from Dalhousie University in 1975 and was named Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology in 1976. A prize was established in his name to be awarded annually to the clinical clerk with the highest class standing in Otolaryngology.

These are the basic facts of his career. I could tell you many stories about him and his generosity and humanity toward others. His daughters would like me to add the following: Honey from the rock – that is how our father should be described: a spring of sweetness welling out of a bedrock of strength, patience, and stoicism. One of his nephews said he envied the inner serenity that was his. We cannot remember our father ever raising his voice in anger or harshness. In the end, his heart failed him, but it never failed us. His first concern was always for us. Integrity, courage, gentleness – these were his qualities and our memory of these will have to sweeten our days without him.

*Editor's Note: "Dr. Jim" – was a wonderful doctor, a kind family man and person of strong Jewish conscience who was a supporter of his synagogue, his community and the State of Israel.*

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# A Passover Message

## Can Freedom Ever be Too Much of a Good Thing?

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

There are two aspects to the true attainment of freedom. The first aspect requires that we shall ensure our own personal freedom. The second aspect is our obligation to proclaim liberty in the land to all the inhabitants thereof. We have a responsibility to see that others shall enjoy the benefits of freedom.

It is related that at the end of the Second World War the Soviet General **Georgy Zhukov** posed a question to General **Eisenhower** who was the Supreme Allied commander. What do you need vast armies for, as you have nothing to promulgate? The Soviets on the other hand have an ideology to defend and to disseminate. Eisenhower should have replied. We have a covenant of freedom to share with humankind but he did not reply.

The twentieth century saw how the ideologies of Fascism and Communism enslaved and decimated millions of people. Negotiations are still going on to make restitution to millions who were slave labourers during the Second World War. Denial of equal opportunity in education, which would empower individuals to achieve a civilized standard of living, is still a goal to strive for.

How then can anyone entertain the idea that there can be such a thing as too much freedom? I am not suggesting the extreme of freedom, which can result in chaos and anarchy. I refer to the kind of freedom that scorns responsibility to oneself as well as the abandonment of one's civic duty to others in society.

Let us begin with the individual who eschews married life for the single life style. In the secular society the single state of being is touted as the best expression of independence as autonomy is encouraged. Even in Jewish communal life major efforts are being made at Synagogues and Jewish Community Centres to cater to the needs of the single life style. Instead of encouraging adult singles to marry and establish Jewish families the Jewish community is now encouraging them to remain single. Even though their intention may be that singles will have opportunity to meet and marry and also to provide social events for singles. The Jewish family unit has always been the foundation of Jewish communal living; hence the Jewish Community will end up the lower.

Let us examine the way Jewish children are educated and nurtured by their parents according to the Passover Haggadah. The Jewish child opens the Seder eve narrative with the question 'Why is this night different from all other nights?' The response is given that the Almighty brought us out of Egypt that means that we are not the authors of our own freedom and we have a responsibility to G-d who liberated us. Even if we imagine ourselves to be sophisticated scholars and sages who possess detailed Torah knowledge, still the more we elaborate on the Passover theme, the more praiseworthy it will be.

Before we commence the Passover saga from the Torah perspective it is appropriate to recite a blessing. 'Blessed be G-d who gave the Torah to His people Israel' because responsible freedom must be predicated on Torah learning and performance of its precepts. Four Torah text are given relating to the four children of the Haggadah whose questions, comments and even their silence must be rendered a response at the Seder. They are a wise child, a contrary child, a naïve child and a child who does not know how to ask.

The wise son asks what are the testimonies, the statutes and

laws commanded by G-d? The parent will provide detailed knowledge so that his or her child will whet their Passover appetite to want to pursue more knowledge. The parent will send the child to a school that will best be able to impart that knowledge. This student symbolizes the renaissance of Jewish learning that has taken hold in many Jewish communities. There is a discernable element among this modern Jewish generation that seeks spiritually meaningful experiences. It helps when a parent is tolerant and can imbue the child with love of learning and practices by participating with them. This parent-child relationship makes for freedom truly lived responsibly.

The second child is characterized as contrary. He or she questions about the Seder and Jewish practices in a mocking tone. 'What is this service to you?' As noted in Exodus (12:26). That child separates himself or herself from the way of the Jewish community. Maimonides in his laws of Repentance states 'One who does not share in the destiny of their peoples' suffering will not share in its joy. By denying the life of Torah which is the foundation of Judaism one denies G-d's will. Many have turned their backs on the Jewish Community as they go it alone. They regard Judaism as an impediment and an unnecessary burden to a free life style. The fallacy of this kind of absolute freedom is that it is self-centered and one denies their responsibility to the Jewish community.

What kind of influence may the parents of this contrary child have had that made him or her so negative. They could even have been religiously observant but they forced their child to observe without explaining the meaning of the Jewish value system. Perhaps they nurtured their child in an environment which was hostile to individual differences. The child was unable to swim against the tide of external social forces and joined the majority. The children were not free to express themselves.

The third child is characterized as naïve because he or she was not properly prepared to confront problem-solving situations in the modern society. The education, which they received, may have been too parochial. That is why the scriptural text applied to the naïve child emphasizes "with a mighty hand G-d took us out of Egypt" (Exodus 13:14) no half hearted measures here. In the religious life the parent set goals that were too shortsighted which resulted in the child having limited potential. The parent would for example say just learn enough to have a Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah then you will be free from any further Jewish education. The child will be a victim of limited freedom. They did not learn enough to be able to achieve intellectual, economic or social independence.

The fourth child is even unable to ask to verbalize any questions about Judaism or freedom because they were never provided with any knowledge of Judaism. Their parent was of the laissez-faire type. Let the child find out for him or herself. I do not want to influence them one way or another. Often like the third naïve child this fourth child is struck dumb. Parents must choose to make true spiritual freedom available to their child, otherwise they will end up free and dumb instead of attaining true freedom.

We as parents have a chance to offer optimum opportunities, which will free our children to achieve their true potential. The Passover Seder is a good time to start.

A Happy Kosher Passover to all.



# Passover Message

By Rabbi Elihu Milder

Shaar Shalom Congregation

Passover, as most Jews are aware, commemorates our deliverance from bondage in Egypt about 3,000 years ago. This event in our history has become a paradigm for all oppressed peoples who see in their hope for deliverance a harkening back to that momentous challenge uttered by Moses to Pharaoh "Let my people go".

To the early Christian of the first century, Passover, however, testified to something different entirely. The Paschal Lamb became symbolic of none other than Jesus, who died on the cross, believed to have risen and through whose death and resurrection all of humanity could potentially be saved. Indeed to this day in the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, Easter is called Pascha.

Following the destruction of the second Temple in the year 70 C.E. Jews began fighting for their lives, their opponent being the emerging Christian Church. How was the Pesah, the Paschal Lamb, now, to be understood? With the Temple destroyed the central feature of the holiday, the eating of the Paschal Lamb, became problematic. Its consumption after being slaughtered in the Temple could no longer be effected, the Temple no longer being in existence.

Perhaps the Christians were correct, the Paschal Lamb had indeed been given a new meaning. To this the Rabbis of the Talmud responded with an emphatic "No!" A roasted shankbone was now to be placed on a Seder plate to remind us of the

Paschal Lamb which had been consumed by Jews on Passover when the Temple was in existence and was thereby to remind us of our deliverance from slavery.

But the Rabbis went further in a very unusual pronouncement. **Rabban Gamliel** stated, "One who has not explained the symbol of Pesah at the Seder table has not fulfilled his obligation." He then went on to say, "What is the meaning of the Paschal Lamb which our ancestors used to eat at the time when the Temple was in existence?" And he proceeded to retell the Biblical story of the deliverance with the connection of the Paschal Lamb.

This statement is now found in all Passover Haggadahs. What most people do not realize is that it is not a simple statement. It is in fact the political response and the refutation by the Rabbis of the claim by the early Christians that the Paschal lamb, with its earlier Jewish meaning, had been replaced and superseded and been given a new meaning by the Church, who believed it to refer to none other than Jesus himself.

Let us all recall this Passover as we sit down to our Seder the significance to us of that little shankbone or as some would have it, a roasted chicken neck on our Seder plate.

Hag Sameach!

Happy Passover!

## From the Chaplain: "I've Been Everywhere, Man"

By Rabbi David Ellis

Despite the past winter, when there were no major holidays, many people in Florida and visiting elsewhere, we still got turn out for a number of events. In fact, during a 40-day stretch over January to mid-February, I visited every community in the region, except Newfoundland. Despite many members being away, we got a minyan in Glace Bay in mid-January, with special thanks to Team Cohen.

There is a nice little community in Antigonish, who knows one another and get together for events from time to time. It was my great pleasure to get acquainted with them recently at a get-together at **Marty Alpert's** house, in the woods outside of Antigonish.

We had an enjoyable Tu Bishvat celebration in Wolfville, with the Valley community – a salute to their efforts toward more activities.

In mid-February I left on a Monday to speak at St. F.X. University. That evening I stayed with **Simon McKnight**, the only Jewish student. A bitterly cold Tuesday brought me to Springhill to visit my good friend, **Arthur Saffron**. That night I was in Moncton. Wednesday brought me to PEI – as before, special recognition to **Dr. Joe Naylor** for his maintaining a fine regular level of Jewish study. On Friday it was on to Saint John for Shabbat and back to Moncton Sunday night. Monday I was

at Westmoreland and Dorchester penitentiaries; Tuesday meeting with **Mindy Lampert**, **Evan Hickey** and **Sarah Pressman** at Mt. Allison. The following Sunday I was in Yarmouth for the third year now, for a visit to its high school and Ecole St. Anne de Roussieau. We had a large turnout just last Monday night in Sydney for the Megillah reading. So in the words of that great Nova Scotian, the late **Hank Snow** – "I've been everywhere, man; I've been everywhere . . ."

## The Land-Mine Treaty: A Case of Dual Loyalty?

As you would know from following the news, Canada has been at the forefront of the international effort to ban landmines as an instrument of war and has indeed signed on to the treaty proscribing their use. Where does a Canadian Jew stand on this issue?

It is not so simple. Israel, following to some extent the lead of the United States, has not signed the treaty. Should we support the country we live in or that which is our homeland?

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These were issues I had to weigh when I was invited to speak at a commemoration earlier this month at the Atlantic School of Theology on the second anniversary of the landmine treaty. I was guided by some very helpful correspondence with the Israeli embassy in Ottawa.

While Israel has not signed the treaty, due to legitimate security concerns, it has declared a three-year moratorium on the export of landmines. Israel has joined the international effort to remove landmines from Angola. Within its efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the region, Israel looks forward to ending the use of landmines as part of a peace settlement.

No one would dispute the facts which those supporting the landmine treaty correctly cite—the thousands of innocent persons killed or maimed by landmines, the environmental damage, the general terror of day-to-day life in an area in which they have been placed. From a Jewish point of view though, we must balance humanitarian concerns against the need to resist evil and protect peoples from aggression.

In 1929, with the aftermath of World War I, the American Secretary of State and the French Foreign Minister instituted the *Kellogg-Briand* pact, eventually signed by 62 nations throughout the world. Those signing agreed to “renounce war as an

instrument of national policy.” How marvelous, how humane! Could anyone be opposed?

And yet it was within only a few years that the aggressor nations took advantage of a pacifist attitude of the international community and were able to march unhindered into defenseless countries. Munich was the final outcome of the mentality reflected in the *Kellogg-Briand Agreement*.

Judaism has no lack of teachings for the hope of world peace and the end of the horrors of war. The Torah forbade the destruction of fruit trees during war. Terms of peace had to be offered to a city before a conquest was made. Jewish soldiers were dissuaded from taking female captives (Deuteronomy 20, 21). Centuries before any international treaties guaranteeing rights of prisoners of war, soldiers from an enemy army were treated kindly during the time of the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 5-7).

Yet real peace can only come if aggression can be conclusively shown to be unprofitable. It is thus in our time that Israel has been in a position to begin to talk of peace with the neighbouring states in the region.

As things stand at present, it is good that there are some nations supporting the ban of landmines and others taking a more cautious approach. The truth will come from a balancing of the two perspectives, with a view toward an end to their destruction. Let us hope to see such a prospect speedily, in our time.

## Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Sherry** and **Michael Pink** on the birth of their daughter, **Jessica Erin**, a sister for Alanna. Proud grandparents are **Gloria** and **Steven Pink**.

Mazel Tov to **Borace** and **Mindy Jacobson** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Leah Mary-Anne**. Proud parents are **Shira Jacobson** and **Jeff Collins**.

Mazel Tov to **Joanne Weigen** on the birth of her granddaughter, **Audrey Rhoda**, daughter of **Janet** and **Norman Shier**.

Mazel Tov to **Sheri** and **Bernie Myers** on the birth of their son, **Marc Benjamin**.

Mazel Tov to **Shoshana Katz** on the occasion of her son, **Norman Katz** receiving The Gordon Schwartz Memorial Award which is presented to a sports volunteer for unselfish dedication and contribution to the YM/YWHA, Maccabi Canada and Jewish Interscholastic Sports.

Mazel Tov to **Natan** and **Denise Nevo** who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on February 23, 2000.

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Igal Nevo**, son of **Natan** and **Denise** upon receiving his PHD from the University of Paris. Igal has made aliyah to Israel and is working as a scientist at the Weizman Institute of Sciences.

Mazel Tov to **Irving Pink, Q.C.** upon receiving the Order of Canada.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom** who has been promoted from Member to Officer within the Order of Canada.

Mazel Tov to all the children and adults who took part in the production “*Oliver*” and to **Shirley Burnstein**, Musical Director. It was a wonderful production.

Mazel Tov to **Bill Chernin** who has recently become a newcomer to the Neptune stage and is presently appearing in *The Government Inspector*.

Mazel Tov to **Bette Ross** who was elected a National Vice-President of Canadian Hadassah Wizo at the convention in Ottawa this past November and just returned from Israel as a delegate of Canadian Hadassah Wizo to the World Wizo conference.

Mazel Tov to **Joel Jacobson**, **Ralph Medjuck**, **Simon Spatz** and **Atlantic Jewish Council** who all received commemorative medals from the Halifax Regional Municipality on the City’s 250th anniversary “For their contribution to making Halifax a better place to work and live.”

Mazel Tov to **Brendan Trakman**, son of **Leon** and **Dawn**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Condolences to the **Hammerling** Family on the loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, **Dr. James Hammerling**.

Condolences to **Henry Ferguson** on the passing of his beloved wife, **Ann**.

Condolences to **Joy Mendleson** on the passing of her father, **Lou Wallender**.

Condolences to **Joan Pink** on the passing of her beloved mother, **Paula MacIntosh**.

Condolences to the **Roza** Family on the passing of **Betty Roza**.

Condolences to **Lawrence Green** and family on the passing of his mother, **Rose (Blumenthal) Green**.

## The Fifth Son

The festival of Pesach is dominated by the central theme of, "When your son will ask you." Indeed the entire Passover "Haggadah" (the service recounting the story of the Exodus from Egypt) is based on the Torah's command, "And you shall tell your son." In fact the word Haggadah itself means "telling" or "narrative."

During the Seder service we read that "...the Torah speaks of four sons, one wise, one wicked, one simple and one who does not even know what to ask." The Haggadah then proceeds to tell us the questions posed by each of these 'sons' and how to respond accordingly.

The Wise Son inquires about the special Mitzvot of Passover and we are to tell him in detail all the laws and customs of the festival. The Wicked Son asks: "What is this service to you?" excluding himself from the Jewish community, and we are to respond to him sharply. The Simple Son asks: "What is this all about?" In reply we are to tell him of the Exodus from Egypt. As for the one who does not know what to ask, it is for us to open the conversation with him, as the Torah says, "You shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'This is on account of what the L-rd did for me when I went forth from Egypt.'"

While the Four Sons differ from one another in their reaction to the Seder, they have one thing in common: they are *all* present at the Seder table. Even the "Wicked" son is present, taking an active, though rebellious, interest in what's going on in Jewish life around him. This, at least, justifies the hope that some day

also the "Wicked" son will become wise, and all Jewish children attending the Seder will become conscientious Jews.

Unfortunately, in our time of confusion and spiritual bankruptcy, there is another kind of Jewish child – a "fifth son," who is conspicuous by his absence from the Seder; the one who has no interest in the Seder and its laws and customs, one who may not even be aware of the Exodus from Egypt and the subsequent Revelation at Sinai.

This presents a grave challenge, which should command our attention long before Passover and the Seder night, for no Jewish child should be forsaken. It is one of the vital tasks of our time to exert all possible effort to awaken in the young generation a fuller appreciation of the values of Torah and Yiddishkeit, and to ensure every child be present at the Seder table.

The Exodus from Egypt and the Festival of Pesach is a forceful reminder that survival and deliverance come through being loyal to our traditions and the Torah. Our ancestors in Egypt were a small minority, and lived in the most difficult circumstances. Yet they preserved their identity, and with pride and dignity clung to their own way of life, traditions and uniqueness. This is what assured their existence, and eventually led to their deliverance from slavery, the physical and spiritual.

With best wishes for a Kosher and enjoyable Pesach.

**Rabbi Mendel Feldman**

Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

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# Some Pesach Thoughts

By Rabbi Y. Samuels

The holiday of Pesach is not only a reminder of an historic date, but it also represents the total spirit of Jewish life and religion for the past, present, and future of our people. Pesach is the Chat HaCherut which reminds us of the days when we were redeemed from the Egyptian exile.

We read in the Haggadah "If the Holy One Blessed Be He had not brought our fathers out of Egypt, then we, our children and our children's children would have remained enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt." It is perhaps for this reason that the rabbis in the Talmud, and quoted in the Haggadah relate, "In every generation, every one is obliged to regard himself as though he himself had actually gone forth from Egypt [Pesachim 116:2]. To remember that we were slaves teaches us not only about our suffering in Egypt but about our long and bitter Galut since Yetziat Mitzraim. Because of our suffering we realize the importance of Geulah, Redemptions, for all generations, *B'Chol cor v'dor*. Our rabbis tell us that *galut Mitzraim* is the root of all exiles. In Egypt, all, young and old, suffered from Pharaoh's decrees. It was therefore important that the Geulah had to be *Binurenu U'vizkainenu*, the complete redemption of the entire people of Israel. It is a fact that the one who suffers a great deal can better appreciate freedom.

The redemption of the body without the soul is not a complete redemption, therefore, we realize that the Exodus from Egypt represented an ideal and complete *Geulah* - it was a

*Cherut HaNefesh* as well as *Cherut HaGuf*, for a physical redemption without the spiritual redemption is not a complete *Geulah*. This was indeed the major reason for *Yetziat Mitzraim*.

It was three months after the Jews left Egypt that the Torah was given to them as they stood at the foothill of Mt. Sinai. This occurrence elevated Am yisrael, giving them a great faith in anochi HaShem Elokecha as well as a taste of *Vayichan*, *B'lev Echad K'ish Echad*, with complete unity among all segments of the Jewish people. It was a period of *Oraita Kudshu B'Rich Hu V'Yisrael Chad Hu*, unifying HaShem, the Torah and the Jewish people.

We are instructed in the Torah *V'Higadta L'Vincha*. We are told to tell our children about the reason why we celebrate the Pesach holiday. The Seder on Pesach night, with all the preparations and celebrations is done primarily for the sake of the young children, so they may ask the *Mah Nishtana* and wait for the father's answer, at which time the father can fulfill his obligation to his son of *V'Higadta L'Vincha*.

We celebrate the *Pesach Binurenu U'vizkainenu*, with the participation of young and old, as Moshe said to Pharaoh "We shall go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, for we must have a holiday unto HaShem [Shem.10.9]. Pesach is a holiday for all Jews for all generations, and is indeed the root for all exiles and redemptions.



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# Fredericton News

By Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue

As we all know, "Y2K" came and went without a hitch, a glitch, or any of the evil things that were prophesied for it. Here in Fredericton, we celebrated Tu B'Shevat with our annual Seder, blessing the benefits, as well as the fruits and nuts, that we receive from trees. Our Purim workshop was well attended, and the avid students re-learned the history of Purim, along with the antics of Esther, Mordechai, Achashveros and Haman. The four mitzvot of the day were discussed, and, as an added treat, the participants made the hamentashen that were eaten at the Purim Seudah, attended by our Talmud Torah students, as well as college students from UNB. Also on hand for the Seudah was AJC's Yakov Feig, who brought Shalach Manos and a craft session, which kept everybody entertained.

Probably by the time this article sees the light of day, Pesach will have come, and we'll be counting the Omer. We will have had our second Community Seder, and with the growing attendance, we must be doing something right. Hope everyone has a Chag Kosher Sameach Pesach.

Mazel Tov to **Lois and Ivan Levine**. Their son **Andrew**, 25-year-old financial and technology consultant in Toronto, became the 11th player inducted into wallstreetsports.com's hall of fame. The dot-com site allows participants to compete in building portfolios based upon a stock-market model of buying and selling shares in pro athletes. Levine's accomplishment? He's the first to put together a portfolio worth \$1 billion.

Mazel Tov to **Joe and Cheryl Abrams**. Their daughter, **Tara Abrams Ellis**, was awarded a Doctorate Of Pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island.

Mazel Tov to **Sharon and Peter Pinsler** on the birth of twin grandchildren, **Hannah and Samson**. The twins were born on January 4th to daughter **Jacki** and son-in-law of Rockville, Maryland.

Mazel Tov to Sharon and Peter Pinsler on their son **Jonathan** being made a partner in The Investment Brokerage Firm of T.D. Evergreen of Montreal.

Mazel Tov to **Roz and Robert Brown**. Their son, **Lorne**, received his degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture.

Mazel Tov to **Miriam and Warren Cohen** upon the graduation of their daughter **Marcie** from the School of Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Israel and Marlene Unger**. Their daughter **Sheila**, was appointed as Assistant Professor of Medical Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Sheila also holds an appointment at the Hospital for Sick Children as staff Physician in Medical Genetics.

Condolence to the family of the late **Saul Brown**. He is survived by his wife **Molly** and sons **Melvin** and his wife **Sandy, Morty** and his wife **Marlene** and step-daughter **Joan Levine** and her husband, **Weldon**.

## Report from Saint John N.B.,

Janet Holtzman and Marcia Koven

Following an election of officers, the new president of our Congregation Shaarei Zedek is **Ron Levine**, and we wish him and his new Board every success in their term of office.

Our congratulations to **Sara Lynn Levine** (daughter of **Ellis and Teri**) and **Stan Leinwand** on their recent engagement.

Special Birthdays: **Sandra Levine/Dr. Ricardo Bessoudo/Harry Holtzman/Edgar Cohen** and **Dr. Lewis Freedman**.

We welcomed **Rabbi Ellis** in February and we were pleased to once again have **Yakov Feig** conduct our Purim service. **Mr. Granik**, our teacher helped the children perform a short skit (in costume) and while reading the maggillah in both

Hebrew and English, it was one of the nicest Purim holidays in a long time. Thanks to **Janet Holtzman/Susan Lubin** and **Linda Hamburg** delicious hamentashin certainly added to the pleasure of the evening.

The Jewish Historical Museum will have its official opening on June 18. We welcome all members and potential members. Our hours are Mon-Friday 10.00 am-4.00 pm as well as Sunday 1:00-4:00 pm during the months of July and August.

Our Holocaust Remembrance program will take place on May 2nd, at 7:00pm in our Synagogue. Our guest speaker will be Mr. David Korn of Halifax (a survivor) and we look forward to a huge turnout.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy Passover.

# Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

By Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum has been busy throughout the winter with a number of church and school tours – many more will be scheduled before things wind down for the summer. As well, we are now in the process of updating all of our archival finding aids to include everything, which has been catalogued to date. In addition, another ten boxes of material have been prepared for microfilming by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

The database of interments for the Shaarei Zedek Cemetery has been updated and corrected. We have on record the data for 898 interments in the cemetery. The New Brunswick Genealogical Society has published the first installment of this database in their journal, *Generations*, volume 22, number 1, spring 2000. The next installments will be in the summer and fall issues.

The museum will mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 2, 2000 with a program at the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. **David Korn**, of Halifax, Nova Scotia will be the guest speaker. He was a child survivor of the Holocaust who was hidden in a Lutheran monastery. His story should be a very interesting story. At the same time we will present essay prizes to school students in the two local school districts for submissions on the topic "The Holocaust and its influence on literature and the arts".

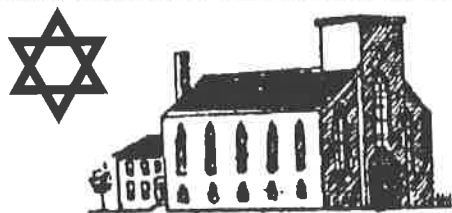
This year we are returning to the roots of the community as we mount an exhibit on the immigrants who founded and created this Jewish community. We will start, of course, with the **Hart, Green** and **Isaacs** families who were the first of the many who settled here and go through the period of immigration from Eastern Europe beginning at the turn of the century through to the 1920s.

The museum will hold its official opening for the season on Father's Day – June 18th. This year we will see over 80 cruise ships visit Saint John and we hope to meet every one of them. As well, we are working with Aquila Tours, a local tour company who is assisting with the creation of a "Jewish Tour of Saint John". We will be able to take people by bus to show them where the community had once thrived; to the museum and the synagogue; and to the cemetery where they can see the graves of the mothers of **Louis B. Mayer** and **Maxwell** and **Nathan Cummings** and the chapel dedicated by Mr. Mayer and the Cummings family in memory of their mothers. We will also display a collection of Jewish postcards from New York, ca. 1910 to 1920, which provide a glimpse into the Yiddishkeit of the time.

The raffle for 2000 will have three prizes. The first and second prizes will be paintings by **Herzl Kashetsky** featuring the skyline of Saint John from two different perspectives entitled "City Skyline" (watercolour) and "Saint John Harbour Skyline" (hand coloured reproduction). The third prize will be a white woven tablecloth embossed with powder blue needlepoint snowflakes, measuring approximately 50" x 75", made in Turkey by **Renee Arditti**. Tickets will be sold for \$10 each or three tickets for \$25. Those interested in purchasing tickets can contact the museum. We will draw the winning tickets at Chanukah.

We are also continuing our fundraising campaign in support of the museum and its many educational activities. We encourage those who would like more information on this campaign to contact **Lloyd Goldsmith**, the President of the Museum.

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## Days of the Week

By Rabbi Jacob Chinitz

There is an old trick in the calendar which tells us what days of the week the various holidays fall on. It is called the At Bash, which means: you take the first day of the Alephbet, Aleph, which corresponds to the first day of Pesach, and the last letter Tav, in the alephbet, which corresponds to Tisha B'Av. That means that the same day of the week when the first day of Pesach falls is also the day of Tisha B'Av.

This year the first day of Pesach is on a Thursday. Tisha B'Av will be Thursday.

Then you take the second letter, Bet, and you combine it with the next to last letter, Shin, and you get Bash. That means that the same day of the week when the second day of Pesach falls, will be the day of the week when Shavuot falls. This year Shavuot will be on Friday.

Gar means that the third of Pesach is the day Rosh Hashanah falls. This year the third day Pesach is Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat.

Dak, the fourth day of Pesach is the same day of the week as Kriat Hatorah, Simchat Torah. This year Simchat Torah falls on Sunday.

Hatz, means the fifth day of Pesach falls on the same day of the week as Tzom, Yom Kippur. This year the fifth day Pesach falls on Monday, and Yom Kippur falls on Monday.

Vap, means the sixth day of Pesach, falls on the same day of the week as Purim. This year the sixth day of Pesach is Tuesday, and Purim falls on Tuesday.

Until Israel was established we stopped here. But after Israel we can continue. Zah, Zayin, Ayin, meaning that the seventh day of Pesach is the same day of the week as Atzmaut, Yom Ha'atzmaut. This year the seventh day of Pesach is Wednesday and Yom Ha'atzmaut is Wednesday.

Greetings to all our friends in Halifax. Since we left you at the end of 1992, we spent 1993 in Boca Raton, '94 to '98 in Jerusalem. Since '98 we have been in Montreal at Shaare Zedek Synagogue. We are leaving for Israel Dec. 21 and returning, please G-d, March 1. In August 2001 we are finished here and return to Jerusalem. Happy Pesach to all of you.

Rabbi Jacob and Ruth Chinitz

## From the Desk of Rubin Friedman, Director of Communications Canadian Jewish Congress

Moshe Ronen and CJC Quebec and Ontario regions reacted swiftly to the surprise visit of then Austrian Freedom Party leader, **Joerg Haider**, to Montreal in February and his rumoured visit to Toronto. Haider's request for a photo-op guided tour to the Holocaust Centre in Montreal was refused. He made no effort to enter as a private citizen. Extensive national coverage of the visit highlighted the concerns of CJC, the Canadian government and other human rights groups about the possible actions of Haider's party in government. Following this visit, Haider resigned as leader of the Freedom Party.

In late February, following extensive flooding in Mozambique CJC, in partnership with its constituent organization Ve'ahava and its UIAfed partners, gathered funds for relief to be sent to that country. The meeting of the National Executive in Toronto in March heard from **Giandommenico Picco**, a widely respected former international diplomat and current consultant on international affairs. Mr. Picco gave an overview of the situation in the Middle East and Iran and described the evolving context in which the 13 Jewish prisoners in Iran find themselves.

CJC welcomed the Pope's historic and watershed comments in Israel, especially those at Yad Vashem but roundly condemned the comments of **Father Gumpel**, a German Jesuit historian, who is helping to build a case for the beatification of Pope Pius XII. Gumpel revived the anti-Jewish story of deicide in his comments shown on CBC TV. Research showed that Gumpel had made other anti-Jewish comments in the past. Past-president, Professor **Irving Abella** played a major role in dealing with Gumpel and in lauding the Pope's actions in an op-ed piece in the Globe and Mail.

Moshe Ronen and Atlantic Regional Chair **Victor Goldberg** welcomed the passage of a Nova Scotia Act to recognize Yom Hashoah as an official Holocaust Memorial Day in the province. Nova Scotia joins New Brunswick, PEI, Quebec and Ontario in this area. BC is preparing its own legislation. Executive Vice-President Jack Silverstone spoke in Montreal at the March information session on Canadian Volunteers for Israel. As a respected veteran of this program, he introduced the keynote speaker, Israeli Consul General, **Shlomo Avital**.

# News From Newfoundland

By Claire Frankel-Salama

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of the third member of our community in three months. This morning, March 26th, we buried **Dr. Ernst Deutsch**, retired professor of Geophysics at Memorial University. Dr. Deutsch fled his home in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1893, and was interned in New Brunswick during the Second World War. He had a long and distinguished career at Memorial University, and is mourned by his wife, **Gladys**, and three children. In January we buried a second elderly member, Mrs. **Frieda Cohen**, late of Springdale. Mrs. Cohen, and her sister, **Norma**, came to Newfoundland from Poland as young girls. On December 24th we mourned the passing of the **Reverend Justin Fromm**, also a refugee from Hitler's Germany, and the former spiritual leader of the St. John's Community. The Rev. Fromm returned to Newfoundland with his wife, **Joan**, after being stricken with Alzheimer's. He still managed to enrich the community with his chanting of the Megillah and Kol Nidrei. We shall never forget his beautiful voice, or the kavanah with which he prayed. May the families of these members and our community be spared further sorrow and loss.

Fortunately we have had some very positive events as well. At the end of January, **Yakov Feig** visited St. John's. On Friday evening he led the service, and then organized a lively discussion

at an Oneg Shabbat hosted by **Rachel Paine**. The next evening he met with the university students. On Sunday he took part in our regular planning meeting of the Holocaust memorial committee.

This past week we held our Purim service and party. Thanks go to **Ernie Mauskopf** who read the Megillah, and to **Ann Gregory** who coordinated the reception. Thanks also to the weather people for sending our first snow storm two days before Purim, thereby giving us enough time to get the Shul entrance plowed.

Purim, of course, announces the impending Passover holiday, and as per usual, orders are being sent and arrangements are being made. **Keren Margel**, our WUJS volunteer teacher, is busy organizing a special second Seder for university students. Rest assured that the very first Seders in Canada will again be taking place on the Rock, just three and a half hours after the glasses are raised in England. In fact, just as our fellow Jews in the U.K. are wishing each other "*Leshanah ha-baah-be-Yerushalayim*", and the weary guests are walking to assure that the light of Judaism continues its journey *ab mare usque ad mare*.

A happy, healthy and Kosher Pesach to all Shalom readers from all the Jews!

## Newfoundland – A Friend in the Capital

By Gabe Levenson – Correspondent

The Jewish Week, January 7, 2000

New York

Forget the hype, it will be Shabbat as usual at North America's first Shabbat of the third millennium.

"This is not our millennium, we don't observe it," said **Robin McGrath**, an official at Congregation Beth El in the Newfoundland capital of St. John's, the most easterly Jewish community on the continent. "Our own millennium, the sixth, is more than 200 years away."

St. John's gained its 15 seconds of fame on TV as the first city in North America to reach the 21st century – an hour and a half before the crystal ball dropped in Times Square – but the event had no impact on the religious life of the city's small Jewish community.

In fact, McGrath told me by phone on Jan. 1, the official countdown in St. John's was seconds late, but neither the 80,000 townspeople in general who viewed the fireworks-and-rock-music extravaganza at the harbor nor the Jewish community in particular was noticeably disturbed.

"Newfoundlanders are pretty much laid back, even though we are specialists in the time business," she said. "Daylight savings time was invented here in Newfoundland."

Of greater significance to the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador – its official name – was the recent bar mitzvah held at the synagogue. The celebrant, a retired physician of 50 – is a Jew by choice.

McGrath herself, the youngest of 10 in a Roman Catholic family with roots in the province as early as 1528, converted to

Judaism more than 25 years ago, and her two grown sons, **Zeev** and **Eli**, had their bar mitzvahs at Beth El. McGrath had been married to a non-religious Jew, but he had not played a role in her subsequent conversion, she told us.

"I became Jewish entirely on my own, I had always had Jewish friends, and I like the moral and spiritual concepts of Judaism" she said.

An observant Jew and energetic member of the congregation, McGrath is currently its vice president. She keeps a kosher, vegetarian home, but told us that observant carnivores can obtain frozen kosher meat from Montreal, the source also of Passover supplies. For Passover, a community-wide order is placed, with matzah and other kosher foods distributed to the elderly and needy.

McGrath, a published poet and short-story writer, holds a doctorate in English literature and is an adjunct professor at the local university. I had met McGrath quite by accident when my cruise ship, the *Norwegian Sky*, docked at St. John's for an eight-hour stay. Crowds lined the waterfront to cheer our early-morning arrival; rubbernecking motorists created a traffic jam. Canadian and Newfoundland flags fluttered in the breeze as costumed folk dancers performed to the music of plaid-skirted bagpipers. Two huge black Newfoundland dogs stood guard at the ends of the dock, silently enduring the excruciating sounds.

*Continued on page 16*



*continued from page 15*

Hoping to make contact with the local Jewish community, my usual mission anywhere my wife and I travel, I had phoned the local synagogue but with no response. A chance conversation on Water Street, the main shopping area, had established a connection.

Diffidently, I had asked a woman just outside the Dory Shop, where we'd bought presents for our grandchildren: "Perhaps you might know: are there any Jewish people in St. John's?"

The woman's answer was warm and immediate: "Sure I do – my kid sister!" She whipped out a red cell phone, called her sister and 30 minutes later; McGrath was driving up in an elderly Volvo station wagon.

She was our enthusiastic guide for the rest of the day, taking us first up the steep hills of terraced St. John's to the synagogue on Elizabeth Avenue. The long one-story, gray – stucco building features portico columns at the entrance that represent the lights of the menorah. A walkway connects two wings. The west contains a library, office and Talmud Torah classroom; the east, a community room, kitchen and sanctuary for at least 200 worshippers.

The sanctuary features a 2-foot-high bima under a large window shaped like the Star of David. The ark is a large, double cabinet that contains the Torah scrolls, including one that was redeemed from a Polish seaman who brought it by ship to the harbor. The painted pine pews were salvaged from the congregation's first synagogue, which dates from 1909, but the red curtains of the mechitza in the far corner of the sanctuary have been removed.

Until three years ago the congregation, which had achieved a peak membership of 150 families, was strictly Orthodox. Since then, McGrath said, there has been a gradual "tilt" toward Conservatism for the congregation's 25 families – 32 of them adults. Services are conducted in Hebrew and led, in sequence, by the three laymen who are proficient in the sacred language.

The congregation was founded by **Israel Perlin**, an observant Jew who had fled forced conscription in Russia. He led minyans in the shop he and his brother had opened on Water Street, and later turned over a clothing factory the brothers had established into the city's first synagogue.

Perlin encouraged other East European Jews to settle in St. John's. He would provide immigrants with packs and goods to peddle in the nearby farming villages and, eventually, to open up retail shops of their own. Perlin became the foremost of a large group of Water Street Jewish businessmen.

The community grew during the 1930s and, during World War II, devoted considerable time and energy to providing Jewish religious and social programs for the American soldiers stationed at military bases around Newfoundland and Labrador.

Government policy prevented Jewish refugees from Nazi-held Europe from settling in Newfoundland, but after the war a new wave of immigrants, now allowed to enter, brought fresh vigor to the community. The present synagogue on Elizabeth Avenue was built to accommodate the increased number of congregants. Membership has shrunk drastically in recent years, as younger Jews in the community have joined the general immigration to larger cities such as Montreal and Toronto. Active

congregants like McGrath and **Dr. Michael Paul**, the urologist who is the president of Beth El, are determined to maintain a religious Jewish presence in St. John's. Services are conducted regularly on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, festivals are celebrated and classes are held.

A teacher is brought over from Israel and provided with a salary, food and housing in order to administer an after school program for children and adults. The teacher also participates in the outreach program to the non-Jewish community – St. John's is a city of 100,000. Groups of school children come to visit the synagogue, and the teacher visits schools to explain aspects of Judaism and to educate about the Holocaust.

In front of the synagogue is the congregation's Tree of Life – a maple, the symbol of Canada. "It has never really thrived," McGrath told us. "It has always threatened to die. Horticulturists were consulted, a tree surgeon was imported to prune and feed the tree, lots of prayers were said- and not just by the Jewish community. The town as a whole took quite an interest in the health of this tree and it was, and is, common for gentiles to ask after its health as a way of indicating benign good will towards Jews in general.

The tree is now flourishing, she said, though it is rather stunted and gnarled compared to the lofty majesty of maples in Quebec and Ontario.

"We feel that it is a very fitting reflection of our congregation – bloody but unbowed, you might say," McGrath says.

*Editor's Note: The Jewish Week has a circulation of 100,000 per week in New York City.*



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## From Around



Linda Epstein, Halifax native, now longtime resident of Israel, speaks about life in the Jewish State in Halifax, February 16, 2000.



Standing on guard – Jon Goldberg – Golan Heights, Israel, January, 2000.



Birthright Israel – 2000  
Joanna Mirsky, Ezra Wexler, Shelby Hirsch.



1999 Hanukkah Party, Annapolis Valley.  
Larry Honey, Naomi Honey, Gerd Burger and friends.



Annual Chanukah supper at Temple Sons of Israel – a good time was had by all – Rita Swartz, Minnie Nathanson, Lil Nathanson, Shirley Dubinsky.



Annual Chanukah supper at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue – Eleanor Yazer, Zelda Yazer, Sylvia Dubinsky, Florence Yazer, Jonathan & Brendan Yazer and friend of family.

## The Region



"Oliver" – Terrific – Sold out crowds, December, 1999.



"Nancy", Joanna Mirsky, "Feigin", Zachary Abrahams, and "Oliver", Herschel MacAuley.



Atlantic Region CRC Rep, Tom Kuttner shown here with survivors who were special guests of the Second Reading of "Yom ha Shoah" act at the Fredericton Legislature.



David Korn, at Acadia University, speaking on the Holocaust to students, March, 2000.



March of the Living 2000 participants and chaperones get their jackets, March 26, 2000, Bottom Row: Aviva Attis, Jill Chat, Ava Tsinman, Leah Zilbert, Middle: Hedda Medjuck, Yakov Feig, Heather Zitner, Lauren Rosen, Andrew Levine, Sara Zatzman, Top: Chayna Cohen, Amy Mendleson, Joshua Feigin, Leah Attis, Andrew Gergely, Nathan Zilbert, Missing Zach Abrahams.



Hanukkah, 1999. Breakfast Television – lighting the candles. Rachel Goldberg, Nathan Pink, Emma Pink, Eric Goldberg, Brendan Rosen (with Liz Rigley).

# A Brief Account of the World Wizo Conference

By Bette Ross

National Vice President

The 22nd World Wizo Conference took place in Tel Aviv January 17-22, 2000. It was my second such conference and once again, I felt proud and privileged to be there for such an exciting experience. Naturally there was the usual organizational business like budget and constitution, etc., but there were also so many highlights. One was to be part of a gathering of 878 delegates from 35 federations worldwide. We did not always speak the same language but we were still able to communicate. Another was to see our future in the vibrant and efficient Aviv graduates from these countries – so fresh, alert, capable and successful. Another was Shabbat dinner with the Chief Rabbi of Israel. My husband was pleased to see him too as he was the seventh man for the minyan!



Bette Ross with conference poster.



Bette Ross finds plaque at Ben Yakiv Youth Velape in Israel.

However, the main highlight for me was the afternoon spent with youth from Wizo schools and youth villages. There were 13 in all and 8 were from Canadian Hadassah Wizo institutions. I could not have felt more proud of my own children. They were mostly from Hadassim and Nahalal. They were great kids – all of varied race and from very varied backgrounds, and all a credit to the work of Wizo. Each had a passion for what they were doing, and when asked what they would like to see in Israel's future, each hoped for peace and tolerance.

There were heart-breaking outstanding moments too. The main one was to realize that 6.6% of Israelis live below the poverty line. This increases the work of Wizo which is trying to complete the work that the Government starts but cannot finish. The basic problem is maintaining the society that we have all worked so hard to establish. The theme of our conference was "Together we can make a difference" and we first have to remember that even when things seem so difficult, it was most rewarding to see that Canadian Hadassah Wizo is held in high regard by the Executive of World Wizo and the other federations. The whole conference was a memorable experience and I thank Canadian Hadassah Wizo for giving me the opportunity and honour to be part of it.

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## NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada invites all Jewish Veterans, associates, family and friends (especially the teenagers), to hear

**Squadron Leader Jack Cahan,**

National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Commander Cahan will be speaking at a breakfast meeting, **Sunday morning May 28, 2000, 10:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Beth Israel Synagogue, 1480 Oxford Street, Halifax, N.S.**

**Community participation would be appreciated.**

Sincerely, Gar Meltzer, Post Commander, Atlantic Post #4

# Club Massada Happenings

By Edith Schneiderman and Shirley Burnstein

If you ever thought that being a senior meant leading a quiet life, then you have not become a Massada member.

Since September, the executive consists of **Edith Schneiderman**, President, **Barbara Alberstat**, Vice President and social correspondent, **Phil Alberstat**, Treasurer, **Marianne Ferguson**, Corresponding Secretary, **Naomi Judah**, Recording Secretary, **Mindy Jacobson**, Telephone Convenor, **Boris Jacobson**, refreshments, and **Shirley Burnstein**, Programs.

**Lawrence Ferguson** is our Photographer. We have met regularly in the boardroom of the AJC and have planned many interesting and varied programs to keep our ever growing membership on the move. These programs have been well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Northwood Foundation kindly offered us the use of the "carvery room" to hold our regular monthly meetings. This facility makes it possible for our Jewish residents to attend. This has been a wonderful happening – seeing and meeting other seniors in this way.

We were offered passes to attend the premiere showing of "Jacob the Liar" from the Empire Bedford Theatre. Some 55 members were able to attend and we thank all who car pooled and enabled so many to attend.

In October we held a social tea which was well attended. Edith Schneiderman, President, outlined our up and coming plans for various programs and **Charles Kwan** [northwood's answer to **Bonnie Stern**] presented a most beautiful "tea party".

Special arrangements [made by Marianne Ferguson] saw us on a complete tour of "pier 21". This was a most thrilling afternoon as we were guided through the impressive facility and were given special treatment as we were told and shown tales of yor. That afternoon stirred up many memories for all. Thank you Marianne and Staff at Pier 21. In November with the days getting shorter and before all our "snowbirds" flew South, we had a very successful intergenerational dinner held at the Beth Israel Synagogue. Many seniors and students attended. In fact, we quickly ran out of space never dreaming so many would attend – we squeezed, ate well, sang, prayed and had a most enjoyable Shabbat dinner.

Chanukah's latkas! And our luncheon held in the beautiful penthouse at Northwood. This is becoming a tradition and some eighty members and friends attended. The latkas (made by our own members) were delicious and plentiful. Many thanks to our latka makers.



Club Massada, Hanukkah.



Club Massada at Pier 21.

We learned that day that our dedicated member, Marianne Ferguson had just won 10 ribbons for her baking at the Atlantic Winter Fair. Congratulations Marianne we are proud of you!

Barbara and Phil Alberstat arranged and had made up plaques to honor our dedicated members for their years of devotion to Massada. Edith presented these plaques to **Sarah Yablon**, **Ella Morris**, **Molly Whitzman**, **Jean Zlatin**, **Bessie Rinzler**, **Marianne** and **Lawrence Ferguson**. Congratulations to all and thanks to Barbara and Phil.

At this luncheon Edith presented to **Mr. Lloyd Brown**, President of Northwood Foundation a donation, thanking him for his concern and efforts by making us and the Jewish residents of Northwood feel so "at home".

Our February meeting was held in the youth lounge of the Beth Israel and in spite of the cold and slippery streets, it was well attended. Our guest speaker was **Paul Mandell** who kept us spellbound throughout his presentation of "Ecology – the Jewish science". Thank you, Paul. It was most enjoyable.

In March our purim luncheon was held at Northwood attended by 50 members. **Rabbi Ellis** was our guest speaker and told us interesting stories about purim. A recent resident of Northwood – **John O'halloran** – [who sings like an angel] performed for us as we enjoyed our hamentashen – which were made and donated by who else other than our Marianne Ferguson. Thank you Marianne.

Spring is bursting out all over. What could be nicer!!!! We are happy to say **Ella Morris** is back in circulation after several months of a severe "winter flu". **Bea Zemel** is mobile after a bad fall leading to surgery. **Rena Webber** is also "home" and well on the way to recovery, as is **Flo Kirsh** and **Sue Rappaport**. Our very best wishes to all.

**Sarah Yablon**, a long and capable corresponding secretary has passed her "pen" on to Marianne Ferguson and we thank you, Sarah, for a spectacular job and so many beautifully written words sent out over the years, and we thank Marianne for taking over.

Look for information regarding upcoming massada programs – and if you're tired of sitting home – feel free to join us and become new members.

A happy and healthy Passover to all.



Club Massada, Hanukkah luncheon.



# Marian Maymon, National President of Hadassah Wizo

By Joel Jacobson

Marian Maymon grew up in Cape Breton, a cluster of small Jewish communities that, in her youth in the 1950s, were a hubbub of activity. Synagogues in Sydney and Glace Bay thrived. Hadassah was probably the major Jewish women's organization. Other men's and women's organizations also made their important contributions to society.

Now Marion Mayman, an Ottawa resident, is National President of Hadassah WIZO and her small community roots have come back to cause her concern. Installed as National President last November, Ms. Mayman is seeking ways to drill into diminishing memberships the need to give to their communities, not only in financial aid for Israel, but as active service providers in their cities and towns in the Atlantic provinces and smaller communities throughout the country. "Our membership goal is to find new members and retain older ones", she said in Halifax when meeting with leaders and members of Halifax Hadassah WIZO, at one time a vibrant organization but now slipping into a dormant state. "We want members to feel Hadassah is THEIR organization," she stressed. "We want them to talk to us, and can assure them any suggestions on Hadassah issues will be taken very seriously."

Mayman has set a goal to meet with each Hadassah centre in her first year in office. "It may not be possible, but I'm certainly going to try." Mayman has a Camp Kadimah background. In fact, she met her husband Shlomo there in the late 1950s.

The couple and their family has lived in Winnipeg, Israel, and Montreal before settling in Ottawa for the last 12 years where Marion was President of Agudath Israel Synagogue, Ottawa JNF and a vice-president of Canadian Jewish Congress, representing the national capital area. The enthusiastic woman was also an international officer with United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism.

As Hadassah president, Ms. Mayman's first official duty

was attending the World WIZO Conference in January in Israel and the Southern Regional Conference for Hadassah WIZO (mostly for Canadian snowbirds) in Florida. "This is my first official visit to a Hadassah centre," she said of her visit to Halifax. "I will be in Montreal in April, Toronto in May and, in July, will travel to Calgary and Vancouver. Plus I'll stop in smaller communities, too, in the next few months." Hadassah WIZO has 15,000 members in Canada, a constant number in the last few years. However, many, in an aging membership, aren't active or hold life memberships.

"We're trying to re-activate many of those women," she says, "but we're trying to convince younger members they can be part of something worthwhile." With a mandate to help women and children in Israel have a better life, Canadian Hadassah WIZO supports Israeli residential schools, hospitals, medical programs and areas of spousal and child abuse. "We're a very modern organization, tackling modern issues. We just haven't done a good job selling ourselves. We have to remind the grass roots chapters of the good work they can help us do." She says the parents and grandparents of younger Jewish community members are involved. "Now we have to convince younger women, who we know in their hearts support Israel, to do something tangible and join our programs. Even though many are busy with careers and families, there are ways they can plan their time to help us do good volunteer work. We're even suggesting job-sharing in the volunteer world, similar to what is happening in business"

Many women in smaller communities, like Sydney and Regina, Sask., are getting more involved with the general community. "In Sydney, the women do a bazaar but recruit involvement from the general community. In Regina, Hadassah holds an anti-violence day but tie in police and social workers. These communities, and other small ones, do an amazing amount of work", she says.

## Jewish National Fund in Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada is making the desert bloom in Israel through Jewish National Fund! After a forest fire destroyed over 150 000 trees in the Jerusalem Corridor, the annual **Tu'B'Shvat Telethon's** campaign for 2000 had this reforestation theme. The Halifax Region donated in record numbers this year, planting over a thousand trees in honour and in memory of the people we cherish. A stone will mark the Atlantic Canada Grove. We are very excited that the community has shown so much generous support for this year's important campaign.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers who put so much time and effort into raising the money for trees in Israel. Our sincere appreciation goes out to **Heather Zitner, Lea McKnight, Marianne Ferguson, Erin Sperling, Ian Epstein, Ezra Wexler, Jayson**

**Greenblatt, Josh Mandell, Jesse Mandell, Flo Kirsch, Shirley Burnstein, Edith Schneiderman, Celia Yazer, and Harry Block.**

A hearty thank you is extended as well to MT&T for donating their call center, and to the Great Canadian Bagel Store for donating bagels for the volunteers. Through your efforts this burnt forest will soon provide living trees for the people of Israel to enjoy.

**Mark Mendleson**

Executive Director Eastern Canada

**Shaul Kochavi**

Jerusalem Emissary Eastern Canada

**Joanna Mirsky**

Coordinator Eastern Canada

# Remembering our Jewish Nation Builders

This newsletter serves as an editorial page only and is intended solely for the use of the members of the Atlantic Jewish War Veterans. The ideas and comments expressed are solely those of the individual and are not reflective.



## Editorial Comments

In the news over the past few weeks some very disturbing items have come into plain view that reminds us once again why we must always speak out against racial and religious intolerance. The emergence of Mr. Haider from Austria as a far right wing Socialist and his comments in support of the former Nazi SS demonstrates clearly that despite all of the terrible lessons of the past sixty years, Europe is still not free of the intolerant attitudes that spawned the Nazi Party and led to the tragedy of WWII. At the same time, in a London court room, a formal trial is being conducted that raises the spectre of an alleged world wide Jewish conspiracy. I find it very difficult to believe that after all the world has been through in the past century we are still blind to the fact that mankind has perpetrated the most heinous crimes one could possibly imagine and still deny the events and the evidence. Man is the only animal that will kill his own kind for no good reason. If we fail to speak out against this kind of racism, then we are doomed to suffer the same persecutions our fathers and grandparents suffered.

*Your comments and views are welcomed at all times and any ideas for the improvement of this forum are most certainly welcomed. Please send your comments to Captain M.A. Osborne c/o The Atlantic Jewish Council.*

## Letters

I would like to include your letters and comments in this Newsletter. It is a way we can keep in touch and remain connected. Two significant events have occurred over the past few months. First, the Merchant Marine Veterans received their demobilization pensions from the Canadian Government after a long and hard fought fight with government. The Merchant Seamen lost many a life and endured severe hardship during WWII while escorting the relief convoys to the UK and the Former Soviet Union.

On 29 February 2000, Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) **Samuel Learner** passed away in Toronto. Samuel Learner served his country in WWII with the Middlesex Regiment and was commissioned into The Royal Canadian Regiment. He fought in Italy and received several decorations for his efforts during the Italian Campaign. He was also invested into the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Samuel Learner served his country after WWII in the Militia and retired from the military in 1964.

## KOSHER WINES – NOW AVAILABLE

### Fortant De France Cabernet Sauvignon (Kosher)

~ deep garnet red colour. The nose is concentrated and fruity. The balance in the mouth is supple with silky and present tannins. The finish is particularly fruity and velvety.

### Fortant De France Chardonnay (Kosher)

~ pale yellow colour with golden lights. The nose includes aromas of acacia flowers and white fleshed fruits. It has a long intense finish rendered complex by aromas of dried figs.

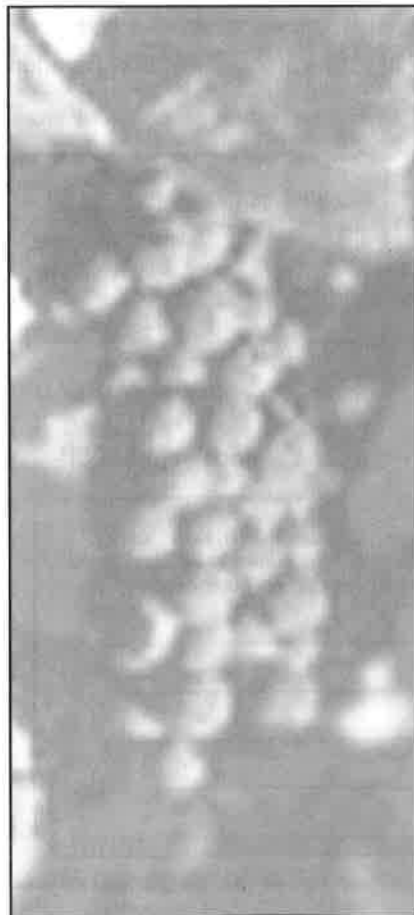
The entire wine making progress was performed in partnership with Sinai wines; under the authority of the Grand Rabbi of Paris.

These wines are acceptable for Passover.

Currently these wines are only available at stores with Port of Wines sections in Halifax. They may be ordered through your local store by placing an order with the store manager.

Nova Scotia Liquor Commission order numbers

**Cabernet Sauvignon** #521179 (\$13.05/BTL)  
**Chardonnay** #433185 (\$13.05/BTL)



# The Four Cantors Concert

By Leo Weniger

The Four Cantors concert will be presented at Beth Israel Synagogue at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday May 9th, 2000. The Cantors will be singing solos, duets, trios and ensembles in Hebrew, Yiddish and other languages, with a major portion in honour of Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut which is being celebrated on that day.

This will be the third cantorial concert at Beth Israel since 1995. A Three Cantors Concert took place in May 1995 and one took place in May 1996.

**Cantors Sidney Dworkin, Yehuda Rottner, Arie Lieb Subar and Yair Subar** will be performing, accompanied on the piano by **Stephen Glass**.

Cantor Dworkin has been Cantor of Congregation Shaar Shalom in Laval, Quebec and has been Cantor of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (Montreal) since 1987.

Cantor Yehuda Rottner has held positions in Israel, Germany and the United States. He was Cantor at Beth Israel-Beth Aaron in Montreal and is currently Cantor of Congregation Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am in Toronto.

Cantor Ariel L. Subar performed in the Three Cantors Concert in Halifax (1995) and has served as Cantor at Beth Hamedrash Hagadol in Hadera and Congregation Shomrim Laboker in Montreal. He has been Cantor of Congregation Beth Ora in St. Laurent, Quebec since 1984.

Cantor Yair Subar also sang in the Three Cantors Concert. He has been Cantor of the Great Synagogues of Netanya and Tel Aviv, Linksfield Synagogue (South Africa) and Beth Tikvah in Dollard Des Ormeaux. He currently is Cantor of Congregation Beth Shalom in Ottawa.

Stephen Glass was accompanist of the Three Cantors II

Concert (1996). He has been accompanying Cantors and conducting Jewish Choirs since he was 16. He has been Director of Music at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (Montreal) since 1990 and has a fine reputation as conductor, composer, arranger, accompanist, teacher and lecturer.

This fine group of Cantors and musicians have been presenting concerts together across Canada for the last few years.

In honour of Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut, the concert will be followed by a reception. Tickets will be available from Natalie at the Synagogue 422-1301 or at the Atlantic Jewish Council office 422-7491.

General Admission prices are: Adults - \$15 and children (under 13) - \$10. Cheques should be made payable to "Atlantic Jewish Council". Please support this concert by making a tax-deductible donation in the following categories. You would receive a tax receipt for the price minus \$15. Cheque should be made out to "AJC Charities".

Categories are: friend - \$25, donor - \$36, sponsor - \$54, and patron - \$108+. All these will be acknowledged in our program. Donors, sponsors and patrons can have preferred seating if requested at time of ticket purchase.

The concert program will contain ads or messages at very reasonable rates. This is an excellent opportunity to reach Metro's Jewish community. For more information about booking an ad or message (no tax receipt), please contact Terry Israel at 463-3993 by April 20th. For more information about the concert, please contact Leo Weniger at 425-3392.

Don't miss this evening of great entertainment in celebration of Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut.

## THE FOUR CANTORS CONCERT Order Form ( Please Print)

### General Seating - Please send:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult tickets @ \$15 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children Under 13 @ \$13 each  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friend tickets @ \$25 each\*  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total tickets for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Address to send tickets to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Contributors' Seating - Please send:

\_\_\_\_\_ Donor Tickets @ \$36 each\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Tickets @ \$54 each\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Patron Tickets @\$ \_\_\_\_\_ each (min.\$108)\*

#### \*Program Listing

If purchasing Friend, Donor, Sponsor, or Patron tickets, ticket holder names will be printed in the program. List the names to be listed in the program here (no more than the number of tickets purchased):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Holocaust Education Committee Report

By Marlene Unger, Chair

The Department of Education of NB has agreed to co-sponsor with the AJC a workshop on Holocaust Education. I am in contact with **Avis Fitten**, the NB Department of Education History Coordinator re planning for the workshop.

The HEC materials in the AJC office were put in order, abstracts were written and a catalogue was created. Materials were requested and provided to 6 teachers in New Brunswick. Resource persons were requested to speak to classes studying the Holocaust and at Remembrance Day activities. **Francis Weil, John Vink, James Stewart** and **Israel Unger** fulfilled this role in New Brunswick. I am of the view that more requests were received in New Brunswick than in other Atlantic Provinces because we were able to place a notice in the NBTA newsletter to the effect that AJC had educational resources which it was willing to place at the disposal of teachers.

The New Brunswick Department of Education had been planning a review of the History Curriculum which would likely have resulted in the diminution of Holocaust education. Following a meeting between the Chair of the HEC and the Deputy Minister and an exchange of letters, Mr. Cochrane agreed in writing that there would be no decrease in Holocaust education. I have heard that Mr. Cochrane may be leaving New Brunswick. If that should prove to be the case, we will have to remain vigilant that there are no policy changes with respect to Holocaust education.

About a year ago the HEC recommended to the Executive that steps be undertaken to have the respective legislatures in Atlantic Canada pass statues commemorating the Holocaust. In December 1999 the Legislatures of PEI and NB passed such bills. Tom Kuttner, Chair of the CRC, has provided a cogent summary on the above in his report to the Executive.

## Yachdav 2000

International Young Leadership Mission to **Vilna, Minsk & ISRAEL!**

**July 9-19, 2000**

Join over 400 young leaders (ages 23-40) from around the world!



For further information contact **UJA of Atlantic Canada**  
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# CRC Report

By Tom Kuttner, Chairman

On the Legal Front:

## BEUTEL V. ROSS [APPEAL]

**Josh Beutel's** appeal from a judgement of the NB Queen's Bench in favour of **Malcolm Ross**, who had sued the Saint John cartoonist in libel, was heard by the NB Court of Appeal on 20-21 January. The trial judge had held that although Ross is both a racist and an anti-Semite, it was libelous for Beutel to characterize him as a Nazi.

Beutel's lawyer, **David Lutz**, QC argued that the trial judge misread the evidence, and in any event applied the law of libel [which is notoriously tricky] incorrectly. **Douglas Christie** represented Ross and argued to the contrary. Several public advocacy organizations were given intervener status before the Court to argue in support of Beutel's appeal.

For the Canadian Newspaper Association and the Association of Canadian Editorials Cartoonists, **Paul Schabas** reviewed the law of libel and forcefully supported the argument of error on the part of the judge in applying the law to the facts of the case. **Joel Richler**, appearing for the Canadian Jewish Congress focused on the particular nexus between racism, anti-Semitism and Nazism as a value system. **Marvin Kurz** for the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada addressed international human rights law and its relationship to libel, while Tom Kuttner for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association spoke of the effect of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the law of libel. David Lutz and all intervener counsel appeared pro bono, donating their services.

The Court of Appeal has reserved its judgement, which is anticipated to be given later this year.

## ROSS V. CANADA

The case that Ross has brought against Canada to the UN Human Rights Commission is still pending. Ross is alleging violation of his freedom of religion and freedom of speech because of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada upholding his removal from the classroom because of public anti-Semitic conduct. Tom Kuttner, together with a colleague at UNB Law School, **Don Fleming**, has assisted in formulating the Response of the Government of Canada to Ross' Complaint. It is anticipated that the UNHRC will consider the matter either this Spring, or in the Fall.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY ACTS

The three Maritime Provinces have all embraced the idea of officially proclaiming Yom haShoah- Holocaust Memorial

Day by way of legislation. The first to do so was Prince Edward Island - the House of Assembly passing a Holocaust Memorial Day Act in mid December. **Jack Silverstone**, Executive Director of CJC was key in seeing this initiative through. It was passed unanimously.

Next came New Brunswick, the Legislative Assembly unanimously enacting a Holocaust Memorial Day Act on the last day of the 1999 session, December 17. Present on the floor as guests of the Speaker for Second reading of the Bill were **Eta Berk** - a Survivor, **Gerard Blink** - a Dutch resister, **Brig. Gen Ernie Anderson** who commanded the North Shore regiment on D-Day, and **Maj. David Dickson** and **Pvt. Richard Polchies** - both decorated Veterans who fought in Europe. AJC's **Marlene Unger** and Tom Kuttner were instrumental in seeing MLA **Eric MacKenzie's** private member's Bill through to legislation.

[As we go to press, the Nova Scotia Legislature is in the process of enacting its Holocaust Memorial Day Act, a Bill introduced by Premier Hamm. It is anticipated that the Bill will be proclaimed into law in time for Yom haShoah, which this year falls on 2 May. **Victor** and **Jon Goldberg** have been the key AJC players in this initiative.]

AJC hopes to see a similar initiative underway in Newfoundland before the end of the year.

**Haider Affair** - Following the CJC initiative, letters of protest were written by the Atlantic Jewish Council to all Federal MPs from Atlantic Canada and Senators from Nova Scotia. A fair number of supportive replies were received. In addition, Victor Goldberg met with the Austrian Consul in Halifax, along with members of the Halifax CRC Committee. The meeting lasted over an hour and the Consul, who happens to be of Jewish birth, agreed to deliver a letter of protest and concern to his superiors at the Austrian Embassy in Ottawa. Shortly thereafter Haider resigned.

**Inter-religious Affairs** - The Archbishop of Nova Scotia in the context of the Pope's apology to the Jewish people has asked the Atlantic Jewish Council to arrange a meeting in order that a joint program can be held this spring between the Catholic and Jewish communities of Halifax.

Lastly, the Atlantic Jewish Council was one of the major sponsors in the *International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination* program held in Halifax on March 21, 2000.

*Editor's note: This report was delivered by Prof. Kuttner to a meeting of the National C.R.C. Committee in Ottawa, March, 2000.*

# A Personal Recollection of Glace Bay

By Gail Medjuck Loonin

I was born in Glace Bay General Hospital in 1946. My extended Imespachah consisted of the families **Medjuck, Zilbert, Goldman, Gutrvitch, Sable** and **Blackman**, among others. Before I turned two my parents, my two older sisters and I moved to Syracuse, New York in order to be closer to my Mother's family. Growing up in Syracuse, however, did not hinder me from hearing all sorts of Glace Bayisms and stories about the small close-knit Jewish community on a daily basis. My family spoke about Glace Bay with warmhearted feelings, but it was specifically my father who spoke about it most often. With a smile on his face, and exaggerated drama and animation, he would start every story with the same eight word phrase: "When I was a little boy in Caledonia....."

As long as my father was alive, I heard amazing stories that seemed more like folk tales about family and friends. By the time I was a teen, I knew the who's who of the extended Medjuck and Zilbert families. I knew which families had ten children and which had none. I knew the names of each aunt, uncle and cousin in Glace Bay and the surrounding towns. I heard fascinating yarns about my grandparents, **Yohoshua (Isadore)** and **Rochel Malka Medjuck**. Sadly, I never had the opportunity to meet them, but they seemed larger than life to me. I knew about misunderstandings, family feuds and reconciliations. I knew who lived on what street and near which relative. It seemed to me that nearly every person I heard about had a store, and lived either behind it or above it.

Anyone who was even remotely acquainted with my father knew that his heart and soul remained in Glace Bay. Our household in Syracuse had all the trappings of a traditional Jewish Atlantic Canadian home. Much of our furnishings came from Nova Scotia, and the food served in our home was certainly more Canadian than American. Our home seemed a bit different than the homes of most of my friends and relatives. For instance, we drank tea instead of coffee – and it was only loose Red Rose, not Lipton tea bags. We ate a lot of salt cod and potatoes, finan haddie, salmon croquettes, fish chowder and other kosher foods from the sea. Even our English was different

than that spoken by most people I knew. We sent and received parcels, not packages, and we used elastic bands, not rubber bands. My father held his pants up with braces, not suspenders.

I would say that the highlight of my father's week in the 1950's and 60's was when the *Cape Breton Post* arrived in the mail wrapped in its familiar green florist paper. He would devour every article and advertisement, searching for a familiar name or place. The immense pleasure he received from reading that paper was beyond measure.

During the summer of 1964, I visited Glace Bay for the first time since we left there. My sister, **Hedda** had visited there two years earlier and had a wonderful time. I couldn't wait to go to the place where I was born and meet family I had only heard about in stories. I wasn't disappointed. The people I met were warm, friendly and sincere. They extended their hospitality to me with such kindness that I instantly felt at home. They couldn't do enough for me. Since that trip, I have returned to Glace Bay two more times. In 1970 my husband and I traveled there for a visit. And in 1992 my sisters, **Sherine**, **Hedda** and I went on what we affectionately called our "Roots" tour. Each time I went back, it seemed apparent that Glace Bay was showing the signs of a poor economy, and the Jewish community had dwindled down to just a handful of people. However, we were always greeted with the same warm enthusiasm by family and acquaintances. I am forever thankful for that.

My father died in 1988 at the age of 77. I never spoke about him at his funeral, and I have regretted that decision until this day. I am therefore dedicating this article in tribute to and in memory of my father **Archie Medjuck**.



**The Jewish Family Services (JFS of Metro)** is a volunteer committee under the auspices of the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC). It extends economic assistance to Jewish residents of the metropolitan Halifax area.

Typically, assistance will be given on a one-time basis to help through a crisis situation. When necessary and appropriate some clients have been provided with support on an annual basis. Clients may wish to receive the assistance in the form of a loan which would be repaid according to individual arrangements with the committee.

The first step for the support process to be initiated is to contact the AJC Chaplain, Rabbi David Ellis to make it known that a situation exists where an individual or a family is experiencing significant economic difficulties.

He may be contacted at (902) 422-7491 ext. 26

The committee makes the Help Line Directory available to anyone wishing to consult it at the AJC office. This office is located at the Lord Nelson Arcade, 5675 Spring Garden Road, Suite 800, Halifax, NS, B3J 1H1.

For further information about the JFS of Metro you may contact committee members  
Nancy Cieplinski (902 443-7522) or Robert Wolman (902 429-9243).

**Jewish Family Services of Metro**



## From the Director's Chair: Camp Kadimah

By Sheldon Cohen

"Is that your final answer?" You don't want to miss Kadimah 2000 – guaranteed to be the biggest and best summer ever. Our staff has planned for a fun-filled, surprise-filled, exciting program for all. It won't be long now until the chadar will be booming with song and cheer, laughter and joy – our enrolment has reached 280 and several new staff will join the many returning ones to insure a safe, wonderful summer for all.

Here is a partial list of staff for 2000: Assistant Camp Director – **Michael Soberman**, Co-ordinator of Special Events – **Marty Zatzman**, Programme Director – **Mark Hecht**, Judaica Programmer – **Tamara Kochberg**, Camp Administrator – **Leigh Lampert**, Waterfront Director – **Jana Suchter**, Assistant Waterfront Director – **Jennifer Chisholm**, Camp Nurse – **Melanie Dohrmar**, Rosh Machar – **Sara Domelir**, Sagar Rosh Machar – **Jeremy Ehrlich** and **Jillian Zuckerman**, Giborim Section Head – **Shayna Allan**, Goshrim Section Head – **Eli Mandel**, C.I.T. Director – **Stephanie Levitz**, Arts & Crafts Director – **Shelby Hirsch**, Shirkud Directors, **Meirot Shiener** and **Melanie Kazman**, Scouting Director s– **Reshef Burde** and **Ron Kuperberg**.



*Dedication of the Boniuk Memorial Building – The New Machar Programming Center. Camp Kadimah, Visitor's Day, 1999.*

Many new programs and special events are being planned as well as outings and overnights. Camp begins Friday, June 30 with Visitor's Day Sunday, July 23rd.

Wishing all a very Happy Passover. Hope to see you all very soon.

Shalom,  
Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director

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# 'I Didn't Want to Go'

By Barbara Shinehoft, Hamilton, Ontario

For Morasha – a Publication of UIA Federations Canada

We travel a lot. We've been on many pleasure trips. Therefore, it was unusual for me not to respond with enthusiasm when **Jack** suggested we join a UJA Mission to Kiev and Israel. Why would I want to do this? I've been to Israel, I'm well-read and did not feel there was much for me to learn in the former Soviet Union. I was wrong.

Our family has been blessed with prosperity. Jack works hard to give us a wonderful home, lots of perks and a chance to travel. However, our travel to date has been for pleasure. Now, that I've returned home from this unique experience, I've been forced to think about people much less fortunate than us. The elderly in the Ukraine, without running water, proper nutrition, toilets; children without a chance to realize their potential as well as their Jewish identity; and youth who may not have the promise of a better tomorrow.

We're lucky to be Jews in Canada; our children are fortunate to receive a Jewish education and a venue for a Jewish future. The youth in the Ukraine are not so lucky.

Those of you who know me understand that I am a nurse. I graduated from the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and attended McGill for a nursing degree. I mention this because I lived and learned in a very Jewish environment, one rich in opportunity to live a Jewish life. I learned in nursing school that before a person can look to their spiritual needs, they need to satisfy their basic ones. First we need oxygen, food, shelter and the like before we look to meet our more lofty philosophical needs, including identity issues as well as our spiritual needs.

In the Ukraine, Jews first need food, shelter and decent housing before they can turn their thoughts to their identity as Jews. We visited the elderly in "Warm Homes" who come together, for yes, a meal, and a warm place to be, but who also stay the rest of the day for companionship and perhaps a little Yiddish expression in their lives. First they eat, and then they remember former times when their Jewish life was more alive.

We saw the work of JAFI, the Jewish Agency working on programs to bring the young to Israel, where they are taught Hebrew and are introduced to what it means to belong. Teens are offered programs of study and a chance to consider making *aliyah*. Others may choose to immediately be part of the *olim* who have decided to immigrate.

We saw the work of the Joint (the Joint Distribution Committee) who endeavors to help the sick, infirm and lonely Jews who must stay behind. They provide soup

kitchens and programs such as the Warm Homes to help meet some of the needs of the elderly. They also try to provide some Jewish education and support to those who for personal reasons choose to stay.

There was a lot of "political discussion" on our trip. Should UJA dollars be committed to keeping Jews in a dying culture, or should money be used for the elderly only who cannot leave and for those who make *aliyah*? Frankly, I'm not very political. It occurs to me that one cannot expect a person who lives in a framework where there has been no Jewish life for over 70 years to make a decision to leave if they receive no education as to why they should want or need to be in Israel. I will leave the politics to our community leaders but will say that I found value and worth in all the programs I saw.

My thoughts now turn to the Israel part of our trip. We visited day schools for children in the north twinned with Canadian schools; a program for the severely handicapped staffed with marvelous, kind teachers and therapists. We visited a home in Jerusalem for young boys who no one can cope with, a place of last resort for abused and neglected kids. We met with Rabbi David Hartman who is struggling to bring pluralism to Israel, an environment rich with mutual respect for all Jews, both secular and religious. We saw the problems Israel faces with massive immigration, the effect on the native population and a land rich with cultural diversity.

All these programs warrant our attention. We are all individuals who returned from this experience more enriched than when we started out. We traveled together and were all moved by what we saw.

I was fortunate to study with **Rabbi Hartman** in the McGill Jewish Studies Program. Two of his favorite "people" are **Moses Maimonides** and **William James**, a Christian philosopher. The most important lesson we learned from this class was that 'non-decision is a decision.' This means to me that not acting is a form of action. When we choose to ignore, or not act on problems presented to us, we are in a way deciding not to do something. That is, we are choosing not to "act." That's probably why I did not want to make this trip because now I feel compelled to do something.

*Barb Shinehoft was one of the 39 participants on the UIA Federations Canada "Small Communities Mission to Kiev and Israel" in November 1999.*

# If I forget thee, O Jerusalem... Meet Moishe Zhang, self-styled leader of the Kaifeng Jewish Community

By Daniel Freeman

Long before coming to China, I had heard tell of a community of Jews living in Kaifeng, the ancient capital of the Northern Song Dynasty in Henan Province. For some reason I had always doubted their existence; perhaps it was because there just weren't any Kosher Chinese restaurants in my neighborhood. If they did exist, I imagined the Chinese Jews might consider themselves racially, but not culturally, Jewish. I was therefore surprised and pleased when a friend told me that there is still an active Jewish community in Kaifeng, and that he could introduce me to their leader, **Zhang Xingwang**.

Mr. Zhang met me in a hotel lobby in downtown Kaifeng. It wasn't difficult to recognize him. If his thick beard, rounded eyes, dark skin, and protruding proboscis didn't give him away, his blue fedora, similar to those favored by orthodox Jews, was unmistakable. "Please, call me Moishe," exclaimed the well-built wrestling coach and Kung Fu teacher. "Moishe led the Jews in Egypt — I lead them in China."

"Moishe" Zhang is an interesting man. As he tells it: "When I was twenty, the Cultural Revolution was in full swing, but I had a dream. I wanted to rejuvenate Jewish culture in China. I knew that if I wanted to accomplish anything at all, I'd have to think long-term. I decided then that when my son was old enough, I would send him to Israel to learn Hebrew, so he could return to teach our ancient language to the Jews of Kaifeng." Sounds ambitious? "I've already spoken with the Israeli Embassy," he says. "When my son **Feifei** graduates from high school in three years, he will study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem."

Moishe has worked diligently to preserve his heritage. It hasn't been an easy job. There are only 600 Chinese Jews, and they don't qualify for status as an official ethnic minority. When the local government refused to support his efforts, Moishe persuaded a privately owned theme park to allow him to display an exhibit of Kaifeng's Jewish history. The items on display include illustrations of events in Chinese Jewish history, diagrams of the Kaifeng Synagogue which was destroyed by a flood over 100 years ago, and photographs of Jewish texts translated into Chinese. Jews served as artisans to the imperial household, rebel leaders during the White Lotus rebellion, and as prominent local magistrates and merchants.

They have more than once caught the eye of the Church. In the 17th century, convinced that European Jews had expunged certain verses predicting the coming of Jesus from the Old Testament, the Vatican dispatched spies to infiltrate the Kaifeng community and steal the Chinese Jewish scriptures in hopes that they contained the desired verses. Needless to say, their efforts were in vain. Only five years ago, missionaries claiming to be Jewish ingratiated themselves with Kaifeng's Jewish community, only to offer US\$200 to any family willing to convert to Christianity. "Thankfully," says Moishe, "only one family accepted their money," which at the time was equal to three month's of the average person's salary. The offer was especially

tempting because Kaifeng's Jews have fared badly since the collapse of the iron rice bowl, and many are unemployed. "Since then we have been very careful about whom we are willing to meet. We can't tell who's really Jewish, so we only welcome visitors introduced to us by people we trust."

But are they Jewish? That depends on how you define Jewishness. Moishe and his friends certainly consider themselves Jews, and the surrounding Chinese community recognizes their racial origins. Like observant Jews everywhere, they don't eat pork, and in observance of one of the more obscure Jewish dietary laws, they excise the sciatic nerve from the hind legs of animals before eating them. The community's most senior member, Mr. Shi, remembers his grandfather telling stories of eating unleavened bread during the Passover holiday and attending services in the synagogue. They are familiar with many of the biblical stories that make up the Jewish cultural cannon. Moishe's home is adorned with a piece of scripture that Jews traditionally affix to their doorposts. But it is clear that for all their cultural observance, the Jews of Kaifeng are not religious. They do not read the Bible, nor do they pray on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. Critics of Kaifeng's Jews argue that the Jewish philanthropic tradition and the possible benefits from tourism provide no small incentive for them to exaggerate or even lie about their Jewish heritage, but Moishe's efforts and concerns seem genuine.

"Do Kaifeng's Jews marry outside the Jewish community?", I inquire.

"We of course prefer that our children marry their own kind," says Moishe, a grin on his face. "Are you married? You should seriously consider returning to meet one of our girls. They are all very beautiful and smart. Last year two were admitted to Qinghua University. I could show you some pictures...."

*Daniel Freeman is City Manager for ChinaNow's Nanjing site.*

*Editor's Note: Daniel, son of Myra and Larry Freeman, is a twenty-four year old native of Halifax and is presently studying at Johns Hopkins University in Nanjing, China.*



Moishe Zhang

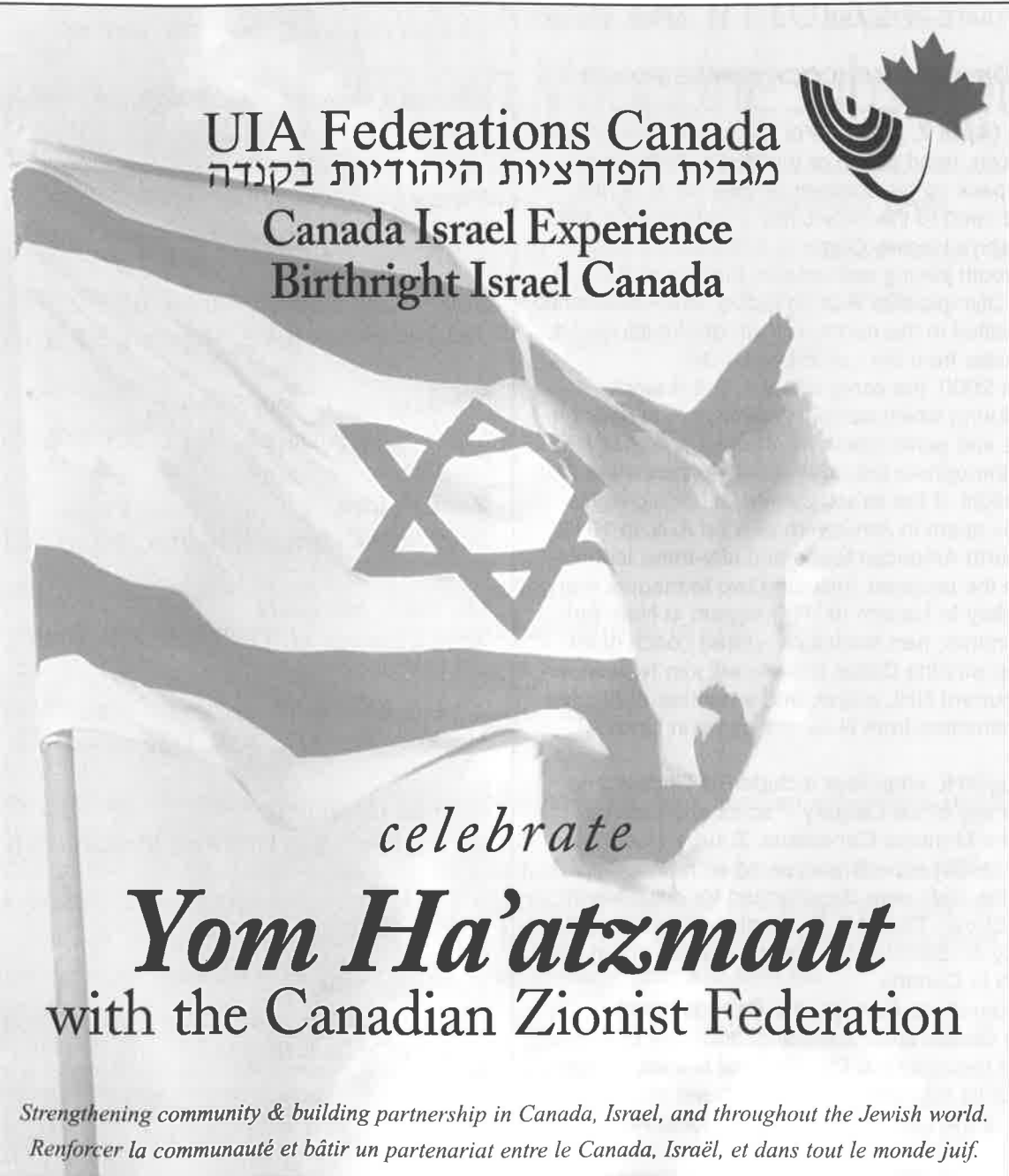




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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 7, 2000

## NEILSON AND HITCHCOCK ISRAEL BOUND

**TORONTO (April 7, 2000)** – For the fourth straight year, Roger Neilson, head coach of the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers, will pack up his summer hockey camp in mid August and head to the Holy Land. Established in 1997, Roger Neilson's Hockey Camp in Israel sees North American youth joining enthusiastic Israelis at Canada Centre, an Olympic-size skating facility and recreational complex nestled in the northern town of Metulla, just a few short miles from the Lebanese border.

New for 2000, the camp offers 1, 2 & 4-week programs during which campers participate in daily on-ice practice and game sessions, then tour, rappel, hike and kayak throughout the northern region while learning about the plight of the Israeli people. Other highlights include days spent in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. In 1999, nineteen North American teens and fifty-three Israelis took part in the program, including two teenagers from the Ice Hockey In Harlem (IHH) program in New York.

This summer, Ken Hitchcock – head coach of the Stanley Cup winning Dallas Stars – will join Neilson, an additional current NHL player, and a number of highly qualified instructors from Neilson's camp in Lindsay, Ontario.

Previous NHL attendees include Bill Lindsay and Steve Dubinsky of the Calgary Flames and Dainius Zubrus of the Montreal Canadiens. Zubrus' (1998) and Dubinsky's (1999) experiences along with Neilson and the rest of the staff were documented for episodes of 'NHL Cool Shots'. The NHL Productions' series can be seen weekly on ESPN in the United States and on CBC and CTVSN in Canada.

UIA Federations Canada, the Canada Israel Experience Centre and Partnership 2000 are partial sponsors of the program. The National Hockey League and many of its member teams have been strong supporters of the camp, as has the National Hockey League Players' Association. Roots Canada became a yearly sponsor in 1998 and was joined by Easton Sports Canada and Mission Hockey in 1999.

Neilson, who was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a rare form of bone cancer, in mid December, received numerous calls and well wishes from his Israeli campers when they learned about his battle. He responded confidently with a message to tell them he'd be "ready to go" by the time the camp rolls around at the end of July.

Contact the RNHCII by calling (416) 780-9825 x203 or visit [www.rnhc-israel.com](http://www.rnhc-israel.com)

OR Dr. Howard Conter, Board of Directors, Canada Israel Centre (902) 423-8535

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