

# Shalom!

Fall 2000 Vol. 25, No. 3 Heshvan-Kislev 5761

# שלום!



*"Let us pray to be happy, pray to be good,  
pray to be loving and kind – Let us look with great joy  
to the year that's ahead and reflect on the year left behind."*

שלום

# President's Message

By Victor Goldberg



**President:** Victor Goldberg

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It is with mixed emotions that I write this, my last President's Message. After 4 years and 2 terms, it is time for new leadership with fresh ideas, and I am looking forward to different challenges in my Jewish communal work. Yet, I will miss the excitement, responsibility and privilege that the office has always provided. A brief report card on the AJC and Jewish life in our region is in order. When I succeeded **Larry Freeman**, I inherited a vibrant organization replete with a corp of committed volunteers, great professional staff and significant national representation. These cornerstones are as strong as ever. Our executive and committee members continue to represent their respective communities and diligently perform their mandates. Our influence and representation on our national partner bodies are solid and far surpass our small percentage of the Jewish population in this country. But what have we done and what tasks lie ahead?

Space does not permit me the luxury of documenting the hundreds of programs directly or indirectly run or sponsored by the AJC. However, I would be remiss if I did not mention our Chaplaincy initiative, which has been underway for 3 years.

**Rabbi Ellis** has been providing outreach pastoral services in communities without rabbis and comprised of mainly seniors, many of whom have no immediate family in the vicinity. This wonderful program has been partnered with a seniors' initiative in Halifax where Rabbi Ellis has been working to better the lives of the Jewish residents in Northwood, with the ultimate goal of establishing a Jewish wing. As successful as these programs have been, it is unclear whether they can be sustained as our seed funding has dried up and limited resources may not justify their continuation. If our communities and seniors truly want these programs, they must begin to bear their respective share of the financial burden.

Our Israel Experience as exemplified by Kadimah Israel, March of the Living and numerous other programs has been highly successful. Camp Kadimah, led by the indefatigable energy and drive of our Co-chairs, **Andrew Wolfson** and **Mark**

**Rosen**, and professional stewardship of 20-year Director,

**Sheldon Cohen**

and long-time Assistant Director, **Michael Soberman** (both now retired) has blossomed into one of the pre-eminent summer camps in Canada as our camper enrollment continues to reach record levels. Our *Shalom Magazine* and *AJC Directory* are lifelines in this geographically spread out region. Our campus work is the envy of the country as more and more Jewish kids attend universities in Atlantic Canada, particularly in Halifax. We strive to improve programming for youth and plans are underway for a Grade 8 and 9 trip to Washington in May 2001 in partnership with the Asper Foundation of Winnipeg.

As part of our Canadian Jewish Congress mandate, we continue our efforts in the community relations' area to improve tolerance, fight anti-Semitism and advocate for our Jewish community. Our Holocaust programming is superb thanks to **Marlene Unger** and her committee, **Philip Riteman** and the many other committed speakers as well as **Jon Goldberg's** entrepreneurial initiative in securing funding for our work from the National Claims Conference. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have enacted Holocaust Memorial Day to reinforce the importance of commemorating Yom Hashoah.

Fiscally, we have been struggling to maintain our general United Jewish Appeal campaign in a climate of increased competition for dollars, dwindling demographics and a loss of a number of our most committed givers. Ultimately, our very existence depends on a healthy campaign, with each contributor making a meaningful gift. We are in partnership with Israel and Jews throughout the world, and must provide significant net contributions to our brethren abroad. Nevertheless, we too are in need as our own survival as a vibrant Jewish community is in question. One of our most significant accomplishments of late has been the

establishment of the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, a fund designed to preserve and promote Jewish life in Atlantic Canada through bequests and endowments. Under the able leadership of **Jack Prince** and **Jim Spatz** and a regional Board of Trustees together with **Dov Harris** as our professional, the Foundation is well on its way to establishing the financial base so crucial for the long term.

These are alarming times both internally and externally. In Atlantic Canada, with the exception of Halifax and Moncton, the future of our other communities is bleak. Even in the larger communities our population is aging, as younger people are raised to leave for the bigger centres for continuity and economic reasons. Our Chaplaincy and seniors' initiatives will hopefully continue to ameliorate the golden years of those who have given so much to their own community. Nevertheless, despite our Camp Kadimah and Israel Experience programs, where will even Halifax be in 20 years? I believe that the AJC must endeavour to harness the positive forces and feelings of those in Halifax who are committed to a flourishing community so as to ensure that a proper critical mass can be developed. Those who are inclusive and believe in "Shalom Bayit" share my view that a comprehensive community plan is essential if our children and grandchildren are to live a fulfilling Jewish existence here. Likewise, each community must truthfully examine their own past, present and future. This may be our most important challenge and opportunity!

Our beloved Israel and its citizens are facing perhaps their most significant threat since 1948 as they struggle for an elusive peace amidst vitriolic incitement by Muslim clerics and fundamentalist and the bellicose actions of a manipulative and bloodthirsty population. Here at home, Palestinians have burned Israeli flags and yelled "death to the Jews". Our own Canadian government voted to condemn Israel in the United Nations, but did not call upon **Yasser Arafat** to stop his age-old use of violence as a tool of diplomacy. Acts of vandalism and violence throughout the world reinforce the reality that the handmaiden of anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. Despite all of our interfaith, multi-cultural and human rights activism, the voices of our ethnic partners and churches are silent in the face of the current anti-Semitic activity. Ultimately, history has shown that we must look after ourselves no matter how successful and assimilated we are, and no matter how civilized the country in which we live.

I leave the presidency at a crucial time in the history of Atlantic Canada Jews and Israel. Both are threatened in different ways but I am confident that with our most precious resource, human capital, we will prevail.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to all of my executive, committees and particularly my management committee comprised of **Sheva Medjuck**, **Mark Rosen**, **Michael Pink**, **Jim Spatz**, **Kathy Zilbert** and previously **Larry Freeman** and **Barbara Paton**, all of whom volunteer countless hours. Jon has always been there no matter how fluid the agenda or the time requirements, and is responsible for many of the achievements of the last 4 years. His staff ably handles an ever-increasing and complex workload. Most importantly, I must thank **Judith**, **Eric** and **Rachael** for encouraging me to serve, allowing me the freedom to travel and attend meetings on a far too often basis, and providing sage counsel where needed. They are my

inspiration and provide the impetus for my efforts.

I thank all members of the Atlantic Jewish community for allowing me to serve as your President and heightening my own Jewish awareness. I wish the new president and executive well and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Biennial Convention, November 24-26, 2000.

I conclude by recounting some of the most poignant moments of my presidency:

1. When I visited Minsk in Belarus on a special mission with **Shimon Peres** some 3 years ago, I accompanied the JDC (Joint Distribution Company) on a drop-off of food and medicine to a blind elderly lady. Her pension was meagre and her very subsistence depended on our support. She reminded me of my own late grandmother, Sarah Goldberg and I realized that it was only luck that determines each Jew's fate and how important our responsibility for each other really is.
2. In the aftermath of the Swissair 111 crash, a number of us greeted and assisted families of Jewish victims during their stay in Halifax. Our efforts in liaising with the authorities to maintain Jewish dignity and law and in planning the anniversary commemoration reinforced the need to maintain vibrant Jewish communities in small population areas.
3. This past summer I attended Camp Kadimah with our very own Lieutenant Governor, **Myra Freeman**. During Mifkud, Myra bestowed the Order of Good Cheer on the visiting kids and asked that all Nova Scotians be seated. Despite the record number of campers and staff, almost no one sat down, and I realized how few kids we really have and how fewer of them go to Camp.
4. In early May of this year I attended the Sydney Yom Hashoah ceremony and listened to **Jennifer Morrison**, a Grade 11 non-Jewish resident of Glace Bay, speak of the impact on her life of studying the Holocaust and of listening to **Philip Riteman** deliver his sombre message. Only then did I fully comprehend the importance of Holocaust education and the survivors telling their stories.
5. In September of this year, my family and I attended a Maritime Night in Toronto, at which time **Shirley Burnstein** and her Northwood Players performed with **Lowell** and **Bunny Shore**. As I surveyed the many hundreds of ex-Marimers in the room, I realized the significant contribution that they had made in Toronto and how few had remained in Atlantic Canada. My concerns for the future were heightened.
6. This spring, my son Eric and I accompanied **Simon Spatz**, his son Jim and grandson **Josh** to the gallery of our legislature for the introduction of the Holocaust Memorial Day Legislation. All members rose in unison as Simon and other survivors were recognized by the Premier.
7. In the past few weeks I attended rallies in support of the Iran 10 and to show solidarity for the State of Israel. Our collective restraint and spirit must be maintained.
8. Sometime ago I attended a Northwood program with Rabbi Ellis. Whether or not our Jewish seniors were totally cognisant of their surroundings, their eyes sparkled with the faint remembrance of tunes and prayers.

Shalom Chaverim!





## From the Desk of the Executive Director

By Jon Goldberg

### Better Late than Never!

Just 12 hours before this Shalom goes to print and I thought I might use this small space that we saved to first wish all our readers a Happy New year and apologize for the lateness of this edition. This was to be a Yontif edition to be out by the end of October. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, you will be receiving your copy of Shalom two or three weeks later.

If some of the articles dealing with the New Year seem dated the fault is mine and not the writer's. However, with the recent Middle East crisis and other pressing issues, we couldn't help but get behind. It was only due to the diligence of our staff and in particular, our Associate Editor, **Marie Herschorn** who spent many hours, both evenings and weekend of her time, that we were able to get this edition to The Printer.

November will be an exciting month here at the AJC office with our UJA Leadership Mission to Washington departing on November 10. I will be leading a group of 20 of our chevra, most of whom are AJC leadership, to the US capital where we will meet with numerous Israel-oriented speakers, along with other briefings during the 3-day period. From Washington I will be travelling to Chicago for the General Assembly of Jewish Federations where I will meet with other Executive Directors from throughout North America for discussions on numerous topics relative to all in Jewish community service.

I will be returning on the 16th of November and will have eight days to finalize preparations for the 12th Biennial Convention. We have a terrific agenda. Among our guest speakers will be The Honourable Chief Justice **Constance Glube** on Friday evening at our Shabbat dinner. Other speakers and guest panelists will include top leadership, both lay and staff from UIA Federations Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress, CIC, the Consul General of Israel, JNF and many more. On Saturday evening we are proud to present as guest entertainer, the well-known Canadian recording artist "**Amy Sky**". On Friday evening, the Atlantic Jewish Council will be honoring Mr. **Sheldon Cohen** for his 20 years of service to Camp kadimah. On Saturday evening our AJC Community Service Awards will be presented to the following: **Peter Herschorn**, Halifax, **Janet Holtzman**, Saint John, **Edith and Garson Lecker**, Cape Breton, **Ivan Levine**, Fredericton. A new Award, *The Foundation Award*, will be presented to **Mrs. Bina Funt**. There will be a tribute to Her Honour **Myra Freeman**, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and of course, our outgoing President, Victor Goldberg will be honoured for his outstanding service to the Atlantic community for four years. Our Co-Chairs, **Ruth Goldbloom**, O.C. and **Kathy Zilbert** have worked with the office to keep the price affordable for all. *Bring the entire family for what looks to be a wonderful weekend.*

See you at the Biennial!!



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# Message from the President of the State of Israel Mr. Moshe Katsav on the Occasion of Rosh Hashannah 2000 – 5761

Dear Friends:

On the eve of Rosh Hashannah it is a privilege and an honor for me to convey to you best wishes for a happy and blessed New Year, a year in which we hope to see the fulfillment of our historical dreams and national aspirations.

The State of Israel faces crucial and historical decisions among the most important taken since its establishment. Our prayers and efforts are aimed at attaining a comprehensive, true and permanent peace with all the nations of the Middle East.

At the same time, Israel, the Jewish people and Judaism

are confronted with many national challenges of supreme importance. Jewish education and assimilation must be put high on our agenda and paramount attention should be given to the encouragement of immigration to Israel. If the majority of the Jewish people lived among us, the peace process with the Arab nations would progress more quickly and effectively.

From Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, I call on Jews in the Diaspora to come and join us in the building, strengthening and developing of our country for the benefit of our future generation.

Moshe Katsav

## Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Dov Bercovici**, General Manager of Atlantic Canada World Trade Centre in Halifax, who recently received the Certified International Trade Professional designation, Canada's highest honour for international trade. The award was presented during a gala dinner at the close of a national conference in Toronto. Dov received his BA from McGill and his MBA from Dalhousie. In addition to his duties at WTC, Dov is also pursuing part time studies at Saint Mary's University toward his PhD. Dov is married to **Lesley Gaum**, Director of Public Relations at the IWK Grace Health Centre, Halifax.

Mazel Tov to **Sarah Goldberg**, daughter of **Paul and Lorri Goldberg**, who graduated from the Halifax Grammar School in June and is now studying at McGill University.

Mazel Tov to **Rachel Schelew**, daughter of **Jeff Schelew**, who graduated from Dartmouth High in June and is now studying at McGill University.

Mazel Tov to **Dara Gaum**, daughter of **Rhona and Thomas Gaum**, who graduated from high school in June and is now studying at McGill University.

Mazel Tov to **Leah Pink**, daughter of **Rita and Joel Pink**, who graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Nursing. Leah is working at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, Intensive Care Unit.

Mazel Tov to **Jessica Margolian**, daughter of **Tim and Dawn**, who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in June in Israel.

Mazel Tov to **Wolf E. Schneiderman**, son of **Randy Engleberg** and **Norman Schneiderman**, and grandson of **Ike and Edith Schneiderman** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah this past summer.

Mazel Tov to **Sam Silburt**, son of **Bruce and Barbara Silburt** on the occasion of his recent Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Sarah Whitzman**, daughter of **Martin and Debbie**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Lena Rubenstein**, daughter of **Gary and Jennifer**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Benjamin Mendleson**, son of **Sylvia and Gerry** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on August 26, 2000.

Mazel Tov to **Joshua Spatz**, son of **Jim and Marcie**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on September 2, 2000.

Mazel Tov to **Janet and Alan Stern**, on the marriage of their son, **Adam** to **Debbie Jacobson**.

Mazel tov to **Lowell Strug**, son of **Annette and Willard** and grandson of **Morris and Esther**, on his marriage to **Elyssa Goldwert**.

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

Mazel Tov to **Barrie Green** and wife, **Linda** on their recent marriage.

Mazel Tov to **Daniel Beaulieu**, grandson of **Harry Block**, who won the gold medal in Triathlon in the Alberta Summer Games held in Grande Prairie, Alberta, in July 2000. In order to qualify for the Alberta Summer Games, he had to place first or second in the Calgary Kids of Steel Triathlon that was held in May.

Mazel Tov to **The Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Myra Freeman** on being chosen as the Guest Speaker at "Choices", the main outreach program for the Women's Division of CJA Montreal. Well over 500 women will be in attendance on November 8, 2000.

Mazel Tov to **Yolana Wassersug**, daughter of **Yana and Richard**, who was awarded the *Tema Conter Memorial Award* for her outstanding contribution to the Halifax Grammar School.

*N.B. If you would like announcements published in Shalom Magazine please call Marie Herschorn at 902-422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca*

# Programmer's Report

By Lysa Magder

Shalom All,



Well, the school year is now in full swing and so is the APJSF. We have a strong and motivated executive board for the APJSF this year, comprised of president **Darcie Richler**, vice presidents **Leigh Lampert** and **Nicole Borovan**, secretary **Laura Gergely**, and

social action chairperson **Flannery Brown**. The board is working hard to make this year a successful one.

In Halifax, we started the year with our kick-off BB-Q at King's College. Despite the fact that it was a very cold and windy Sunday afternoon, many students came out to huddle around the BB-Q for heat and conversation. We also had a successful breaking of the fast after Yom Kippur at Darcie and Flannery's home. They and their roommates did a wonderful job of cooking up a large and scrumptious feast.

On the other campuses around Atlantic Canada, the APJSF

is also beginning to gain momentum. The APJSF was represented on almost all of the campuses for "clubs and societies day". At UNB in Fredericton, the APJSF recently hosted a very enjoyable and well-attended wine and cheese reception for the students.

For any information about new and upcoming APJSF events, you can connect with us on-line at [APJSF@hotmail.com](mailto:APJSF@hotmail.com) or you can call Lysa Magder at (902) 422-7491 ext. 27 at the Atlantic Jewish Council.

We also had our first Jewish professionals' function of the year last month at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. Many professionals came out to meet each other and join guest speaker **Lance Davis** from Toronto for Havdallah and a wine and cheese reception. The evening turned out to be a really enjoyable time with many newcomers to Halifax making new friends. I think that we have begun to form a strong and cohesive group for the upcoming year.

For some upcoming professional events, we are looking for a strong steering committee of leaders to offer ideas and facilitate with programming. If you are interested, please call Lysa at (902) 422-7491.

Wishing every one a Shana Tova, and a year filled with happiness, health and peace.

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## On the Road Again...

By Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Chaplain

Writing today from Moncton (courtesy of modern technology and Congregation Tiferes Israel's e-mail), after our High Holiday gathering in Prince Edward Island. When we started there to do holiday services several years ago, many could not really follow the services. But after a few go-arounds, the help of some added voices of confidence, and the commitment to a year round study group (thanks to the pushing of Dr. Joe Naylor), I have the sense that most people on the Island have come to have a beginning understanding of the quite difficult prayers we say on the holidays. Thanks to all who made the holidays special.

I am waiting here in Moncton to go to Saint John for the first two days of Sukkot. I anticipate the beautiful drive along the Trans-Canada between Petitcodiac and Sussex, where the view of the autumn leaves is arguably one of the most beautiful sights in the Maritimes. In Saint John, there is the old synagogue which still manages to get a minyan, even a very solid one for the Yom Tov. The balconies, the walls, the yahrzeit plaques, all telling stories of the ages.

Back to Halifax, G-d willing, for a few days of Chol Ha-moed Sukkot. But then, "on the road again . . .," this time to Sydney, for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. It will be my first Yom Tov in Sydney; I have, of course, been there on numerous other occasions. As long as I am there, I will reside in my abode in Glace Bay during the week. It is in the old house which used to belong to Mr. and Mrs. **Norman Lipschutz** at 4 Hector St. The house was purchased several years ago by Mr. **Reuven Schmit** of Brooklyn, who comes and visits once in a while. In the meanwhile the front of the house is rented, under the capable management of Mr. **Sidney Lipkus**. The "granny flat" in the back is always available. It's not the Cambridge Suites but it is sufficient. We will try to get together one more minyan in Glace Bay before the Snowbirds leave.

Then, hopefully home for a while! But already on schedule in November are trips to Saint John for their Remembrance Day Sabbath and to PEI for a conference.

### Mr. Eddie Silbert, Z'l

I had only gotten back to Halifax after Rosh Hashanah when I was called to Glace Bay for the funeral of **Eddie Silbert**. His passing was not unexpected. He had been in intensive care for several months and had lived his last years in Breton Bay home in Sydney.

He ran a store for many years on South Street in Glace Bay. His store was the sort of place we all remember as children—various candies and treats, do-dads of all sorts on display.

Eddie would never have considered himself the most pious member of the community. And yet he could keep me spellbound for hours with his tales of Jewish life in Glace Bay. Despite the difficulties of his health in later years, he always was proud of his Jewish heritage, being unwittingly a spokesman for Judaism to the staff at Breton Bay.

His fight for life at the end was typical of the spirit of Glace Bay. Always hanging on, never giving up.

Yogi Berra ("It's not over till it's over.") would have been proud of Eddie Silbert and of Glace Bay.

### Speaking of Glace Bay...

There are plans for a reunion in Glace Bay during the first weekend in August 2001. I popped in recently at an ad hoc committee meeting (**Shirley Chernin, David Ein, Sidney Lipkus** and **Betty Shore**). The plans are becoming more formalized. They are anticipating Glace Bayers from all over North America returning for the celebration.

### Basic Judaism at St. Mary's University this Spring

Yours truly will be teaching a course on "Basic Judaism" in the Religious Studies Department at St. Mary's university during the upcoming spring term. I consider this one of the greatest opportunities the Atlantic Jewish Council could have—to give students within the fine university centre which Halifax is, a comprehensive introduction to Judaism. The course has not been widely publicized, and yet there is already considerable interest in it. Give me a call if you are interested.

In the meanwhile, I will continue to keep in touch with all of you—within Halifax, by phone, perhaps seeing you at the A.J.C. Biennial Convention, or "on the road again . . ."

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# Youth Programmer's Report

By Darcie Richler

Shalom,

Oh what a crazy month it has been! I am reporting from dual perspectives: one as President for the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student's Federation (APJSF) and the other as Youth Program Director. Although there was not much time within the past month for regular programs to occur, here is the latest scoop...

Youth Programs this year started out with a Laser Tag and Mini Golf Program for grades seven to nine. The turnout was great and we had a wonderful time, including eating great pizza. I was also given many suggestions for upcoming programs. Grades ten to twelve played Paintball one Saturday night. For those who don't know what Paintball is, I will sum it up with a few words: FUN (well, at least for some) MESS (for most) and PAIN (for all!). Evidently many find this type of activity entertaining, although I must say that after having many bruises and sore spots, I know that leadership by example does not always apply. I should warn anyone who is not a pain lover, be wary of paintball. Unfortunately the Apple Picking and Hayride for the grades three to six was rained out but there will be many fun programs ahead in the future. I would like to thank **Adam Conter, Leah Zilbert, Nathan Zilbert, Daniel Zatzman and Sarah Zatzman** who offered their time to volunteer to help out at these programs; it was much appreciated!

Upcoming programs for the various age groups include: cosmic bowling, wave pool, murder mystery, paintball (there was quite a demand for it, however I will sit out next time!), science fun, edible Israel contest, broomball, rock climbing and much more. There will be two executive meetings coming up for the grades seven to nine as well as ten to twelve, and positions for the executive will be finalized then. I am still looking for representatives around the region so if you are interested, please email me at [dreichler@hotmail.com](mailto:dreichler@hotmail.com). Please watch for flyers in the mail and come out to the programs!

The APJSF has been going very well since the start of the year and has been even better since we started using email for correspondence instead of traditional mail. We have over a hundred and fifty people on our list and are hoping that more will sign on once they realize that they can be contacted via email. Our address is [APJSF@hotmail.com](mailto:APJSF@hotmail.com) and it is checked diligently. So if you send us a message, I can guarantee that you will have a response within a day, if not a few hours.

Our first program that we had this year was a Sunday afternoon Barbeque at the King's College Quad. There was a good turnout and an opportunity for some of the new people to Halifax to meet other Jewish students. During Rosh Hashanah, many families across the

region generously opened up their homes for students and made them feel like they were a part of the family. To me, this is what the Atlantic Jewish Communities are all about and on behalf of the APJSF I would like to thank all of the families for being so hospitable and welcoming. You made a big difference in many of the students' holidays and we are very grateful for that. Yom Kippur followed with a Breaking of the Fast with lots of food and many new faces. In Fredericton, there was a Wine and Cheese show with a whole bunch of new faces, although I was not able to make it to that function, **Lysa Magder** said that it was wonderful and we are all looking forward to meeting the new UNB students. Last week at the solidarity rally for Israel, a first year law student at Dalhousie University spoke about the conflicts on campus with regards to the "anti-Israel" demonstrations and we would like to thank him for representing us. Our most recent program was a post Simcha Torah workshop by Ve'ahavtah (a Jewish social action organization) on Social Action. Next week, we are looking forward to an intergenerational Shabbat Dinner with the senior citizens in Halifax where **Dr. Owen Hertzman** will be speaking on Eco-Judaism.

Jewish students as a whole have been quite upset with regards to activities on campus in response to the current Middle-East flare-up. There have been several "anti-Israel" demonstrations at Dalhousie University's Student Union Building along with the spread of propaganda and hatred. We are now in the midst of dealing with the problem and will have more to report in a few weeks.

Although the conflicts in Israel have made for a very tough and stressful start for the New Year, I hope that the year will bring health and happiness to all of you. Good luck and be well!

Darcie Richler



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# Lessons that we can Learn from this Sabbatical Year of 5761

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

This Jewish New Year 5761 ushers in a Sabbatical year in the Land of Israel. The purpose of the Biblical Sabbatical year was two-fold:

1. To allow the land to replenish its productive strength by letting it lie fallow every seventh year after six years of cultivation.
2. To achieve economic re-distribution in society by remitting commercial debts and thereby giving the economically underprivileged an opportunity to raise their living standard. Anyone who needed produce was permitted to enter a field and take it as fields were to be declared "Hefker" ownerless during the Sabbatical year.

What application could these biblical laws have for our Modern society? A recent study by Professor **Allan Moscovitch** of Carleton University indicates that one in six or seventeen percent of all Canadian Jews live under the poverty line and their number is mirrored in the general Canadian population. This places the lie to the stereotyping of Canadian Jews to all being financially well off. It is not predominantly among the elderly that poverty is endemic but over sixteen thousand Canadian Jewish children and young people live in poverty. The largest number of the poor live alone or as divorced or widowed. The biblical statement "the poor shall not cease from the midst of the land" (Deuteronomy 15:11) poses a challenge to Jewish leadership.

This brings us to be conscious of the unsettled state of Jewish family life in modern society which no doubt also reflects what is happening to families in the wider society. Unquestionably the greater stresses of complex competitive contemporary societal living plays a significant role. Even families where both parents are gainfully employed the woman of the household is overburdened and the children may suffer deficiencies of the poor social relationships. Here again the biblical idea of a Sabbatical year off was intended to remove excess stress as people were encouraged to spend more quality family time and to devote themselves to Torah study rather than to a constant life of drudgery and tedium. The Torah relates the precept of Hakhel which always transpired at the end of the Sukkot Festival at the culmination of the Sabbatical year when men, women, and small children were present at a public manifestation when the Torah was read to teach the people G-d's ways. Today we call this the quest for the finer things of life.

It was only some thirty years ago that **John Rawls** in his book "A Theory of Justice" called for a more equal distribution of income as an essential need for future societies. A legal theorist **Ronald Dworkin** espoused a doctrine of equality of resources which would involve periodic reshuffling every fifteen years. Consider that in the last twenty years in the United States one percent of earners have garnered almost

eighty percent of the earnings growth! This can be further dramatized by the Department store Neiman-Marcus selling out in a few hours luxury items while the United States, the world's richest country, has sunk to eighteenth in life expectancy. The need for universal health care in the United States is another major concern.

While we are on the subject of the finer things we ought to consider the phenomenon of Senator **Joseph Lieberman** who is presently the Vice-Presidential candidate on the Democratic Party ticket in the United States. Lieberman has come to symbolize that one can lead a fully modern orthodox Jewish life style and that not only does not become an obstacle to high political achievement but it actually enhances his attractiveness as a candidate in American society which accentuates religion. That does not mean that one need not worry about an anti-semitic backlash because of the high profile that a Jew can aspire to in American life. There are already elements in the numerous American society that take umbrage to a Lieberman candidacy.

The foundation of American Conservatism has expression in the Canadian political landscape as the Canadian Alliance Party places its emphasis on the concept of the rights and possessions of the individual. It argues that the productive individual should be entitled to the lion's share – the fruits of their productivity. The Torah's Sabbatical legislation emphasizes the social component in political economy while not suppressing individual productivity it undermines extreme individualism. Economic wealth should be perceived as being achieved as a result of a cooperative social effort. One way to support economic interdependence is by empowering workers with stock options so that they will have a vested interest in what they produce. Also the re-distributive tax policies of the government can help reduce the gap between the different economic classes in society.

Even so idealistic a theme as the biblical Sabbatical year known as "Shemittah" is not to be understood in a simplistic manner. The Sage Hillel who lived two thousand years ago introduced a modality known as the "Prozbul" in order that lenders should not close the door to borrowers since the outstanding loans would be wiped out during the Sabbatical year. We use that mechanism today in the loan transaction by transferring the collectibility of the loan to rabbinic courts while the biblical prohibition only has application between individuals.

A century ago the Holy Land was being colonized by "Halutzim" – young Jewish farming pioneers who lived under very difficult economic conditions. They could not afford to leave their fields to lie fallow so they turned for a judgment to great rabbinic sages for dispensations. The Rabbis responded to the challenge by issuing a "Heter Mechirah" – leasing the land to non-Jews so that the lands could be worked when they

*continued on page 10*

continued from page 9

are not under Jewish ownership. This ruling has been in force till the present; however, the difficult economic conditions in Israel do not prevail so many maintain that the earlier dispensation should no longer be in force. Besides the dispensation applied before the Jewish state was established. Now most of the land is owned by the Jewish state. Therefore many rabbinic sages see the Biblical "Shemittah" laws as a renewed test of our faith and trust in the Almighty. Some religious farmers sought other means such as hydroponics to

continue a type of farming that would be permitted. A Midrashic narrative in the *Pesiqta Rabbati* sees the Messianic advent as transpiring during a Sabbatical year. Let us hope that the State of Israel and all diaspora Jewish communities will be able to cope with the multitude of challenges that confront them in the coming New Year.

May all Maritimers enjoy health and prosperity during a Happy New Year.

## "Open up for Me"

By Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

On Rosh Hashanah we all go to Shul and try to get inspired, but what about us, have we really changed in the inside? Changing in the inside is intrinsically tied up with "opening up", once we're open to change we're half way there.

During the period of Rosh Hashanah, the Ten Days of Repentance, and Yom Kippur G-d is described as being close and easy accessed through prayer. As the prophet tells Israel concerning this season "seek G-d when He is to be found call Him when He is close." And in the words of the Song of Songs by King Solomon: "The Al-mighty" stands outside the door of every Jewish heart and "knocks, open up for Me!"

The Al-mighty taps at the heart of the Jew and pleads with him to open up the door even a tiny crack, even "like the size of the point of a needle" to make even the smallest attempt to change and attend a Torah-study class, experience Shabbat etc.

This can be compared to a King who gave the hand of his only daughter in marriage. He asked but one thing of his son-in-law. "Wherever you may be, prepare for me a dwelling, a place where I can stay when I come to visit you." The King is G-d, the Torah is his only daughter, all He asks of His son-in-law, the Jewish nation, is to prepare for Him a habitation – an environment of Torah study and prayer where the *Shechinah*, G-d's presence, may dwell.

G-d may be hidden behind the façade of nature, as King Solomon writes, *My Beloved is hidden, has gone away*. The "Beloved" is G-d; but His intention in hiding behind the façade of nature is not to remain hidden and concealed, but that we should seek him. Man's search for G-d is very precious in eyes of the Al-mighty; it is that quest which is the very purpose of G-d's concealment. And when we search and seek we eventually find.

All this parable describes the pattern of our service from the beginning of the month of Elul up until *Neilah* the closing prayer of Yom Kippur. Chassidism describes this period as one in which the fire (G-d) comes close to the spark (each individual soul).

Finally during *Neilah* when we reach the highest point and climax of Yom Kippur G-d reveals himself to His people. The façade falls; the concealment is no more. In the words of the

Song of Songs: "I have found Him whom my soul loves." The Divine King and His people Israel are united as one.

This season of the high holidays is the time when we contemplate our past behavior, our involvement in our goals and values. It is a most appropriate time to open up and make the necessary changes in our lives.

Bassie and I would like to wish the entire Jewish community a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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# The AJC and the Current Crisis in Israel

*The Atlantic Jewish Council has been monitoring and acting to try to support our Brethren in Israel and to promote peace. For your information here are some letters that have been written and events that have occurred.*

October 26, 2000

Dear Friend,

I was recently appointed Chair (Pro Tem) of the AJC Communications Committee and as such I want to bring you up to date on actions that the AJC has taken in regards to the current crisis in Israel and to recommend some steps you should consider taking to support our Israeli brethren.

1. The AJC has written to the Prime Minister, to local members of Parliament and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to protest Canada's support for UN Security Council Resolution 1322, a one sided anti-Israel resolution. A letter that was sent with the signatures of 49 members of the Fredericton Jewish Community is attached. I would urge individuals and communities to write similar letters.
2. The Executive Director of the AJC, Mr. **Jon Goldberg** wrote to **Alexa McDonough** to protest the NDP's one-sided support of the Palestinian position. A copy of this letter is attached. In this regard you should note that Mr. **Svend Robinson**, a prominent NDP Member of Parliament, in an unusual and extraordinary act stood up during question period and complimented the government for its support of resolution 1322 and went on to damn Israel. Once again I would urge you to communicate to Ms. McDonough your displeasure with her party's and the NDP's performance on this issue.
3. Letters were written to MP's from all provinces.
4. The Halifax and Fredericton Jewish communities held events in support of Israel recently. The Fredericton community has taken an ad of support and solidarity with Israel in an Israeli newspaper, copy attached. Please consider carrying out a similar event and placing a similar ad.
5. The AJC is monitoring anti-Semitic incidents and it is in contact with the CJC collecting and disseminating press releases and the like from Israeli and other sources.

If you would like some further information and assistance please contact me or Jon Goldberg at the AJC office.

Sincerely,  
**Israel Unger**  
 E-mail: [unger@unb.ca](mailto:unger@unb.ca)  
 Phone: (506) 455-9787

Ms. Alexa McDonough, M.P.  
 Leader of the NDP  
 Room 442-N, Centre Block  
 House of Commons  
 Ottawa, ON K1A 1A6

October 13, 2000

Dear Alexa,

I'm sure you, along with your many friends in the Jewish community here in Halifax have been distressed by the events taking place in the Middle East over the past ten days or so. We all find the violence and the deaths abhorrent and hope and pray that both sides return to the negotiating table as soon as possible. Nevertheless, on behalf of the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Jewish community of Halifax, in particular, we were quite distressed by the statement issued by NDP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, **Svend Robinson** on October 5.

We believe that such one-sided statements by Mr. Robinson and the ill-conceived votes by our country at the UN serve only to encourage more violence. We are therefore requesting that when you return to the House next week you consider on behalf of your party and for a fair amount of Canadians everywhere, to speak to the following:

- a) Canada should call for **Arafat** to order an immediate cessation of violence and return to the negotiating table to pursue peace in good faith;
- b) Canada should unequivocally call on Lebanon and Syria for the immediate release of these kidnapped soldiers.
- c) Canada should refrain from endorsing flagrantly anti-Israel rhetoric on the international stage. Canada should also vote in favour of the resolution of Israel's Acting Foreign Minister calling for the UN Security Council to, "condemn the attacks against Israel and to oblige Lebanon to adhere to international law" by securing its border with Israel.

As a friend I want you to know that the Jewish community of Halifax and across the country are very upset at what we perceive to be the NDP's blind support for Mr. Arafat and his Palestinians.

If you need more information or if I can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I trust that this note finds you, your family and Mrs. Shaw in good health.

Sincerely,  
 Jon M. Goldberg  
 Executive Director  
 (for) Victor Goldberg, President  
 and the Board of Directors,  
 Atlantic Jewish Council  
 JMG:mh

## Ad placed in Israeli newspapers from Fredericton Community

"The Jewish community of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada sends a message of hope and support to our brethren in Israel. In this time of crisis, great loss and suffering we stand in solidarity with you.

The people of Israel have withstood many trials and tribulations. We know that you will withstand this one as well. We have been, are, and always will be proud of your. We will never lose faith in you."

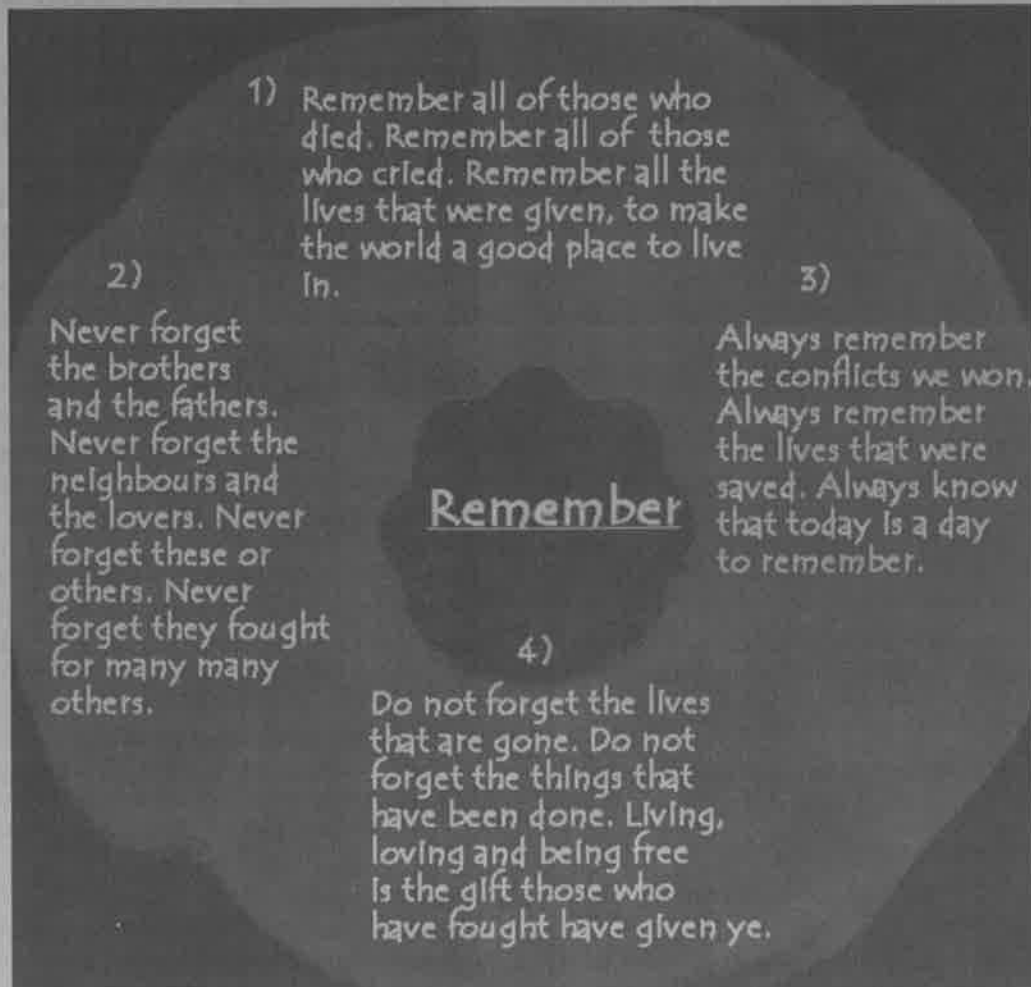
**N.B.** We have formed a communications e-mail list of the latest information that we receive in the office on current events dealing in particular with Israel and the Jewish community in Canada. If you want to be on this list, please contact us by e-mail: [jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca)

The Atlantic Jewish Council will continue to keep you advised on further developments.

### "Remember"

by Wolf E. Schneiderman

In honour of Isaac Schneiderman,  
*my grandfather*





# Dr. Jayson Greenblatt

## A Wholesome Personality in a Fragmented world.

### A Man for all Organizations

*Excerpts from the Eulogy by Rabbi Saul Aranov*

*Editor's Note: Jason Greenblatt was a community-minded person who we will miss very much here in Halifax*



Jayson Greenblatt passed away peacefully in Halifax on September 11, 2000 – 11 Elul, 5760 at age 78. He was born in Montreal, Quebec, March 5, 1922. He was the son of the late Moses and Pauline (nee Hoffman) Greenblatt. Dr. Greenblatt received his Bachelor and Masters of Science Degrees from Dalhousie University and worked for the Department of National Defence during the war years. In 1946, he completed his PhD from McGill University in physics and chemistry and was posted by the Department of National Defence to Halifax in 1948 in the capacity of research scientist at the Naval Research Establishment. In 1962, Dr. Greenblatt was sent to the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario and was one of the youngest participants in the College's history. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Dr. Greenblatt was an active member of the Baron De Hirsch Congregation and served as President of the Beth Israel Synagogue for three terms. He held the position of Vice Chairman with the Halifax School Board and was made a Fellow of the National Council of the Chemical Institute of Canada in recognition of his services and scientific contribution. Dr. Greenblatt was also closely involved with the Council of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, which included a term as President. In 1970, Dr. Greenblatt was transferred to Department of National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa, where he conducted earth sciences research and led expeditions to the Canadian north. He participated actively in community activities and served in Ottawa on the Boards of the Agudath Israel Synagogue and the Ottawa Jewish Home for the Aged. In 1975, Dr. Greenblatt was appointed to the position of Defence Counselor for Defence Research at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for coordinating scientific interchange between Canada, The US, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. In 1981, Dr. Greenblatt returned to Halifax and subsequently retired from the federal government in 1982. Since that time, Dr. Greenblatt worked as a Consultant at the Centre for Energy Studies at the Technical University of Nova Scotia and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at DalTech. Dr. Greenblatt held the position of President of the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Society for the Weizman Institute of Science in Israel and was closely involved with organizing research exchanges between the Institute and Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Greenblatt's selfless and long-time commitment to science and community will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ann, his daughter, Sara, of Halifax, his son, Paul, of Toronto, his sister, Mrs. Esther Fine of Moncton, New Brunswick, his brother, Mendel, of Moncton, New Brunswick, his sister, Mrs. Ruth Manson of Toronto, Ontario and his sister, Mildred of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In a Synagogue tribute to Ann and Jayson, Mr. Earle Bowman stated that "Jayson did a prodigious amount of work at Beth Israel Synagogue and in communal life. His reputation for thoroughness and ability to get things done has made him

sought after for many communal activities."

Jayson exemplified the very fine attributes of leadership. No task too complex or challenging for him and even the most menial and humble tasks are carried out with dignity. He has been an innovator and his genius for organization has been much in evidence in all his undertakings.

These sterling qualities have not gone unrecognized. He was the recipient of a special award by yeshiva University for his outstanding leadership role of Canadian Jewry and for fostering Torah-True Judaism in the communities in which he resided even for short duration.

In Halifax he was the first recipient of the Community Service Award of the Atlantic Jewish Council of which he was founder 25 years ago. He had spearheaded the most successful UJA and State of Israel Bond Campaigns and latterly served as canvassing Chairman for Professionals and seniors for the past 6 years. Jayson co-chaired numerous Negev Dinners and TuB'Shevat Tree campaigns for the Jewish National Fund.

I wish to state that Dr. Greenblatt did not just go along for the tribal ride. In the short four years that I have known him he supervised the Eruv construction and continued its maintenance for the entire Jewish community and the benefit of the increasing number of religious tourists who visit our fair city. He was in charge of the Mikveh renovation and operation. He built the Sukkah almost single-handedly every year. He attended Minyan regularly even when he was at his weakest. He was familiar with every nut, bolt and fixture of the synagogue. He did everything with wholehearted dedication.

Jayson was one of those rare individuals who walked with G-d. He was always on the go in his white shirt and tie whether trying to repair something under his car or when in his humility planting flowerbeds in front of the synagogue. One day I looked out the window of my residence and there was Jayson doing work on my lawn. I was flabbergasted. He was so brilliant and so great that nothing was regarded by him as beneath his dignity.

The "real Jayson Greenblatt" was not a fractionalized person. He was a consummate scientist scholar, administrator, Academician possessing wonderful wit, a superb teacher, traditionalist and devoted worker in the general and Jewish communities and loving husband to Ann and father to Sara and Paul. He was a wholesome human being who did not waste a minute. He epitomized in the highest degree one who walked with G-d. Jayson Greenblatt did not limit himself to any one loyalty. He acted with the same devotion to every sphere of activity and he was completely selfless. In days to come people will yet speak of his accomplishments. Now he belongs to the ages. May his soul be bound up in the bond of everlasting life.

*"To our many friends reading this issue of the Shalom, my family and I wish to express our sincere gratitude for the kind sympathy and generous donations made in Jayson's memory. We would also like to convey our thanks for the thoughtful attention and consideration bestowed by the community during our recent bereavement."* – Ann, Sara and Paul Greenblatt

# 5761 – Have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

By Shirley Burnstein – AJC Seniors Programmer

## Masada Club had it's first meeting and we're off to a good start!

The opening meeting was held at Northwood in mid-September with 40 members in attendance. At this meeting, **Pauline Doucet Scott**, the Director of the Northwood Community Center, spoke to us about plans for a weekly day program to be inaugurated for Masada members and seniors. This would be planned programming including lunch, social time, lectures, movies and outings. We are hoping our membership will grow and in so doing enable us to reach out and include Jewish residents at Northwood and senior members of our community.

A proposal of these plans was submitted to the AJC by **Kathy Zilbert** and a positive response was brought to us a day before Rosh Hashanah (a good beginning!). With the support of the AJC, we should be able to attract interesting lecturers, attend concerts, and build a strong and ongoing relationship with Northwood, so our present residents and our seniors will be able to enjoy a more vibrant lifestyle.

Sept. 21 Symphony Nova Scotia performed at Northwood. Masada members attended.

Oct. 4 Tickets were offered for the Neptune Theatre's presentation of "Cabaret", and 35 Masada members took advantage of them. These tickets were made available through the Northwood Community Centre and **Lloyd Newman** – many thanks.

Oct. 19 Meeting at the Northwood Activity Centre  
12:00 – Social half hour before lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
Introducing **Lysa Magder** – Intergenerational Programmer at the AJC  
After lunch speaker – **Joel Jacobson** discussing his 'Bright Spots'.  
Dues: \$1.00 Lunch: \$2.00

Oct. 19 "Celebrating Music – The Concert Series" at Northwood – the feature artist this month is **Ken Enman**, guitarist. A number of free tickets are available for Masada members.

Oct. 26 Meeting at the Northwood Activity Centre  
12:00 – Social half hour before lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
After lunch speaker – **Josie Ryan** – Infection Control Coordinator at Northwood – to Discuss the why's of everyone having the "Flu Shot"  
Dues: \$1.00 Lunch: \$2.00

Oct. 27 Intergenerational Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel Synagogue. All seniors welcome.  
RSVP Shirley – 475-3204 or Lisa at the AJC office – 422-7491, Ext. #27  
Cost: \$8.00 per person  
Guest speaker: Dr. **Owen Hertzman**, Professor at Dalhousie – Tolerance and Peace in the Middle East.

Nov. 2 Meeting at the Northwood Activity Centre  
12:00 – Social half hour before lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
1:15 p.m. Masada's Regular Monthly Meeting  
1:45 p.m. Musical Program featuring **Ron Arsenault** and accompanist.  
Dues: \$1.00 Lunch: \$2.00

Nov. 9 Meeting at Northwood Activity Centre  
12:00 – Social half hour before lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
Program to be confirmed.  
Dues: \$1.00 Lunch: \$2.00

Nov. 16 Meeting at Northwood Activity Centre  
12:00 – Social half hour before lunch at 12:30 p.m.  
After lunch speaker – Dr. **Richard Wassersug**, Professor at Dalhousie University, will speak to us regarding his recent award received from Harvard University.  
Dues: \$1.00 Lunch: \$2.00

Nov. 30 Chanukah Latkah Luncheon  
Northwood Activity Centre  
Lighting of the candles, Latkahs and all the festivities.  
Cost: \$6.00 per person  
Chanukah Luncheon will feature "The Northwood Players singing Chanukah Songs", "latkahs by our own "Masada Latkah Makers".  
Bring a friend but let us know early as seating is limited. Call Edith at 477-2796 or Shirley at 475-32204 for reservations.

Keep in touch with us and let us know what you would like to see included in our upcoming programs. We will try to bring you the kind of program you are interested in – this project is for you if you are a senior.



Dr. Ray Epstein, Sylvia Levin, Celia Freed



Lillian Devonson, Lil Borshy, Helena Oakel, Shoshana Katz



Joseph Zatzman, Shirley Burnstein

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**Some gift planning strategies**

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For more information please call Marie Herschorn, Administrator, Atlantic Jewish Foundation, 5670 Spring Garden Road, #508 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6, phone: 902-422-7491, fax 902-425-3722; e-mail mherhorn@theajc.ns.ca

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- After your lifetime, the Foundation receives the proceeds of the policy and makes allocations according to your desires.

NOTE: If you're considering a gift of life insurance and have corporately owned assets, you might want to affect your gift through your corporation and benefit from estate tax savings which significantly reduce the cost of your gift.

## About the Canada-Israel Committee

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) is the official representative of the Canadian Jewish community on matters pertaining to Canada-Israel relations. With the aim of promoting and advancing the Canada-Israel relationship, the CIC communicates on a regular basis with Members of Parliament, Senators, federal civil servants, provincial and municipal governments, journalists, academics and others who have an impact on public opinion in Canada. The staff and lay leadership of the CIC provide expertise and technical support to the general Canadian community and Jewish organizations on issues relating to Canada's Middle East policy, Israel and the Middle East.

It is the umbrella organization for Jewish groups and communities representing Canadian Jewry from coast to coast. Its major sponsors are B'nai Brith Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadian Zionist Federation, UIA Federations Canada and the Jewish communities of Canada, all of which are represented on the Board of Directors, CIC's policy-making body.

The CIC periodically publishes reports and papers and organizes seminars and conferences on topics pertinent to the contemporary Middle East. It maintains extensive files and a library on related issues as well as on Canada's policy in the Middle East. CIC's research facility is regularly used by journalists, government officials, academics, students and the Jewish community at large. The CIC produces special

publications, including recently: The Directory of Middle East Experts; Democracy in Action 1996: A Guide to the Participants and Issues in Israeli Politics; Canadian Media Directory; Islamic Extremism: The Threat to Middle East Peace and Global Stability.

The CIC maintains offices in Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto. The National office and Government Relations Bureau are in Ottawa. The Montreal office is responsible for Quebec and Francophone affairs. The Research and Education as well as the Communications Departments are in Toronto.

For further information on the Canada-Israel Committee please communicate with us.

Joe Wilder, National Chairman

Robert Ritter, National Executive Director

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[CIC Agenda](#)

*Editor's Note: Jim Spatz of Halifax has recently accepted an appointment to the Board of the CIC.*



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# Keeping Jerusalem safe for all religions

By John Downing

Toronto Sun, July 30, 2000

There's no need to replace the protective hands that rock the limestone cradle of great religions – Jerusalem. No reason to pry Israeli sovereignty from the celebrated city, not even from one ancient alley, because the Jewish state has been so honourable in protecting all pilgrims.

Not like the last Arabs to hold the Old City, who blocked Jews from the Western Wall and trashed and trivialized those giant stones. Jews can only don shawls and pray there because Israel defeated Jordan in 1967 and keeps winning the wars its neighbours start. If Israel didn't, it wouldn't exist. Yet it has to participate year after year in peace talks, the latest of which collapsed last week, because the world says it must make concessions to those who want to drive Israel into the sea.

## 3,000 years of turbulence

Visit the great city, as I have five times to walk the Sunday school landmarks.

Talk to Jews and Arabs about 3,000 years of turbulence. Then return here to where we don't have to politic for keeps, where diplomacy's failure is just cash and empty rhetoric, not a disaster that could destroy your family.

The Star last week, in yet another anti-Israeli editorial, called for Palestinian President **Yasser Arafat** to press his ownership case for state of Palestine with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital at the United Nations and European Community. Yet U.S. President **Bill Clinton** conceded that Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud Barak** offered more than Arafat did before the peace talks blew up again, like a terrorist on a Jerusalem bus.

Israelis have told the UN to butt out and should do so again. Hey, who wanted compromises, divided or international control, when Jordan owned most of Jerusalem? Israel is only 50 years old and its foes argue the Palestinians have an ancient claim. Ironically, the old claimant, Jordan, which was almost called Palestine because most citizens are Palestinians, is only 80.

Mary and I got a crash course on the Holy city's politics and archaeology when we first visited in 1982 and found its feisty mayor, **Teddy Kalleck**, running an intense session of the Jerusalem committee. It was his shield against demands the UN run Jerusalem. The glittering international body of 45 men and women was festooned with PhDs and honours. There were famous theologians, chancellors, authors and statesmen. We were the only outsiders as Kalleck and officials were grilled on how the city operates. These were not patsies ready to spout propaganda for anyone.

An Arab professor of Islamic art described the rude rule under the Jordanians and how it had been up to Israelis to restore religious sites like Islamic fountains because there was little interest in the Arab world. At no time during the vigorous debates did I hear a credible case for Israel to give up any part. The remarkable fact is Arabs already have the city's largest religious space. Indeed, the heart of their attention, Temple

Mount – from which Mohammed journeyed to heaven – is larger than all other sacred sites combined. Jews don't go there because Arabs built where the destroyed Second Temple stood – the Western Wall is all that's left of the grand foundation platform – and they might defile by stepping where the Holy of Holies was.

More importantly, after thousands of years of persecution, freedom of religion for all has been scorched into Jewish souls.

Temple Mount and its al-Aqsa mosque, which ranks, significantly, only third among Muslim holy sites, is at the heart of Palestinian demands for Jerusalem. Yet Israelis, who don't want to go there, are said to have offered to let the UN and Arab countries have custody there. The Israeli offer is also said to include dividing East Jerusalem into three: one sector under their control, one under Palestinian control but Israeli sovereignty; and one where Palestinians have civilian authority but Israel controls security.

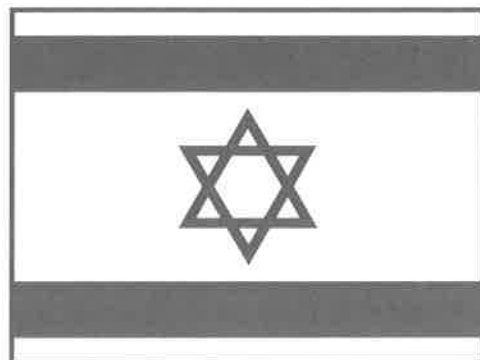
If this was the offer, Arafat should have jumped. Because even the UN might smarten up to the pretense that Palestinians have more claim than Israel. What effrontery! No, make that what chutzpah, since Israel has the superior case.

Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital. When Arabs had that chance, they chose other cities. (The Muslims in Jerusalem pray toward Mecca.) Yet it has been the capital for several Jewish states and should be again now.

I've read the Koran to better understand Islam and found no mention of al Qud or Jerusalem. The Old Testament mentions it 587 times, and there are 131 references to Zion, which often meant Jerusalem.

So even these great books give an historic edge to the Jews/Israelis. In fact, their claim is so much stronger, I can only conclude as an independent Baptist WASP that the main reason the Palestinians want Jerusalem is because the richer Israelis have it

Arab leaders have been cruel, haughty custodians of the glorious city that the Bible and poets sing about so lyrically. Israel has been a faithful steward. That shouldn't end because of the blandishment of billions in aid and interference from those who care more about petro politics than freedom to worship.



# From Around the Region



*The Camp Crowd – left to right: Co-Chair Andrew Wolfson, Incoming Director Marty Zatzman, Outgoing Director Sheldon Cohen, and newly appointed Deputy Chair Victor Goldberg.*



*Dr. Elizabeth Maxwell shown here with Dr. Sheva Medjuck and Shulamith Medjuck at the National Holocaust Education Conference, Oxford University, England, July 20, 2000.*



*Three Rabbis blow the Shafar for the Iran 10. Left to right: Rabbi Saul Aranov, Rabbie Mendel Feldman and Rabbi David Ellis.*



*Mr. Marc Gold, Co-Chair Kievskoya Project Committee, Federation CJA Montreal, shown here at campaign kick-off meeting at the Suissa residence in Halifax, October, 2000.*



*Her Honour Myra Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, inducting all campers and staff to the Order of Good Cheer at Camp Kadimah in August, 2000.*



*Area MLAs visit Kadimah summer 2000. Right to left: Mrs. Michael Baker, The Honourable Michael Baker, Mrs. Don Downe, Don Downe, Sheldon Cohen, Mark Rosen, Co-Chair Camp Kadimah and Leigh Lampert.*

# Ex-Patriot Maritimers pay Tribute to Glace Bay Native Dr. Phil Simon - Toronto, September, 2000



*Sharon Shore-Jacobson, top left.  
Evening co-chair; Shirley Burnstein shown here with singing  
troubadours imported for the evening from Halifax. Do you  
recognize the faces?*



*AJC Past President Ben Prossin shown here presenting Phil  
with a plaque during the gala celebration.*



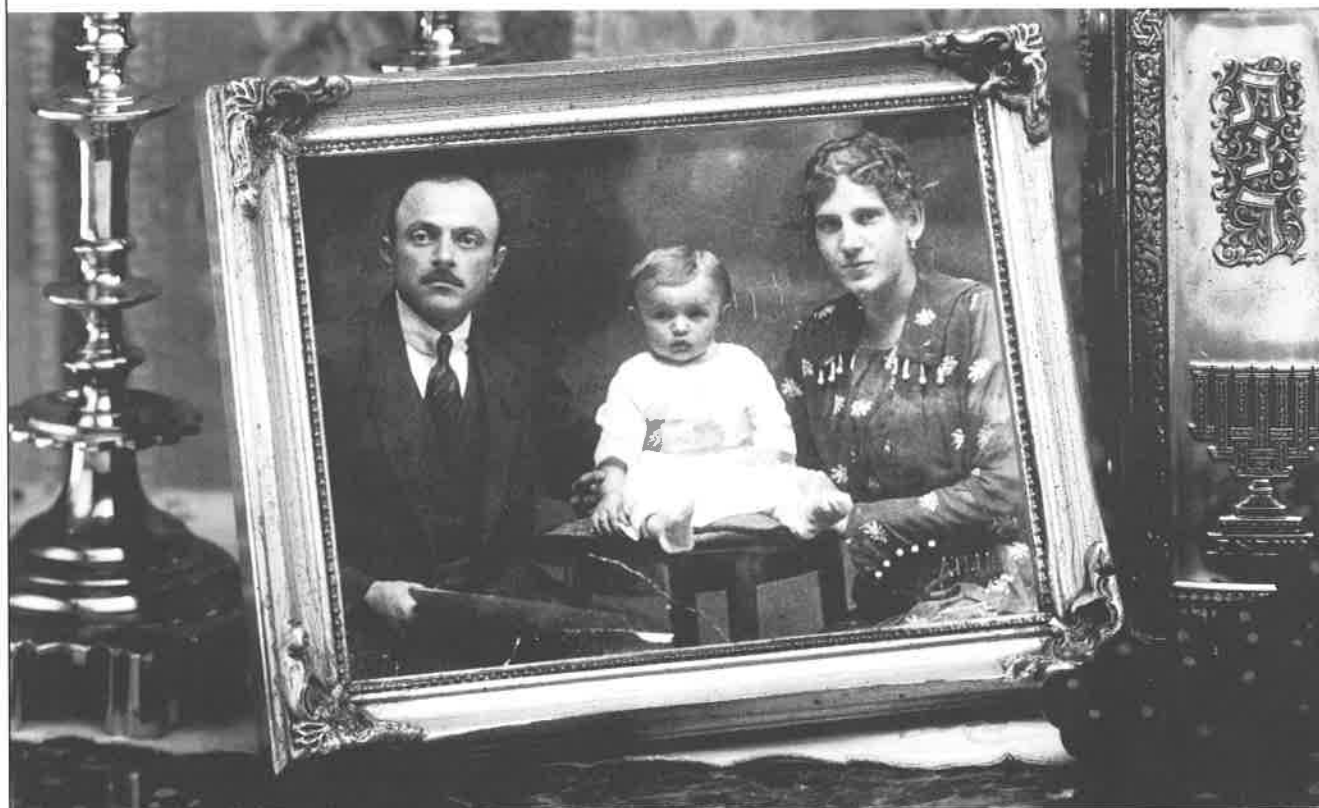
*Ruth and Phil Simon accepting plaque of honour.*



*AJC President Victor Goldberg shown here paying tribute to  
honoree Phil Simon.*

Best Wishes and New Year Greetings to Atlantic Canada from  
Phil and Ruth Simon

# Suppose Your Family Had a Holocaust Era Insurance Policy and You Just Didn't Know About It?



If you are a Holocaust survivor or the heir of a Holocaust victim, you may have a legitimate unpaid Holocaust era life, education or dowry insurance claim and the opportunity exists for you to receive payment. You can now file claims through a new Claims Resolution Process set up by the **International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims**.

The Commission consists of representatives of United States insurance regulators, five European insurance companies and their subsidiaries, the State of Israel, worldwide Jewish and Holocaust survivor organizations and European regulators as Observers.

The unique Claims Resolution Process provides individuals with a central source for information on, investigation into, and payment of those outstanding policies, without any charge to the claimants.

For more information, mail in the request to the right, visit the website [www.icheic.org](http://www.icheic.org) or call

**800-496-1974**

## yes, i'd like to learn more about The Holocaust Era Insurance Claims Process

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Language \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

International Commission  
PO Box 1163  
Wall Street Station  
New York, NY 10268  
USA

CA-ENG-SHAL



# The Dream

By Diane Lewis

During the last year of my mother's life, I was constantly by her side. We had shared a lot during her lifetime, but in the final days, we grew even closer. She told me before she died, I was the best friend she had ever had. I felt exactly the same way. It is against this backdrop that I was about to receive the shock of my life at her passing. The woman I was so close to, had a secret; she was a published author. I carried that knowledge for 6 years, until I came across a millennium writing contest, in a magazine called the Cape Bretoner Newsmagazine. I decided to submit an article about her secret. I hesitated at first, wrote the story, hesitated again and dropped it off before I changed my mind.

The story did not win the contest, but was among a selection of entries that were chosen for publication. There was only one problem, the Editor of the magazine needed to know the name of the magazine that published her work. Through a series of investigations, that would put **Sherlock Holmes** to shame, I tracked down the name of the magazine, which began and terminated publication years before I was born. It was called the Cape Breton Mirror and it was the brainchild of a man named **Norman Lipschutz**. Published between 1951 and 1953, it was an impressive series of publications, featuring Cape Breton culture. With **Hugh MacLennan** providing some guidance and **Karsh** supplying the first cover photo, a striking black and white of MacLennan, a dream was launched.

The writing process had also turned me into an amateur psychiatrist. Why didn't my mother tell me about her writing career, I wondered, and who was Norman Lipschutz? Unbeknownst to me, the latter had lived 20 minutes away from me, most of my life, but had moved to Toronto 3 years ago. His health prevented him from being interviewed and my mother was deceased, so I will never really know why she didn't tell anyone. It occurred to me that maybe I was focusing on the wrong part of this equation. Maybe it does matter why or maybe I already know the answer.

In the first article, I knew very little about her career. The piece was really a thank you letter to my mother and the women of her generation for their sacrifices. But the Editor of the magazine pushed me further to research Norman Lipschutz. It was a daunting task. The magazine was 50 years old, and who would remember it?

I called a local historian and broadcaster **Jim St. Clair** and ran the story by him. He arranged for a one-hour phone-in special on CBC's Information Morning, about my mother – **Isabell Bezanson Lewis** and Norman Lipschutz. We got a tremendous response; we didn't get to all of the callers. It is a testament to Mr. Lipschutz that many people still had copies of his magazine, half a century later.

The first article generated a lot of interest and as a result I was asked to do a follow up essay on the Lipschutz family, the Cape Breton Mirror and those who wrote for the publication. The first article was very personal; the second article thrust upon me the responsibility to tell another family's story. I was not prepared for what I was about to find out.

Norman Lipschutz was born in 1921 in Pinsk, Poland. His father **Hyman Lipschutz** was a poet, writer and English Professor. Hyman was a prisoner of the First World War and

had a prophetic sense of the fate of European Jewry under **Adolph Hitler**. In 1935, he moved his family to Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. Life was tough in this impoverished mining town and the Lipschutz family's intellectual talents were not appreciated in this blue collar environment

Although Norman didn't speak English when he arrived in Canada, he was a fast learner and mastered the English language in no time, as well as showing a flare for writing. His teachers encouraged him by giving him challenging writing assignments so he could display his talents.

Norman's childhood in Europe had contained all of the elements that any youth would enjoy. He had a close relationship with his extended family, he played in the country with his friends and he fell asleep at night to the classical melodies of the violin played by his father. His home was a gathering place for **Pinsk's** intelligentsia, the poets, musicians, actors and travelling lecturers.

For me, the most powerful part of his unpublished memoir was an experience he had during the Second World War. He describes what must have had a profound affect on his adult life. He writes, "In the midst of this dark era in human relations, I was abruptly awakened one night from a horrible nightmare. I actually became an eyewitness to the slaughter of my favorite cousin, **Moishele**. I could see him being chased by nazi bloodhounds, and in a desperate effort to escape, he jumped from one rooftop unto another, while all the time being fired on. Finally I was aware of a bullet hitting him, and he was mortally wounded, plunging into the abyss below. The scene shall remain etched in my memory for all times. As he breathed his last, he uttered my name. I heard him clearly, and I understood him to say that I should somehow find a way to impart to my fellow Canadians, Americans, and men and women of goodwill everywhere, the knowledge that blind hate places us all in grave danger; that unless we eradicate it from our lives, all humanity stands imperiled.... And most certainly the current threat of a nuclear holocaust-the ultimate horror-should convince us all to mend our ways.

I resolved to take up the challenge and embark upon the task of writing a book...."

The Holocaust claimed the lives of all of the Lipschutz relatives left in Europe. In 1960, Norman kept his word and wrote a book, published by Vantage Press, about the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel called, "Victory through Darkness and Despair." He researched the book in Israel where he met his wife, **Rose**.

In the 1980's, **Edie MacLeod** wrote an article in the Coastal Currier lamenting the fact that Norman had not been recognized in his own community for his literary achievements. He was listed in, "Who's Who in America", and honored by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England but was left out of a, "Nova Scotia Writes", listing.

In this brief essay, it is hard to capture a man and his accomplishments. I worry that young people today are growing up without a deep understanding of the Holocaust and its impact. When I read about Norman's dream about his cousin, I felt a responsibility to pass this story on and now that I have told you, you must do the same....

# Run for the Cure

By Joel Jacobson

When the call came to **Kathy Zilbert** to help organize an alternate Run For The Cure as a breast cancer awareness and fund raising event, it didn't take her long to say yes.

"I knew it was a worthwhile thing to do. And I knew the major run was taking place on Rosh Hashanah when the Jewish community was not able to participate," said the Halifax mother of two whose sister-in-law was taken by breast cancer.

A member of the Atlantic Jewish Council executive, Zilbert thought that the Atlantic Jewish Council body would be the best route through which to organize. "I approached the President, **Victor Goldberg** who was immediately on side"; she said.

Sunday October 8, Erev Yom Kippur dawned bright and comfortably warm. Instead of about 40 people showing up, as Zilbert expected, almost 70 walked the 3 km route near the Beth Israel Synagogue where a thank you breakfast was later held.

There were women, of course, but a large number of children and teens took part as did many men.

"I was delighted," said Zilbert. "I was also thrilled we raised almost \$10,000", which was added to the \$1.4 million



Left to right: Joanne Nozick, Deborah Grant, Karen Conter, Kathy Zilbert, Carol Ann Cole, Her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman.

raised in Atlantic Canada the week before.

Breakfast guest speaker **Carol Ann Cole** said 53 Canadians are diagnosed with breast cancer every day "and 15 Canadians die from it every day. You have to take responsibility for yourself. When the doctor says there's probably nothing wrong; that still means. "Keep checking and following up."

Ms. Cole, a Nova Scotian breast cancer survivor whose mother died of the illness, developed the Comfort Heart, a pewter heart-shaped necklace that patients can rub for comfort and think

positive thoughts. She saw the tiny figure as a means to fund raise for cancer research.

"I hoped to raised \$500,000 from this," said the woman who held a vice presidency with Bell Canada when diagnosed in 1992. She gave up her job, went into fund raising full time and has, to date, raised almost \$1.1 million through sales of the heart. Of each \$10 heart sold, \$6 goes to the fund.

Organizer Zilbert said the AJC event was designed for families. "It wasn't tough to sell. Most families have a personal connection with a breast cancer story. That certainly makes them want to be involved."



## News from the Office of the Canadian Jewish War Veterans Atlantic Post #2

By Gar Meltzer, Post Commander #2, Atlantic Jewish War Veterans

I want to thank the wonderful crowd who showed up at the Sunday Breakfast on May 28, 2000 to listen to Squadron Leader **Jack Cahan**, Canadian Commander of Canadian Jewish War Veterans who gave a terrific speech.

Thank you to **Jon Goldberg** who, with the AJC helped to organize and sponsored our breakfast. Thank you **Captain Mark Osbourne** who chaired the Halifax Post for 1999 only to lose him for 2000 as he is posted to Ontario. We wish him and his family a healthy and happy future I for one will sorely miss them.

Congratulations to **Dr. Barrie Ross** who will be assuming the chair and **Yakov Feig** who will be his Adjutant.

I can't forget to thank **Lester Pink**, the man behind the scene who is always there for me.

Thank you to **Lawrence Ferguson, Harry Block, Peter Herschorn** and **Rabbi Saul Aranov** for always being on call. In Fredericton, thank you **Rabbi Yochanan Samuels** and **Harry Lang**. In Moncton, thank you **Mendel Greenblatt** and **Irving Schelew**. In Sydney, thank you **Dr. Garson Lecker**. In Saint John, thank you **I.J. Davis**. Without these people I would be lost.

We wish all our members and fellow Jews good health and a Happy New Year.

Please join us as an active or associate member.

*The Canadian Jewish War Veterans Post #4 Atlantic Coast were very saddened to learn the shocking news of the passing of our devoted member **Jayson Greenblatt**. Our sympathies and condolences go out to Ann and the family. He will be greatly missed.*

# Halifax Regional Commander, Jewish War Veterans Appointed

Dear Editor,

I have been appointed Halifax Regional Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada by **Mr. Gar Meltzer**, Atlantic Post Commander. I follow in the steps of **Dr. Irwin Mendleson** who has filled that role for the last few years. Irwin is exemplary to the community for the amount of volunteer and leadership activity he has given in many fields. We thank him for his leadership of our Veterans in the last few years.

This edition of Shalom magazine brings us close to the first Remembrance Day of the new millennium. The Korean War and Malayan Campaign of fifty years ago were the last major conflicts involving Commonwealth countries and in which some of us served. As the experience of war is a lifetime away for most people, the Jewish War Veterans of Canada has to a large extent become "self-defeating". It is for

this reason that I send you a list of the Veterans of Atlantic Canada who served in World War II. I hope that this list will serve as a reminder of the sacrifice made by these individuals. Their careers were interrupted; in many cases, their lives were put in danger and some made the ultimate sacrifice, paying with their lives. Their service to their country has given us these last fifty years of peace and prosperity.

Apart from those who gave their lives, time and age is reducing the ranks of the membership. I do suggest that on the approaching Remembrance Day of November 11th, 2000, all Jewish peoples of Atlantic Canada reflect on the significance of these armed conflicts and remember those who served with gratitude.

Sincerely,

**Dr. J. B. Ross**, Halifax Regional Commander

## Canadian Jewish Veterans

### From Atlantic Canada who Served in the 1935-1945 Second World War

#### Halifax/Dartmouth, N. S.

Archie Adelman  
Bertram Barnett  
Maurice Bernstein  
E. Berry  
Joseph Clare WIA  
Barry Cohen  
Morris Glickman  
Morton Heinisch KIA  
Leonard Fineberg  
Dr. Saul Green  
Dr. Leo Green  
Arthur J. Levine  
Marcus Merovitch  
Maurice Zlatin WIA  
Arron Zive  
Aaron Solomon  
Dr. Barrie Ross  
Dr. Hyman Sable  
Robert Smilestone  
Julius Solomon  
Myer Zatzman  
Maurice Green  
Leonard Kitz  
Edgar Miller  
Sid Acker  
Louis Aronson  
Sam Cohen  
Lawrence Ferguson  
Henry Goldberg  
Dr. Leonard Goldberg

Dr. Howard Goldberg  
Jack Goldman  
Henry Ferguson

#### Springhill, N. S.

Leo Saffron

#### Saint John, N. B.

Milton Bassen  
Major Frank Boyaner  
Capt. Maurice Elman  
Mitchell Franklin  
Mendel Goldberg  
Maurice Green  
Morris Holtzman  
David Lubin  
William (Big Bill) Meltzer  
Izzie Meltzer  
PO Garfield Meltzer  
Samuel Smith  
Lt-Col. Joseph Tanzman  
Hymie Elman  
Morris Cohen  
Harry Cohen  
Hymie Cohen  
Lillian Zatzman  
Evelyn Fainer  
Lillian Meltzer Schoen  
Edward Meltzer  
Naomi Bersudsky  
Charles Zatzman

Wilfred Gordon  
Joe Gordon  
Morry Gordon  
Jack Kunitzsky  
Joe Kunitzsky  
Norman Smith  
Herbert Tobin  
Harry Baxt  
Nathan Dreskin  
Jack Guss  
Bernard Bloom  
Clint Wiesel  
Sidney Grosweiner  
Nathan Green  
Stan Lieberman  
Joseph Fransblow  
Max Fransblow  
Robert Jacobson  
Frank Fainer  
Harry Levine  
Zel Fine  
Louis Green  
Cyril Gilbert  
Isador J. Davis  
Louis Swetsky  
Leon Rozovsky

#### Moncton

Joe Attis (KIA)  
Jenette Hans  
Sam Ruch

Sgt. Cy Stein  
Hymie Jochelman  
Harry Lampert  
Amos Gorber  
Mendel Greenblatt  
Sgt. A/G Maurice Jake  
Cpl. Max Kirsh  
Joe Rinzler  
Joe Rubin  
Irving Schelew  
Sam Gordon

#### Fredericton, N. B.

Horace Block  
Berny Budovitch  
Jack Budovitch  
Sam Budovitch  
Harry Chippin  
Joe Chippin  
Joe Lang  
Morris Lang  
Jack Levine  
Abe Margolian  
Sam Michelson  
Hymie Rose

#### Campbellton, Newcastle, Woodstock, N. B., Amherst, N.S.

David Block  
Harry Block

Gideon Davidson (KIA)  
Joseph Forman  
Capt. Lionet Kaufman  
R. Bernick  
Sam Lifches  
Capt. Leo Rose  
Ezra Rose  
Allie Meltz  
FL. Milton Feldman  
Sam Brodie

#### Glace Bay, N. S.

Mendel Bernstein  
Archie Blackman  
Leo Chernin  
Lt. Sol Chernin  
Mendel Chernin  
Myre Chernin  
Jake Chernin  
Abe Chernin  
Solly Chernin  
Joe Chernin  
Ben Cipin  
Eddie Cohen  
Nonnie Cohen  
Philip Cohen  
Lt. Archie Cohen  
Manson Cohen  
Jacob Ein  
Connie Ein  
Fl/Lt. Arron Glustein DFC

*continued on page 33*



## From the Director's Chair: Camp Kadimah

By Sheldon Cohen

The summer of 2000 was a resounding success. At 287 campers and CITs, this was indeed Kadimah's largest enrollment. It was a wonderful, fun-filled summer.

After 20 very successful summers, I have decided it is time to step aside and pass the director's duties on to someone else. I will continue working on camp for 2001, assisting the new director with staffing, recruitment, rallies and setting up for the summer. I will remain on site for the first two weeks. You can be certain my thoughts will be on camp, even though I may not be physically on the grounds. What I will miss most is the song and cheer in the dining hall, the fun filled faces of campers in their daily programs, the look of joy and excitement when passing one's deep or knocking in the winning run in a baseball game.

The thunderous song and dance in the RCC after weekly onegs, the look of surprise when trying to cross and evade the Turkish border during Hagganah Night.

I want to thank all committee members past and present for their devotion to camp and support. I have seen our camp more than double in size and our site grow with many new cabins and facilities. Our wonderful reputation has spread across

Canada, the U.S. and overseas. As well, a special thanks to all parent reps, who housed meetings, helped with rallies and recruitment. To **Mark Rosen** and **Andrew Wolfson**, bravo on all you have done for camp. I do appreciate your love for camp and continued support. As well, to **Jon Goldberg**, thanks for your work on helping with staffing, continued interest in our program and Kadimah Israel. To **Michael Soberman**, who was instrumental in recruiting in Toronto, in supervising our Judaic and Cultural programming, in organizing Kadimah Israel, and being my assistant director for so many years.

Finally to all campers and staff members. Thanks for your love and respect over these past 20 years. What has made such an impact on me was to watch countless campers return as staff and work with me. I will cherish our friendship and wonderful memories.

Camp Kadimah is by far one of the most successful Jewish summer camps. I am so proud that I was part of its success.

L'Shanna Tova

Love, Sheldon Cohen, Camp Director  
1981-2000

## Camp Kadimah Announcement



**M**arty Zatzman has accepted the position of Camp Director for the summer camp seasons of 2001 and 2002. Marty has been involved at Kadimah for over four decades starting in 1962 as a junior camper and working on staff as counselor, Technical Director, Program Director, Director of Administration and Assistant Director. Marty has spent the last five years with his family at Kadimah working closely with **Sheldon Cohen**. Marty is Head of Physics/Science at Canada's largest high school (Central Technical School) in Toronto. **Belarie**, his wife is Co-chairperson of Fine Arts, Atkinson College, York University. Marty brings to his new position of Director a long family association with Camp Kadimah. His Uncle **Joe Zatzman** was on the founding committee, which purchased the property. His other Uncle **Jack Astroff** ran Kadimah for many years. Family members have served on the camp committee over many years. We welcome Marty and his family back and wish him a Mazel Tov on his new position at Camp Kadimah.

## HALIFAX HADASSAH-WIZO NEEDS YOU!!!!

*Are you a Halifax Hadassah-WIZO member and find you have extra time on your hands?*

*Do you enjoy talking to people on the phone and helping others in need?*

*Are you looking for something to do that doesn't require running all over town?*

***Then we have the perfect solution!***

*Halifax Hadassah-WIZO is looking for a GIFT CARD CHAIRPERSON for February 1, 2001*

*If you or a friend are interested please call:*

*Karen Conter at 423-8535*





# Kadimah Israel 2000

By Schuyler Smith  
quie@hotmail.com

This summer I had the privilege of going to Israel on the Kadimah Israel programme. On July 4th, twenty teens from all over North America converged on Toronto's Pearson Airport, amongst them thirteen Torontonians, three Haligonians, one Edmontonian, and three Americans. I was overwhelmed at first by the number of new faces. If it wasn't for **Jon Goldberg's** reassurance, I don't think I would have gotten over my nervousness. It was also great to have my fellow Maritimers, **Lauren Klein** and **Andrew Gergely**, travelling with me.

After twelve hours of flight, a LONG twelve-hour flight, we landed at Ben Gurion Airport outside of Tel Aviv. It was a little hectic finding our bags and getting to our bus, but we managed just fine. Not so soon after we were all seated and settled, we met our madrichim: **Uri Shoshan** introduced himself (and subsequently left us for a short while because he had to write an exam), and then **Avi Unger** introduced himself as our other Israeli madrich. **Candice Wolfson** (the fourth Haligonian!) who accompanied us on the flight from Toronto made sure all things were in order after the flight. Then we were on our way to our first stop – Jerusalem. Jerusalem was an excellent experience. It was there that we had our first Shabbat in Israel, and that had a profound effect on me. What could be better than celebrating Shabbat in Jerusalem?

In Jerusalem we met up with **Jonty Blackman**, our South African-born tour guide. We couldn't have asked for a better person to show us around Israel. He seemed to know just about everything about anything to do with Israel. We also met up with **Sharon Schwartzman**, the Assistant Director (and mail person!) of the *Israel Experience Programs*. From Jerusalem we began our tour of Israel, first heading to the Golan region where we met our Mifgash group. Mifgash is a programme where the Kadimah Israel group is joined with an Israeli group of the same age. Four of these Israelis were at Camp Kadimah the previous year. The Mifgash programme was only for a short time (about 10 days), but it definitely was one of the highlights of my summer. The ability to learn about the country, their country, from them was an experience I'll never forget. It was amazing to see the differences, and the similarities that we shared.

Following Mifgash was the Family Weekend. This was, for me, the most memorable part of the trip. I was lucky enough to go to a Bar Mitzvah in Israel, where I spent the weekend with **Seema** and **Sami Furman**. Seema, **Edgar Wolman's** daughter, was a good friend of my parents from their days at Camp

Kadimah. I called Seema and she invited me to go to a Bar Mitzvah with her family. That was a lot of fun. At the Bar Mitzvah, I met another Canadian on a similar trip and we later got together in Jerusalem during the last week of our respective programmes. Imagine what a coincidence, going to Israel to make a Canadian friend!

After the Family Weekend we went to army training (Gadna). It was not an ordeal I would wish to repeat. Fortunately most of our group loved it. There were parts that I enjoyed, such as the chance to learn army manoeuvres, and how to fire a gun. At least our Mefakedit (group leader) was not harsh (even though she tried to be). Our next stop was Eilat, where our Mefakedit lived. We had a chance to meet up with her and go out on the town.

In Eilat we survived the hottest day during the trip, in fact it was one of the hottest day's in Israel's history: it was 48°C and humid! Luckily we got to cool off by scuba diving in the Red Sea, where we saw many amazing, different coloured fish. Eilat was a beautiful place to relax after our romp in the army.

After Eilat we went to the historic site of Massada, which was a great learning experience for us. It was the multiple stories of Massada, filled with glory, honour, and sacrifice that interested me so much. Following this was a trip to an Ein Geddi waterfall, and then a trip to the Dead Sea. That salty sea did not disappoint me, in fact it was so much fun floating on that oily-feeling, salty, water. It was phenomenal.

Our last and final destination was Jerusalem again; where we bought our presents, had our last few activities, and said our goodbyes. On the last Shabbat I went to pray at the Kotel with my friend from Toronto, **Arieh Singer**. That was a very moving part of my Kadimah Israel experience.

If given the chance to do this Trip again, I wouldn't hesitate to go. If you are interested in the Kadimah Israel programme I would highly recommend it.

To see pictures of Kadimah Israel 2000 please visit the website I have at:

[www.geocities.com/kadimahisrael2000/Title.html](http://www.geocities.com/kadimahisrael2000/Title.html)

I would like to thank Candice Wolfson for her outstanding work as one of our Madrich, and **Uri Shoshan** and **Avi Unger** for their excellent guidance and leadership. Thank you **Jon Goldberg** and the **AJC** for putting together a wonderful Israel trip, and if in the future you are ever looking for someone to Madrich...



◀ Schuyler Smith, Gilad Furman, Sami Furman, Ayelette Furman, and Seema (Wolman) Furman



Lauren Klein, Schuyler Smith ▼

▶ Uri Shoshan (chaperone), Candace Wolfson (chaperone), Avi Unger Madrich of Kadimah Israel 2000



Schuyler Smith at the Western Wall ▶



▼ Kadimah Israel 2000 in the Army!



▲ Schuyler Smith, Andrew Gergely

# The Titanic, Nova Scotia and the Jews

Story and Photo By Lorne E. Rozovsky

Editor's Note: Lorne, a resident of Halifax for many years, now lives in Virginia, USA with family.

## Special to the Jewish News

Ever since the movie "Titanic", exhibits and museums on the great marine tragedy have popped up all over the place. None, however, are as real as those in Halifax, Nova Scotia, especially for the Jewish tourists. In the seaport city just up the coast from Boston, are buried 150 of the Titanic victims, including ten in the Baron de Hirsch Jewish cemetery – placed there under most peculiar circumstances.

The story told to thousands of tourists who flock to Halifax from all over the world begins on April 17, 1912, two days after the great ship went down. The White Star Line, owners of the Titanic, chartered a Halifax cable ship, the Mackay-Bennett loaded with ice, to travel the 700 miles out to sea to collect the bodies. Of the 1523 people who died, 328 bodies were recovered. Of these 119 were buried at sea. The others were brought, with the help of another ship, to Halifax for shipping to whomever claimed them, or for burial. Included was the body of **Isador Strauss**, owner of Macy's Department Store. The body of his wife was never found.

## The Jewish Connection

The bodies were laid out in a makeshift morgue set up in a Halifax curling rink. The local Rabbi **Jacob Walter** visited the morgue in the evening and identified what he considered to be nine Jewish victims. The next morning while a memorial service was being held at a local church for fifty of the victims, Rabbi Walter and two helpers went over to the main public cemetery where the caskets were waiting for burial.

The local newspaper reported that he opened the coffins and determined that ten of the bodies were Jewish. These caskets were promptly removed to the Baron de Hirsch Cemetery around the corner and added to the nine identified the night before. Digging started in a great hurry in order to complete burial prior to Shabbat.

When officials discovered that ten bodies were missing, and that the local Rabbi had taken them, the digging at the Jewish cemetery was ordered stopped. Negotiations which followed were described as "delicate". The ten caskets were taken back around the corner and buried in the Protestant cemetery where they are visited by thousands of tourists each year.

Later a further body was added to the Jewish cemetery, bringing the number to ten. This, however, did not bring the strange event to a close. As today's visitor will notice, only two of the graves are identified. The others, like most of the victims in both the Protestant and Catholic cemeteries, bear only a number and the inscription "Died April 15, 1912". The number relates to the order in which the bodies were retrieved from the ocean.

Of the two identified graves, one bears the name of "**Michael Navratil** number 15". There lies a further mystery. Navratil was in fact, a Roman Catholic. He was travelling under the assumed name of **Louis Hoffman**. He was therefore thought to be Jewish, and was added to the nine bodies identified by

Rabbi Walter. Navratil was actually a Slovakian who had married an Italian woman and had two sons. When the marriage broke up, he stole the boys and escaped with them on the Titanic. The boys survived and were taken to New York. Their pictures appeared in a newspaper in France as "The Orphans of the Titanic". It was seen by their mother, who rescued them. The man's real name was then placed on the gravestone, and the body remains to this day in the Baron de Hirsch Cemetery.

It was not until August 27, 1996 that 88 year old **Michel Navratil, Jr.** came to Halifax to visit his father's grave for the first time, while a Roman Catholic priest blessed the site.

## The Grave of J. Dawson

Ever since the movie "Titanic", tourists to Halifax have been drawn to the grave of **J. Dawson** (number 227) in the Fairview Cemetery where most of the victims are buried. Every teenager knows that the part of J. Dawson was played by Hollywood idol, **Leonardo DiCaprio**. Flowers, love poems, candy and theater ticket stubs are left at the grave by adoring fans.

In fact, the J. Dawson who lies in a Halifax grave was not a third class passenger who fell in love with a young lady in the first class section. A Dublin, Ireland native, 23-year old James Dawson, worked on the Titanic shoveling coal.

For tourists who want even more of Titanic nostalgia, there is a fascinating exhibit at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic just up the street from where the contemporary scenes in the movie were filmed. The exhibit includes actual carved paneling from the ship, wood from the famous grand staircase, and an authentic deck chair from the Titanic.

The Titanic attractions add additional color to an already vast collection of historic memorabilia in this colorful port city surrounded on three sides by water. Tourists are attracted to the monument to the Crimean War in North America, to Canada's oldest functioning legislative building, and to a church and a clock tower designed by Queen Victoria's father who lived in the city from 1797 to 1800.

There is a restaurant and pub where **Anna Leonowens**, who was the famous "Anna" in "The King and I", once taught art. Some visitors stay in the hotel room where **Oscar Wilde** slept. Tourists walk the quaint streets where **Leon Trotsky** was held prisoner prior to the Russian Revolution and past buildings shattered by the largest man-made explosion prior to the atomic bomb.

For military history buffs, overlooking the city is the Citadel, the huge fortress built by the British to protect its North American colonies from the French – and later from the Americans who now throng to one of the leading tourist cities on the continent. Nothing however, can compare with the strange story of the Jewish victims of the Titanic.

Note: **Mr. Rozovsky** lives in Richmond, VA and is vice-president of adult education and Tikun Olam of Temple Beth-El.

# Shalom Report from Moncton

By Nancy Cohen

Summer was fairly quiet in our community with many people away on vacation or at their cottages, however, weekly minyans and shabbat services continued to take place and we welcomed guests travelling through the Maritimes from New York, Maryland and Toronto. In late August the shul came to life and was overflowing with people for the Bat Matzvh of **Hyde Jochelman**. By all accounts Hyde performed beautifully and has made her family and her community very proud. Mazel tov to Hyde, mother **Anne Jochelman**, bubby **Helen Jochelman**, and the rest of the family.

The quiet summer months allowed for some renovations to the synagogue including new windows and flooring in the preschool and repairs to the light fixtures. We also have a beautiful new cupboard in the shul lobby for storing prayer books and kipot.

In mid September we welcomed our new arevim, **Na'ama** and **Eliezer Ghelber**. In the short time this young couple has

been in Moncton, they have already shown themselves to be hardworking and creative. Two days after arriving a "meet and greet" was held for the Hebrew school children, and the children had a great time playing the many games organized by Na'ama and Eliezer.

Our previous arevim **Yoel** and **Vered Kreztmer** have sent word that they are getting settled into their new apartment and their new jobs. They also have wonderful news – they are expecting their first child. Canada seems to be a good place for making babies!

We are very happy to welcome back **Barrie** and **Evy Carnat** after their trip around the world and their extended stay in Israel. It's great to have them home, but we'll miss the travelogue installments that they were sending by e-mail.

On behalf of the Moncton Jewish Community I would like to wish all Shalom readers a happy, healthy and prosperous new Year. L'Shana Tova.

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# Keeping the Land Green – Forest Fires in Israel

Hundreds of fires break out annually in man planted and natural woodlands between May and November, causing ecological, scenic and economic damage and incurring huge outlays in fire fighting. Summer in Israel is typically hot and dry, and no rain at all falls from about April through September. During these months wildfires start easily, wild grasses dry out and, together with large quantities of pine needles the forests in Israel are very susceptible to fires. Large forest fires usually erupt around October – November, with the advent of dry, eastern winds accompanied by low humidity and high temperatures.

Jewish National Fund, the Nature Reserves Authority and other “green” organizations handle most of the incidents, with the vital assistance of the National Fire Service when necessary. Fires are a serious threat to forests and open spaces and their effect is left for many years, since regeneration in Israel’s semi-arid climate is slow.

Jewish National Fund, the organization responsible for afforestation in Israel, is naturally in charge of preserving and maintaining new and existing forests and this includes preventing and extinguishing wildfires. Wildfires are usually the result of arson or negligence, since there are no natural causes (such as lightning storms) for forest fires in Israel. Close to a thousand forest fires every year destroy thousands of acres of natural and planted forests. The largest wildfire ever in Israel broke out in the summer of 1995 and 6250 acres of natural and planted forests went up in flames in both sides of the Jerusalem – Tel-Aviv Highway destroying a few million trees, many of which had been planted by the Canadian Jewish Community. Experts claim it will take at least 20 years for the area to return to its former state. In 1998 and 1999 there were two extensive wildfires in the Carmel woods and forest whose damage too will be felt for years. A wave of fires swept through Jewish National Fund woodlands in November 1999, eating up some 325 acres of forests and groves about 150,000 trees, the largest blaze in the Latrun area, destroying some 250 acres of veteran natural woodlands and cutting off traffic between the capital and the coast.

Between 1995 and 1998, 2365 wildfires destroyed almost 7,000 acres of Jewish National Fund planted forests. During 1999, Jewish National Fund foresters extinguished some 1,000 fires.

## Fire Watchtowers

Fire spotting from watchtowers is one of the most efficient methods for early detection of wildfires and every year JNF personnel detect at least half the forest fires that occur by this method. Close to 40 watchtowers have already been erected at strategic points in forests to cover extensive areas, and each is manned by a fire spotter during the summer months (May – October) from the warm morning hours to the afternoon. When a fire breaks out, the spotter informs the firefighters in real time where the fire is coming from and in which direction it is spreading. The fire spotter is equipped with modern radio equipment and binoculars and he passes on up-to-minute information to the crew on the ground. The watchtowers are 12 m-high galvanized iron structures with an enclosure at the top for the fire spotter. The importance of these watchtowers cannot be emphasized enough. Fires spotted in time can be controlled before they destroy thousands of trees and endanger human lives.

## Fire Trucks

Jewish National Fund has close to 6,000 kilometers of fire roads in its forests to allow fire trucks to reach problem areas quickly and easily. The fire-fighting vehicle fleet is now being renewed and the most advanced and efficient trucks that can reach even the most inaccessible sites are being purchased. Ten new trucks have already been acquired and eventually the entire squad will be equipped with the latest, state-of-the-art fire-fighting equipment.

**Anyone wishing to contribute to the purchase of a watchtower and/or a fire truck is asked to contact Jewish National Fund at (902) 422-7491 ex 25.**

## Fredericton News

*By Marlene Unger*

Mazel Tov to **Miriam** and **Warren Cohen** on the engagement of their daughter **Marcie** to **Richard Pencer** of Montreal. Richard is the son of **Billy** and **Ida Pencer**.

Mazel Tov to **Marlene** and **Israel Unger** on the marriage of their daughter **Sharon** to **Lee Heinrich** of Toronto.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Bella Green** of Saint John. Bella Green is survived by daughters **Miriam Cohen** of Fredericton, and **Phyllis Kimia** and **Michelle Echenberg** of Montreal.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Lillian Chippin** of Fredericton. Lillian Chippin is survived by daughter **Anita** and son-in-law **David Adilman**,

granddaughters **Sari** and **Kari Adilman** of Fredericton and **Lea Adilman** of Ottawa.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Edith Goldberg Nebb** of Livingston, New Jersey. Edith Nebb is survived by daughters **Sydelle Grobe** (Cary), of Fredericton and **Ina Hauk** (Ric), Yorktown, Virginia, granddaughter **Heide Grobe** (Columbia, Maryland), and grandsons **Isaac Grobe** (Fredericton), **Eric** and **Heath Hauk** (Phoenix, Arizona).

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Israel Unger**, on being named as New Brunswick Representative on the R&D Coordinating Committee of the newly created Atlantic Investment Partnership Program. This fund would invest in “universities and colleges, research institutes and in the private sector.”

# Summertime in Fredericton

By Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Sgoolai: Israel Synagogue

Summertime in Fredericton is pretty much like summertime in Halifax. Or summertime in Toronto; or maybe even summertime in Ottawa. Usually the Talmud Torah closes so the kinderlach can go to summer camp. Many of the Rabbi's classes are put on hold so that congregants can go on vacation, and the Rabbi himself decides to take some time off. Often times, this "time off" means attendance at a rabbinical convention, or some other get-together where the Rabbi & his rebbetzin can renew old acquaintances, network with other people in the same line of work, and stretch his mind to find new ways of doing old things. "**Morah Carol**" and I were no different.

This year we were able to attend "CAJE25", a conference dedicated to Jewish learning, in all its many forms. The conference was under the auspices of "CAJE – the Coalition to Advance Jewish Education", and was held at Hofstra University in Hempstead, Long Island. From the very beginning, we knew that this was going to be a very large event. For Shabbos alone, there were about 650 attendees, with minyanim ranging from Orthodox to Reconstructionist, and many in between. The Shabbos meals were excellent (flavored as they were with the spice of Shabbos), and the camaraderie was instant (and quite loud. Have you ever heard "Yedid Nefsh" sung by 650 people? The spirit of it all is enough to lift you off your feet.) Even on Shabbos, there were lectures. The two we attended were given by Rabbi **Joseph Telushkin** and **Rivka Haut**. Rabbi Telushkin spoke on Pirke Avot, and how these lessons from the great Sages can transform and elevate our lives. Rivka Haut discussed the spiritual, intellectual and marital lives of Jewish women in modern times. Also discussed were problems of "chained women – agunot", and the women's prayer groups that are now coming into being.

If you think 650 people is a huge crowd, try approximately 3,000. This was the number who had signed up for the conference proper. 650 was only the number of sessions offered during the week. The sessions I attended had to do with new ways of teaching Torah, while the ones the Rebbetzin participated in dealt with "Jews in Places You Never Thought of", as well as "Early Childhood Issues", "New Curriculums", "Working with College Students", and "Dealing With Educating Family Units".

Also during the conference, we took tours of various parts of New York City. Carol and I toured Ellis Island. Then, she went to the Eldridge Street Shul, a shul which was just closed up and locked over forty years ago. When it was recently opened, it was found that all damage was done by weather and neglect. No instances of vandalism were found. The amazing thing is that the thirty or so Torah scrolls found in the aron were still in mint condition – also, the seforim and siddurim, as if somebody left, but meant to come back right away. I toured the Museum of the Jewish Experience, dedicated to telling the horrors of the Shoah.

However, all was not rushing to various shiurim and learning. At night, we also rushed to choose the entertainment we would attend, and there was almost as much of this as there were regular classes. **Craig Taubman**, a Tennessee boy who works for Walt Disney, brought his brand of Jewish rock 'n roll to Hofstra. Also, **Penina Schram**, a noted teller of Jewish stories, gave classes, as well as entertained at night. One group that I "discovered" although I didn't hear them in person, was called "BEAT ACHON", a take-off on the word "BITACHON", which means "trust". These guys did a capella singing, bringing their unique talents to the world of Jewish prayer. And just to show you what a small Jewish world it is, one of the boys was from Memphis, and had been taught by "Morah Carol" years ago. And there were many other groups, to satisfy a full range of musical tastes.

Making friends, greeting old ones, knowing others and becoming known to them were also important parts of the conference. And what's a conference without an "EXPO", a place to buy all the things you have been learning about? Publishing companies such as KTAV, and MESORAH, many craft companies, universities, and general Judaica vendors, over 100, were crammed into Hofstra's gym. It was totally shop until you drop. In closing, all I can say is, if you ever have a chance to be "CAJEd", take it. The experience will be well worth your while.



Rabbi Yochanan and Carol Samuels at CAJE Conference, summer 2000.



## Press Release, Fredericton October 5, 2000

**F**redericton – Rabbi Yochanan Samuels and Dr. Israel Unger sounded shofars, twin ram's horn trumpets, at the conclusion of a recent rabbinic vigil in support of 10 Iranian Jews imprisoned under false charges of spying for Israel. The blasts of the shofar called for freedom for the men. Their lengthy pre-trial detainment, subsequent guilty verdicts and prison sentences have been denounced world-wide as arbitrary and politically motivated.

Seventy people attended the late afternoon vigil held in Sgoolai Israel Synagogue. Several members of the Jewish community read Psalms. Rabbi Samuels offered prayers for the well-being of the prisoners and for speedy reunions with their families. Dr. Unger told the audience the defendants were detained without access to lawyers for one year and had only limited contact with their families during their incarceration. "These Iranian citizens were arrested arbitrarily because of their faith," he said. Foreign Affairs Minister **Lloyd Axworthy** called the trials "seriously flawed". Such unfair trials produce miscarriages of justice as their only results. The trials took place behind closed doors. Judges who presided also acted as prosecutors and used coercion to force confessions from the defendants.

New Brunswick's four Roman Catholic bishops, Archbishop **Ernest Leger** of Moncton; Bishop **J. Faber MacDonald** of Saint John; Bishop **Andre Richard** of Bathurst and Bishop **Francois Thibodeau** of Edmundston said "the information available indicates clearly that these members of the Jewish community in Iran were prosecuted for their religious affiliation and not for any illegal actions they had taken, been involved in or even been associated with." They called on the government of Iran to respect the

fundamental right of religious freedom.

Many Canadians have expressed disapproval of Iran's actions by signing a petition for justice addressed to **Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamnei**, Leader of the Revolution, and President **Mohamed Khatami**. The petition urges the Iranian leaders to release the prisoners. It reminds them the world is watching and will judge Iran's commitment to the rule of law by its conduct in this case. The petition can be accessed electronically at

[www.cjc.ca](http://www.cjc.ca) and at [www.uja.org](http://www.uja.org).

**Maurice Motamed**, the Jewish community's official representative in the Iranian Parliament, said last month in Los Angeles that the trial had shattered the dignity and respect of Iran's 25,000 Jews and had increased Jewish emigration from the Islamic Republic. "In our presence of 2,700 years in Iran, Jews have never betrayed Iran, and our roots are so deep that they cannot be cut off," he said.

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# A New Challenge for Rona Levine Ruben

By Marlene Unger

This Fall, the well-known Fredericton Businesswoman, **Rona Levine Ruben** faced one of the biggest challenges of her professional life. She moved to Toronto to become the senior project manager for women in business with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), a federal government institution that delivers financial and consulting services to small businesses.

The promotion meant, however, giving up her job as partner in the BDC Consulting Group in Atlantic Canada, packing up her Fredericton office and moving to Toronto. In her new role, Rona will use her entrepreneurial skills and knowledge to help develop programs to get women started in business. When Rona began her career with BDC in 1990, one-third of all new businesses in Canada were started by women. To-day, that number stands at about 50 percent.

Rona came by her interest in entrepreneurship naturally, she acquired her taste for the business world early on through her involvement with her family's popular department store, Levine's, in downtown Fredericton.

In 1993, she became a senior manager with BDC's Consulting Group and in 1999, she became a partner, the only manager in the Atlantic region to receive a promotion to partner.

Rona said her husband, **Allen Ruben** encouraged her to seize the opportunity and while pondering the offer, she also kept in mind some sage advice offered by her dad, **Harry Levine**. "My father who was my mentor, always said you've got to embrace change, you have to be innovative and you have to be a risk-taker."

Her husband will continue to run his Fredericton law practice, so the pair will have a lot of commuting. Rona said a big bonus of living in Toronto is that she will be closer to her daughters, **Julie** who lives in Toronto with her husband and daughter and **Alana**, who lives in New York City with her husband and son.

And while she's thrilled about the future, Rona says the hardest part of accepting the new job is leaving her home town and her friends and colleagues.

# Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo Report

By Evelyn Davis

On September 10th the Cape Breton Chapters held a reception to proclaim Hadassah-Wizo month. The reception was held in the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue. **Evelyn Davis** chaired the session. **Martin Chernin**, President of the Synagogue, **Fanny Cohen**, President of the Glace Bay Chapter and **Evelyn Davis**, Sydney President, extended greetings. **Sylvia Allen** introduced **Her Honour Myra Freeman**, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

**Shirley Dubinsky** presented our guest of honour, Her Honour Myra Freeman, with a certificate, which stated that her name was placed on the Wall of Honor at the **Nina Cohen** Day Care Center.

In her reply Her Honour displayed her knowledge of the Hadassah-Wizo organization and its projects. She was warmly thanked with grateful applause.

**Shirley Chernin** presented **Dr. Jacquelyn Scott** of the University College of Cape Breton with a bursary of \$500 to be given to a student in the science program – in honor of the visit of Her Honour. Dr. Scott thanked the Hadassah-Wizo organization.

**Evelyn Davis** introduced the Regional Coordinator of Hadassah-Wizo, **Leona Freeman** who presented greetings from the National President, **Marion Mayman**.

**Mary-Ann Cohen** thanked **Leona Freeman** for coming and adding to our celebration.

Many people worked to make this evening an outstanding one. The convenors were **Shirley Chernin** and **Evy Druker**. The Glace Bay Chapter supplied music by **Jim MacNeil**.

Bakers included **Betty Shore**, **Zelda Yazer**, **Edith Lecker**, **Shirley Chernin**, **Barbara Nathanson**, **Mary-Anne Cohen** and **Evy Druker**. Sandwiches were provided by **Fruma Shore**, **Lil Nathanson**, **Reva Nathanson**, **Minnie Nathanson**, **Jean David** and **Shirley Dubinsky**.

The floral displays were designed by **Etta Chernin** and **Shirley Chernin**. **Martin Chernin** provided the wine.



Left to right: Evelyn Davis, Dr. Jacquelyn Scott, Martin Chernin, Their Honours Myra Freeman and Larry Freeman, Leona Freeman.



Etta Chernin, Leona Freeman and Max Lubetzski at UCCB Garden Party.

Three generations Hadassah-Wizo: **Edith Lecker**, **Sheri Lecker** (daughter), **Bessie Leia Lecker-Evans** (Granddaughter) with Their Honours **Myra** and **Larry Freeman**.



Mazel Tov to **Sheri Lecker** and **Mark Evans** on the birth of their daughter **Bessie Leia**. Proud grandparents are **Edith** and **Garson Lecker** of Sydney, N.S.

# Annual Hadassah-Wizo Meeting Report – Cape Breton

By Evelyn Davis

The annual pot luck supper was held on June 14th at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue. The two Cape Breton Chapters reported on the year's activities.

**Anita Lubetsky** reported on the successful Youth Aliyah Campaign in Sydney. **Fanny Cohen** in her report told about the successful year they've had.

**Evy Druker**, Vice-President of the Queen Esther Chapter, presented certificates to Youth Aliyah Chairs, **Anita Lubetsky**, **Etta Chernin** and **Betty Shore**. A pin was presented to **Diane Schwartz**.

**Sylvia Allen** reported on the Holocaust Memorial Service held on Yom Hashoah. **Dr. Israel Unger** was the guest speaker. **Jennifer Morrison** gave a moving speech detailing her encounter with **Philip Riteman**. **John MacLean**, who came out of the audience, recalled his experience in Holland. It was a memorable occasion.

**Evy Druker** and **Betty Shore**, Bazaar Co-chairs gave an account of the successful undertaking. **Faye David** gave the financial report and was applauded by the membership.

**Fanny Cohen**, President of the Glace Bay Chapter, was presented with a merit pin for her dedication and devotion to the community of Glace Bay and to the Hadassah-Wizo Organization. She has set an example for us to follow.

The raffle, an apron made by **Judy Schachter** was won by **Diane Schwartz**. The convenor of the evening was **Shirley Chernin**.



*Ethel Weber and Jean David.*



*Faye Miller and Roz Goldberg*



*Diane Schwartz*

## Jack Yazer, Sydney awarded Member Order of Canada

### Summer 2000

**Jack Yazer**, at the age of 14, was brought over to Canada in 1928 from Poland to join his aunt and uncle, **Becky** and **Harry Cohen**, his sister **Fannie**, and brother **Mendle**, and his aunt and uncle **Morris** and **Rudy Spinner** in Sydney, on Cape Breton Island.

His total English vocabulary consisted of "can't speak" but before too long he mastered enough English to help him to go peddling on foot to the Northside of Sydney, especially throughout Victoria County, Nova Scotia, where he even learned to speak a little Gaelic.

In 1934, his brother Mendle made him a partner in his clothing store in Sydney Mines. This position was interrupted in 1942 when Jack joined the Canadian Armed Forces. Upon his return, a second Yazer Bros. Clothing Store was opened in Sydney, which Jack managed until it was sold in 1976. It did not

take long before he became involved in many community services.

A hearty mazel tov to Jack on becoming a Member of the Order of Canada. Jack is a dynamic example of a community activist whose extraordinary blend of vision and determination has transformed dreams into reality. As Founding Chairman of the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation, he helped to raise funds for the construction of the region's first hospital. His latest project, *Youth Speaks Up* promotes positive lifestyle choices for young Nova Scotians. The program partners youth, their families, the government and the community in an effort to combat substance abuse, racism and negative peer pressure. For more than fifty years he has dedicated his energies to the benefit of others. Through his tireless dedication Dr. Yazer has turned many dreams into realities for the benefit of us all.

# Mazel Tov Rabbi and Mrs. Shirley Goldsmith

By Barbara Prince

Congregation M'vra'she Derekh of Scarsdale, New York, recently honoured its Rabbi, **Dr. Emanuel S. Goldsmith** and its Rebbetzin, **Mrs. Shirley Goldsmith**, on the occasion of the eighteenth anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

Mrs. Goldsmith, the former Shirley Zebberman-Sherman, is a native of Halifax and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Master's degree in social work from Dalhousie University [Maritime School of Social Work]. She formerly served as a psychiatric social worker on the staff of the Summit Institute in Jerusalem, Israel. While living in Halifax, she served as President of the Women's League of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue and as National Vice President of ORT in Canada.



Rabbi Goldsmith, who served as Rabbi of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue from 1961 to 1965, was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He holds a Ph.D. degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and a Doctor of Divinity [honoris causa] degree from the Seminary. In addition to serving as Rabbi of the Scarsdale Synagogue, he is a Professor of Yiddish Language and Literature and Jewish Studies at Queens College of the City University of New York. His numerous publications include the recent two-volume anthology, *Yiddish Literature in America, 1870-2000*.

## Canadian Jewish Veterans, *continued from page 23*

Issy Hyiski  
Lt. Leo Galley  
Maj. I. Roy Gold US Army  
Hyman Goldman  
Phil Goldman  
Sol Goldman  
Alex Goldman  
Nathan Goldman  
Sheikey Goldman  
Lyman Goldman  
Ruby Gordon  
Zev Gordon  
Archie Lighter  
Alex Lighter  
Leo Lighter  
Harvey Lipkus US Army  
Ben Lipkus  
Issy Lipkus  
Sgt. Nathan Lipkus  
Yuddie Long  
Sam Long  
Norman Long  
Capt. Sonny Long  
Max Lubetski  
Thomas Marshall (KIA)  
Col. Jack Marshall  
Israel Mendelson  
Danny Nathanson  
Charles Ross  
Rueben Rukasin  
Ike Schneiderman  
Louis Schneiderman  
Lt. Irving Seagal  
Doddie Siegal  
Sam Silbert  
Norman Simon  
Cpl. Archie Shore

Hy Zilbert  
Cpl. Benny Woldman  
  
**Sydney, N. S.**  
David Conter  
Bernard David  
Frank David  
Ike David  
Dr. Harold Davidson  
Sidney Druker  
Lionel Druker  
Sam Dubinskyy  
Nathan Epstein  
Dr. David Gaum  
Louis Gaum  
Jack Mendelson  
Daniel Marcus  
Bernard Mayer  
Melvin Moraff  
Alfred Nathanson  
Dr. Irving Perlin  
Harold Sadofsky  
Dave Sherman  
Dr. David Sherman  
Dr. Sam Siegal  
Earl Spinner  
Jack Yazer  
Major Max Morris  
Percey P. Gaum  
Nathan Glickman  
Morris Glickman  
Seymour Harrison  
Curdie Karrel (KIA)  
Louis Konick  
Morris Konick  
Dr. Abe Leith  
Dr. Wilfred Leith

Maurice Lipton  
Manson Magonet (KIA)  
Howard Marcus

**New Waterford, N. S.**  
Al Bernick  
Dr. Moe Claener  
David Conter (KIA)  
Henry Conter  
Sam Conter  
Dr. Abe Epstein  
Dr. Ben Karrel  
M. Glaemer  
Sam Karrel  
Mitzi Medjuck  
Moe Medjuck  
Ben Udovin  
Hymie Udovin  
Morris Udovin  
Aaron Glustein  
Daniel Nathanson  
Larry Nathanson  
Bernard Nathanson

**Yarmouth & Vicinity**  
Jake Attis  
Sam Cohen  
Sheldon Cohen  
Archie Cohen  
Joe Epstein  
Ray Epstein  
Hubert Lynch  
Hubert Margolian  
Capt. Laurie Mushkat  
Lestre Pink  
Abae Star  
Davvy Star

Capt. Morton Star  
Clarence Sharpiro  
Aubrey Shane  
Aubrey Smofsky  
Saul Gillis  
Joe Star (KIA)  
Hermy Shapiro

**Inverness, N. S.**  
Nathan Feinstein (KIA)  
Samue Feinstein (KIA)  
Lt. Jack Levine (KIA)  
Ruth Levine  
Ltd. N/S Edith Levine

**New Glasgow, N. S.**  
Nordeau R. Goodman  
Waldo E. Goodman  
S/O Rose Goodman  
Harry Berlovitch  
F/L Max Samuel (KIA)  
F/O Saul Samuels  
Sgt. Louis Samuels  
Bandsman Samuels

**Pictou, N. S.**  
Morris Freeman  
Harry Morton Freeman  
Sgt. Victor Freeman (US Army)  
Earl Freeman (RCME)

**Newfoundland**  
R.M. Cohen  
Bernard Levitz  
Leonard Levitz

*List supplied by Atlantic Jewish Veterans.  
The Atlantic Jewish Council is not  
responsible for any errors or omissions.*

# Cape Breton "Jewish Heritage Tours"

By Evelyn Davis

When crafter, **Barbara Nathanson** attended the shows held for cruise ships in Sydney, she was surprised that so many of the passengers could not believe that there could be a Jewish community in Cape Breton.

A group of women met with **Shirley Chernin** and formed the "Jewish Heritage Tours". They included **Roz Goldberg**, **Barbara Nathanson**, **Evelyn Davis** and President of the Whitney Pier Museum (former original Synagogue of Sydney built in 1913), **Sandra Dunn**.

Sandra Dunn designed the brochure. It was distributed at two cruise ship visits and four taxicabs were needed to take the visitors on the tours. The comments were most favorable.

A bus from Camp Kadimah was our first tour group and pictures are included.



*Bus tour group from Camp Kadimah in front of Whitney Pier Museum. The fence of the museum was the "Mehitza" – women's section division and so respectful are the museum members they use it as the fence and explain to everyone what it was originally.*

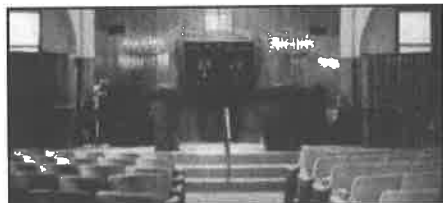
## Jewish Heritage Tour

The history of the Jewish community in Sydney is the history of two communities, Sydney and Whitney Pier. The first Jews to arrive in Sydney during the late 1890's and early 1900's settled in that part of Sydney known as Whitney Pier. For the most part they were Russian Jews escaping the pogroms like their counterparts in Glace Bay who came because of the mines, they came because of the steel industry and left the mills to become peddlers and then retailers. A synagogue was built at the Pier in 1913, and included in the building was a Hebrew School. Several years later, a YMHA was built next to the synagogue and it became the center of social and cultural activities for the Jewish community. By the mid 1920's many Jewish families were moving to Sydney proper. During this period a synagogue was established in Sydney, which gradually became conservative. Today the Jewish community has 70 people, mostly seniors, as the younger generation has moved away. However, Cape Breton remains among the strongest Zionist areas in all of Canada. Their commitment to Israel, per capita, is among the best in our country. Their legacy of Jewish life survives in the hearts of Cape Bretoners throughout Canada.

Glace Bay may be considered the oldest organized Jewish community in Cape Breton. Settlers arrived in 1890; many as a result of advertisements placed in European countries by the Glace Bay Coal Company. The company was offering free passage to Canada in return for work in the mines. Few of the Jewish immigrants worked in the mines for any length of time. Most became peddlers, moving on to open retail businesses in competition with the company stores. Although it had been incorporated in 1901, the same year as the town, the 1st synagogue was built in 1902. There were now 15 families in the community and contributions were received for the building from some families before they had their own homes. For a period of approximately 35 years the Jewish community appeared to move from strength to strength. Until the mid '70's a Hebrew School was held in an adjacent building called the Talmud Torah with a Rabbi and Hebrew teacher. This building was sold recently, as there are no children to educate in Jewish studies. The community has only 28 members now who hold services Friday night and Saturday morning as often as possible. A Rabbi from New York comes for the High Holidays and Chaplain Rabbi David Ellis visits often. The Jewish

population continues to decline in Glace Bay. It does not appear there will be any turnaround in the future.

In September of 1913 the Adath Israel Congregation of Whitney Pier celebrated the Jewish High Holidays in their newly built Synagogue, the first in Sydney. After a fire destroyed the Shul in 1960 the present building was erected and served the congregation until a declining population forced its closure in 1986. In 1988 The Whitney Pier Historical Society purchased the building, creating a museum that celebrates the lives of the multi-cultural citizens who populated this industrial community. A special area has been set aside to honour the Jews of Whitney Pier who contributed so much to our economic and cultural fabric. The exterior wrought iron fence, with the Star of David, was at one time the railing that separated the men's and women's sections. The corner stone, which survived from the original Shul, can still be viewed by the public. Artifacts and memorabilia that reflect the lives of all those who helped build this community are on display. There is no charge to visit, and we welcome the opportunity to give our visitors a glimpse into the past of this still culturally vibrant part of Sydney



# Report from the Rock

By Claire Frankel-Salama & Dr. Michael Paul

Newfoundland has become a "hot" destination during the past few years. With the increase in tourism in this province, there has been an accompanying increase in "Jewish" tourism. Among our many visitors was Mrs. **Celia Bullion**, formerly of Glace Bay, who visited with a group of Jewish ladies from Toronto. Later on in the summer, **Rabbi Anat Moskowitz** and **Rabbi Mordechai Keiffer** from Los Angeles helped the congregants celebrate a memorable Shabbat. Rabbi Keiffer's melodius voice and his Dvar Torahs were certainly appreciated. Unfortunately the Rabbi became ill just before his scheduled departure, and he spent some time in hospital here. His brother, **Rabbi Samuel Keiffer** from Florida, flew up to visit him, and ended up leading the Tisha B'Av service. Dr. **Michael Paul**, our hospital liaison person, helped arrange the Rabbi's care, as he has done for many other Jewish visitors.

August saw the return of several former residents of this community. **Judy Wilansky**, **Dr. Douglas Wilansky** and his wife, **Ruth** (formerly of Nova Scotia), spent several weeks touring the province. They also sponsored a lovely kiddush luncheon which was carefully prepared by **Dr. Barbara Grandy** and **Ruth Noel**. Shortly after we had another important Shabbat celebration as **Daniel Salama** read his Torah portion on the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah. This was followed by a Kiddush luncheon given by his really proud parents (**Messod Salama**, and your humble servant, of course).

September has also brought its share of visitors, including a visiting math professor from New Jersey who is a part-time cantor. At the end of the month, we welcomed **Moshe Ronen**, President of the CJC, **Victor Goldberg**, President of the AJC, and **Eric Vernon**, a staff member of CJC in Ottawa. This visit had as its main purpose a scheduled meeting with former Premier **Brian Tobin**. Unfortunately Premier Tobin was unable to attend, but a productive meeting did take place with the Honourable **Walter Noel**, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, concerning forthcoming Holocaust legislation among other matters. A community reception was held at the home of **Claire** and **Messod Salama** with many members in attendance.

Our final visitor of the season is the one who will sojourn here the longest – our new W.U.J.S. Areva, **Tali Milshtein**. We are indeed fortunate to be able to avail ourselves of such fine young people willing to lend their talents to a small, remote Jewish community. We are all looking forward to a busy year of Hebrew school, community activities, outreach to the local schools, holiday preparations and adult education.

For those former members of our community who are buried here, but who receive few visitors, we held our annual Memorial service on the Sunday prior to the beginning of the High Holy Days. We thank Mr. **Ernie Mauskopf** for leading this very important service.

Last but not least, we wish Mr. **Herb Feder** a speedy recovery from a recent bout of illness, and Mr. **Ernie Mauskopf** a Yasher Koach for his excellent leading of the Rosh Hashanah services this past weekend. A huge Yasher Koach to **Arnold Bennett** who produced a very exciting film here this past summer based on his play about **A.M. Klein**, the Jewish poet. Several members of our community had small (but significant) roles in the film, and had a wonderful time doing so. This film will be shown on Canadian television in the near future. We also bid a warm welcome to our new members, Professor **Thomas Lowenheim**, recently appointed to the Faculty of Music, and Professors **Stephen Bornstein** and **Noreen Golfman** of Memorial University.

As we pack up our books and dishes in anticipation of our imminent renovation project, we look forward to a new beginning for this tiny community. As we often say, our obituary was written several years ago, yet we are still holding our own. Let us hope that this New Year brings to all of the small communities in the Atlantic, good health and prosperity in the form of new members and visitors. After all, once they finally land here, they find out that this is not the land of Cain, but rather a sweet and hospitable place. Come. Visit. Stay a while.

Shanah Tova from the entire Jewish community of Newfoundland and Labrador.



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# Sweet Beginnings

**EACH YEAR** WE CELEBRATE ROSH HASHONAH  
by dipping apples in honey, hoping that  
the new year will be filled with sweetness.

With your help, the United Jewish Appeal makes life a little sweeter for Jews in our own community as well as in the Former Soviet Union and in Israel. By providing food and care for the elderly, rescuing people from the ravages of war or hatred, or simply by strengthening our own communities, we're saving Jewish lives.

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