

Shalom!

Spring 2001 Vol. 26, No. 2

Aviv 5761

שלום!

Varian Iris
אירוס הסרגל



Anemone
כלניות



Retumaria
אשלול שעיר



Rose
רז



Sunflower
חמנית מצויה



Flowers of Israel

Netobasis
ברקן סורי



Spafford Sternbergia
חלמונית גדולה



Cyclamen
רספת מצויה

Stork's Bill
מקור הסוסה



שְׁלוֹם

President's Message

By Dr. Sheva Medjuck



President: Dr. Sheva Medjuck

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I have just finished putting away the last
 of my Passover dishes. I hope that
 everyone in the Atlantic Jewish community
 had a Happy Passover. I am relieved that I
 do not need to eat matzo for another year.
 (Although I wonder if chocolate covered
 matzo can really be the "bread of
 affliction").

The last few months have been busy at
 the Atlantic Jewish Council. We continue
 to monitor the situation in Israel and it is
 with increasing concern that we see the
 escalation of violence. When we ended our
 Seder with "Next Year In Jerusalem", our
 thoughts went out to the people of Israel.
 Although we are a small community of
 Jews in Atlantic Canada, we must continue
 to lend our moral and financial support to
 Israel. Israelis are paying a high price in
 order to guarantee the future of all Jews
 and we must therefore provide all the
 support that we are able.

On the local scene, a controversy has
 arisen in Nova Scotia around the recitation
 of the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of
 each day that the legislature sits. MLA
Brooke Taylor has stated that: "minority
 religious groups should respect the
 Christian beliefs of Nova Scotia's majority
 and allow the Lord's Prayer to continue to
 be used in the House's daily opening
 prayer....Some of these minority religious
 beliefs and religious groups ought to
 recognize that in Nova Scotia, the majority
 of people are Christians - and (saying the
 Lord's Prayer is) a long held
 tradition....And to do anything
 else....would be watering it down to
 ...make it more acceptable to some of these
 minority groups....I think there's a time for
 them to respect some of the beliefs that we
 hold in this country and in this province."

The Atlantic Jewish Council
 immediately responded to these comments.
 On behalf of the AJC, I gave a whole
 series of interviews with the local press
 and CBC regionally and nationally stating
 that we felt that Mr. Taylor's comments
 were intolerant and did not reflect the
 multi-cultural nature of Canada's diversity.
 I suggested that if there was to be prayer,
 then it should be inclusive. The issue has
 generated quite a lot of attention. At their
 request, I was invited to the Interfaith
 Council of Metro Halifax to discuss this
 issue with them. They seemed generally
 quite supportive of the AJC's concern
 about the need to include all Nova
 Scotians and have agreed to write all
 MLAs in Nova Scotia indicating what they

would see as
 possible options.

The
 Multicultural
 Association of
 Nova Scotia has
 also responded requesting **Premier Hamm**
 to consider a more inclusive model. While
 not all the attention has been this positive
 (I have unfortunately had a few crank
 calls), I am generally very pleased at how
 members of different faith communities
 have been supportive of the AJC's
 initiative.

This year *Yom Hashoah* was
 commemorated in 7 Atlantic communities
 - St. John's, Charlottetown, Cape Breton,
 Halifax, Saint John, Moncton, and
 Fredericton. I had the privilege of
 attending the Halifax commemoration and
 was deeply moved by the guest speaker,
Dr. Israel Unger. I am also encouraged at
 the attendance at these events both from
 the Jewish and non-Jewish community. I
 regard *Yom Hashoah* both as a
 commitment to remembering the souls of
 the six million Jews whose lives were so
 brutally ended and as a commitment to the
 elimination of hatred and intolerance.

In the ensuing few weeks there are a
 number of events to which I look forward.
 Canadian Jewish Congress tri-annual
 Plenary is taking place May 6-7 in
 Toronto. The program is excellent and I
 hope that many Atlantic Canadians will be
 in attendance. It is an opportunity to get
 re-invigorated around the multitude of
 issues with which we deal. Israel's
 independence, *Yom Ha Atz Maat* will take
 on special poignancy this year given the
 critical situation in the Middle East. I have
 never lived at a time when there has not
 been an Israel (although I am just in under
 the wire). On the anniversary of this
 momentous event in Jewish history, our
 hope is that Israel will soon see peace.

Spring is at last upon us (except
 perhaps in Newfoundland). Having come
 through the worst winter I can remember
 since I returned to Atlantic Canada over
 twenty years ago, spring is especially
 welcome. I look with amazement as the
 crocuses bloom in our garden and the earth
 brings forth new life. (The down side is
 that I must go to the veterinarian to get
 flea prevention for my dog, **Herschel**. Pet
 owners will understand). I extend to the
 Atlantic Jewish community my best wishes
 in this season of new life and renewed
 hope and enthusiasm.



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

Here it is spring in Atlantic Canada and the weather is a bit warmer – a welcome change.

I have been asked to publish this letter which I wrote to the editor of the Chronicle Herald in response to the anti-Israel articles and cartoons which have been appearing these last few months in the press and on television.

February 12, 2001

Dear Editor,

It is with a sad heart that I write this letter in response to a caricature, which appeared in your February 12th edition on the editorial page. This was preceded by the editorial of Wednesday, February 7th which I felt was very negative towards the results of the election in Israel and pessimistic towards the future of peace in the Middle East.

By desecrating the flag of Israel, you may or may not know; that one degrades the symbol most commonly associated with Judaism. The flag of Israel is based on the design of the "tallit"; a prayer shawl worn by Jewish men since Moses received the Torah over 5000 years ago. In the modern era the tallit is also worn by some women in Reform and Conservative Congregations. According to tradition any Jewish adult (over the age of 13 years) shall wear a tallit. In addition very pious Jews wear a small tallit under their clothes all day. The tallit is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Jewish people and it was chosen to be the basis of the flag of Israel. Indeed in coming up with a design for the flag the early Zionists came to the realization that the Jewish people had a flag all along – the tallit - and thus, there was no need to design a flag from scratch. In the center of the flag is the "**Magen David**", better known in English as "the Star of David" or "the Jewish Star". The Magen David or "Shield of David" is another symbol most commonly associated with Judaism today. Legend has it that it is supposed to represent the shape of King David's Shield or perhaps the emblem on it. Some scholars have attributed deep theological significance to the symbol noting that the intertwining makes the triangles inseparable – like the Jewish people. In fact, the symbol of intertwining equilateral triangles is a common one in the Middle East and North Africa and is thought to bring good luck.

In the 17th Century it became a popular practice to put a Magen David on the outside of synagogues to identify them as Jewish houses of worship in much the same way as a cross represents a Christian house of worship. The Magen David gained popularity as a symbol of Judaism when it was adopted as the emblem of the Zionist movement in 1897. When modern Israel was founded in 1948 there was much debate whether this symbol should be used on the flag. However, **David Ben Gurion** and his supporters chose the symbol for the flag of the new State. It appears not only on the flag of the State of Israel but also on the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross, which is known as the "Red Magen David".

During the middle ages Jews were often required to wear badges to identify themselves as Jews – much as they were in Nazi Germany. As a result, to many Jews, the Star of David has a special significance, "founded in faith", "soaked in the blood of our people" and "filled with promise which was realized by the creation of the State of Israel".

I was born in 1946 and have lived most of my life here in Halifax, as a Nova Scotian enjoying a totally free existence as a Jew in the greatest country in the world. My life has run almost parallel to that of the State of Israel. I am proud to come from a family of Zionists who have supported the Jewish community in what was then Palestine since the 1920's. I have been to Israel over 15 times and I have seen the "desert bloom". I have witnessed the ingathering of the exiles seeing Israel grow from a population of less than six hundred thousand Jews in 1948 to over five million in 2001. The State of Israel has and will always be the homeland of the Jewish people. This is why the security of Israel is so important. There is no doubt in my mind that if there had been no Israel, millions of the immigrants who came to that country after 1948 could have and would have ended up like our six million brothers and sisters in Europe during the Holocaust. This is the harsh reality of the history of the Jewish people. It is time the western world accepts the fact that after four major wars and fifty plus years of terrorism, jihad's and intifadas, the Israeli people will not be driven into the sea.

Israel of 2001 is the only democracy in the Middle East, with more doctors, lawyers, poets, artists, writers, musicians, scientists and software designers per capita than almost any country in the world. Yes, Israel must remain strong militarily but imagine what a country it would be if it didn't have to spend over 30% of its GNP on its defense. Imagine how wonderful it would be if all 18 year old boys and girls didn't have to join the armed forces and delay their university educations for 3 to 4 years. Imagine if every year the citizens didn't have to mourn over fifty thousand Israelis killed or wounded in defense of the State of Israel since 1948 with those numbers increasing daily.

The world seems to hold Israel to a higher standard. Of course, it is a nation state, full of imperfections like any other and yet I cannot help but wonder if this constant criticism which is misguided and misdirected most of the time is because the modern world cannot face the reality of a strong Jewish homeland. Could it be that many in the western world would prefer to see their view of the Jew as an old man bent over

with a long beard or as a docile, stateless individual scurrying around beholden to the will of tyrants and dictators? Is that why so many people are so strongly against the State of Israel - that so many people don't and won't admit the reality of the situation? Those days are gone. Nation states can no longer murder Jews indiscriminately. Nation states can no longer subjugate or discriminate against my people. There will be no more crusades and pogroms or Holocausts where undefended people will be killed because of their faith.

I continually ask myself what can I do to help make my fellow Canadians better understand. I wish as many people as possible could visit Israel. In fact, it would be nice if the editorial staff and the writers for this newspaper could visit Israel. They would witness, not only the rebirth of a people who wandered in exile for over 2000 years but also experience the "holy land" - the foundation of our Judeo-Christian society.

The Prime Minister of Israel, democratically elected by the people of his or her country, has a sacred trust. Not only does he or she bear the responsibility of governing but the Prime Minister must also bear the responsibility of maintaining the State for all Jews wherever they may live. The people of Israel want peace with their neighbours. They have voted overwhelmingly since the Oslo Accords for a series of leaders, both left of center and right of center. Concessions have been met with terror. Accords have been signed and broken. Understand that no leader of Israel will make peace just to please the geopolitical vision of the western world. I, along with the vast majority of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, hope and pray for peace (shalom) for Israel and its neighbours. The Star of David will fly proud over a strong, secure and independent Jewish homeland forever.

Sincerely,
Jon M. Goldberg
Executive Director
Atlantic Jewish Council

Editor's Note: Early in the morning of April 27th a bus carrying music students from Newton, Massachusetts went off the road near Sussex, New Brunswick. Four children were killed - two were Jewish. Fortunately no one else was seriously injured. Concerned members of the Saint John Jewish community mobilized their efforts. Our Chaplain, Rabbi David Ellis was immediately sent to Saint John and Rabbi Mendel Feldman of the Chabad Lubovitch also made the trip. Following is a letter I received from the President of the Boston Federation.

May 1, 2001

Mr. Jon Goldberg
Atlantic Jewish Council
5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 508
Halifax, NS B3J 1H6

Dear Jon,

It seems like a month has gone by since Friday, but it has only been two days. So much has happened since the terrible news and your very kind and wonderful phone call on Friday morning. Yours was actually the first call to alert us to the fact that Jewish children were tragically injured and killed in the bus accident and your kindness and alertness helped us to react in the best possible way.

I can't tell you how much your Federation's involvement has meant to all of us. Thanks so much for everything you did. Thanks for sending your Chaplain all the way to Saint John and thanks for strengthening our faith in our international sense of Jewish community. You have all of my thanks and the thanks of our entire community here in Boston. Your kindness and responsiveness will always be remembered. Warm regards.

Sincerely,
Barry Shrager, President
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
126 High Street, Boston, Mass 02 110-2700



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה

A Division of UJA of Canada Inc.

"KOL YISRAEL AREIVIM ZEH L'ZEH"

**"ALL OF ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR EACH OTHER"**



From the Programmer's Desk

By Lysa Magder

Wow, it is really hard for me to believe that the university academic year has come to a close. All in all, the year was very successful with a good core group of students

being formed and I am already thinking about some different and exciting programs for next year. One project that I am now active in is working with the Dalhousie University Student Services and the Dalhousie Chaplaincy office in the planning of a "Spirituality Awareness Week" that will run at Dalhousie during orientation week next fall. I am currently planning our pavilion and am actively seeking a volunteer committee to help me with the planning and running of our booth. If you are interested, please contact me

Over the last two months, we have continued our student Shabbat dinners, generously sponsored by **Frank and Hedda Medjuck** and hosted at the home of **Tibor and Isabela Kovari**. We have gathered together to break bread, learn *zmirot* and discuss a variety of topics. Within the last few months, we have had two guest speakers, **Rabbi Jacobi** from Or Samaech in Toronto who spoke about *mussar* and ethics, and **Adam Silver** who is the representative for Canadian Friends of Hebrew University in Toronto who spoke to us about opportunities for Canadian students to study in Israel.

I am also pleased to say that the birthright Israel trips are very successful and we have sent 15 students to Israel since January. All of the students have returned excited and enthusiastic about Israel, Jewish culture and their heritage.

Once the summer trips are complete, we will hold a post-birthright program in order to maintain the strong bonds and friendships formed on these trips.

Last of all, the APJSF is in the process of electing the executive council for next year. Here is YOUR chance to make YOUR Jewish Students' Federation what you want it to be. If you would like to make a nomination for a position or feel that you want to contribute your time and energy, please contact me.

Our young professional group is also growing strong. In the month of March we had an evening of dinner and dancing, and a movie night preceded by a light reception. More recently, **Marni Singer** organized a gathering for the young professionals at the end of Pesach at Tomasino's Restaurant. Some of the upcoming events we are looking forward to are a sushi making workshop, a jazz music appreciation night and a "mitzvah day" where a group of young professionals will work together doing some sort of community work such as visiting

the aged or volunteering for a day at the food bank. Last of all, I would like to recognize the appointment of **Renee Gersowitz (Ross)** as the new liaison to the young professionals from the AJC executive.

Within the last few months I have also been very busy with community programming and outreach. Just before Purim we finished a session of our Hebrew Reading Crash Course and will be running another session again nearer to the fall. In the first week of March, the Consul General to Israel from Montreal, **Mr. Shlomo Avital**, came to the Atlantic Provinces to present the situation in the Middle East from an Israeli perspective at four of our universities. I enjoyed the opportunity to accompany him to Acadia University and Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Mount Allison University in New Brunswick and the University of Prince Edward Island. His presentations were very clear, well

articulated and successfully attended.

On March 3rd we had our first community Purim Monte Carlo Night sponsored by the Beth Israel Synagogue, the Shaar Shalom Congregation and the Atlantic Jewish Council. It was a wonderful night complete with a variety of casino games, a superb desert table, music, a klezmer band, Israeli

dancing, a silent auction and a door prize for best costume. I would like to thank everyone who dedicated their time and energy into making this evening the huge success that it was. First, a very huge thanks to **Yakov Feig, Marilyn Webster, Lysa April** and **Tibor Kovari** who formed the planning committee and dedicated themselves far beyond the call of duty. You were so wonderful to work with and your attention to the detail was incredible. Also, I want to thank **Karen Conter** who facilitated the silent auction, **Marty Merovitch**

who acted as mashgiach in the kitchen, **Shirley Burnstein** and **Edith Schneiderman** who sold tickets, and all of the students and young professionals who volunteered their time and energy at the casino tables and various booths.

Furthermore, I recently had the privilege of representing the Atlantic Jewish Council at a panel discussion regarding racism and anti-Semitism in Nova Scotia sponsored by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Within the area of diversity, I will be attending diversity fairs in several schools throughout the Province of Nova Scotia during the spring and I am also beginning to plan the Israel/Jewish community pavilion for the annual Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival, which will run from June 22nd through to June 24th.

Overall, it has been a great and exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the community picnic on June 17th, (save the date as there is more information to follow).



A note from the Youth Program Director...

By Darcie Richler

Shalom to all!

It is really unbelievable to see how quickly the past few months have gone by. The youth of the Atlantic region have spent the past few months busy with rock climbing, Purim and Pesach Carnivals, Wave Pool fun, Imax nights and much more.

As I had hoped, the Shabbaton 2001 was a huge success! With over sixty youth from around the region in participation, we spent the weekend learning, debating, shmoozing, skiing, swimming, and having lots of fun altogether. For the first time, the youth went to a resort in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where they were on their perfect behavior (as expected) and had a wonderful time!

A huge todah rabah goes out to many. I will do my best not to forget anyone! **Sari Zelenietz, Michelle Trefry, Beth Cohen, Mindy Lampert, Aviva Rubin, Carmi Rubin, Leigh Lampert, Len Sonmor, Barbara Silburt, Karen Washburn, and Na'ama and Eliezar Ghelber.** The trip also benefited from the very helpful lifeguarding that was done by **Amy Mendleson, Lauren Rosen, Arinn Ryan, Noah Zatzman and Aaron Cohen.** **Janet Casey** provided enough food to serve a small army and we all were very grateful for it. My thank you comes from all of the participants who all benefited from your energy, enthusiasm and help!

The weekend started out with a fear that the whole Shabbaton would be cancelled due to a snowstorm, but thankfully the snow stopped and we all made it up to The Old Orchard Inn, ready for a fun filled weekend. Friday night was spent doing a traditional Oneg Shabbat, which included singing, dancing and an Israeli themed program. The group also had time for socializing, swimming and catching up with the latest news.

Saturday included programs on Israeli history and geography as well as the current issues that are going on. In addition, the younger participants were engaged in a discussion about what is Jewish and what being Jewish in a small community is like. Other programs included the edible Israel map building (which was won by **Renee Zatzman, Elana Zatzman, Diana Wolfson, Shira Tsinman, Carlie Fox, and Noah Zatzman** who by far had the most innovative ways of building maps with food!) The paper mache Purim masks and candle-making brought out the extremely creative side in many of the participants (although many of them would not like to admit this).

Shabbat concluded with Havdallah services, followed by night skiing and karaoke. We were very lucky to have Martock almost to ourselves, as well as a beautiful night to be out on the slopes. One of the most humorous moments of the trip was watching a singing duet between **Eric Goldberg** and **Leigh Lampert**- something which would normally be quite uncommon.

The Sunday farewell was sad albeit one that most were glad to have in the first place. The Shabbaton weekend allowed youth from small and large communities to spend much needed time together. For some of these children, this might have been the only Jewish program that they attended all year. I hope that weekends like this become a tradition for the youth, with the same enthusiasm as this year.

To all those who are graduating high school this year and moving out of the realm of youth programming, I wish you the best success in the future. It has been wonderful working with and really getting to know you. I hope that wherever school or work takes you, your ruach will be there too. Remember, wherever you are, there is a Jewish community that is ready to be there for you if you want it. Yesher koach for all of the hard work that has been put in and keep in touch.

I hope that everyone has a fantastic summer; to those going to Camp Kadimah, I look forward to seeing your faces at the sailing docks.



Eric Goldberg



*Leigh Lampert,
Daniel Pink,
Brendan Rosen,
Ryan Fried*



*Carmi Rubin,
Darcie Richler,
Daniel Zatzman
and Leigh Lampert*



*Carmi and Aviva Rubin, Darcie Richler, Amy
Mendleson, Lauren Rosen and Arinn Ryan*

Yom Haatzmaut and *Yom Yerushalayim* are national holidays. We joined everyone in the picnics at *Gan Sachar*, just below our home, and took advantage of free admission at the Israel Museum, just a half hour's walk away.

Most special of all, however, was *Lag B'Omer*. Here you had to go to a Sephardic synagogue to get the full flavour. Bonfires would be made from old furniture in the courtyards. Special singing would go on for hours. Some of the very best food one could taste anywhere would be served up - all to keep in mind the fond memory of **Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai**, who preserved the Jewish heritage against all odds.

In our neighbourhood, *Nachlat Achim*, just west of downtown Jerusalem, we were in the midst of so many colourful neighbours. Many were Yemenite, as our landlords were. Others came from places like *Ur Kasdim*, as one lady put it, the home of **Avraham Avinu**.

Kabbalat Shabbat would take **Leah** and me to one of the nearly one hundred synagogues which were within a kilometre of our home. We saw them all at one time or another. Shabbat morning we had favourites. At least once a month we would go to the Italian Synagogue on Hillel Street, where you experienced the artistry of Italy influencing its Jewish song and architecture. But then we would often go to *Yismach Moshe*, or what we dubbed the "kugel shul." This synagogue was built by the great philanthropist, **Moses Montefiore**, over 100 years ago, near what is today the *Machane Yehuda* market. Besides meeting some *Yerushalmis* of many generations who invited us to many of their meals and *simchas*, we always looked forward to its *kiddush*—a kugel which had sat on the hotplate overnight.

An early minchah could be found just around the corner. And for Havdalah, we always met neighbours at the little shul on Shibazi Street, dancing therein once a month when we blessed the New Moon.

All of these and many more were part of the spring we would share in Jerusalem.

For Jewish Continuity— The Daily Minyan

Continuity is a buzzword heard over and over again in Jewish organizations in recent years. It is not always clear what it means and can mean different things to different people.

But let us take it in its straightforward meaning—something which is enduring, never failing to exist. We have something Jewish like this in Halifax, the daily minyan at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax, which has been a daily source of continuity for our community for over 100 years.

I have noted the importance of this minyan for our

community many times. It is for everyone. It preserves remembrances of those who came before us and made us what we are.

I want to suggest another extension of the services of the minyan. Every time the Torah is read, a list of those sick or hospitalized in the community is read, and prayers are offered for their recovery. Recently, I have been including not only those within the Halifax community but also anyone I know of in the region.

So if you have someone who is gravely ill or is facing serious surgery or hospitalization, please give me their names (including their and their mother's Hebrew names, as is the custom), and they will be added to the list.

In Memory: Diana (Hains Meltzer) Abramski

Although she had not lived in the Maritimes for many years, we should not fail to recall Mrs. Diana Abramski, originally of Saint John, who passed away last year on Yom Kippur in Kingston.

The tributes to her were numerous, from her work in Hadassah and many volunteer and civic groups. She was most outstandingly remembered as the founder of the Thyroid Foundation of Canada. Her service was not merely that of effort but also of bringing a personal touch of sympathy to all for whom she worked.

Her lifetime of achievements was recognized by the presentation of the Order of Canada in 1991.

Diana Abramski was the sister of **Mrs. Lillian Goldstein** and a cousin of **Gar Meltzer**, both of Saint John. She was also a relative of **Karen Conter** of Halifax. May we share with you the loss of a Maritimer who made a valuable contribution to all of Canada in her volunteer work.

We would also share with Lillian the recent loss of her husband **Sam**. All of your years of loving care for him, Lillian, are recorded fondly in the Book of Life to which we all contribute, never to be forgotten.



A Perspective on Parental Roles and the Torah concept of Freedom

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue

A popular motif of the Passover Haggadah is the scenario of the Four Sons who will henceforth be referred to as the Four children. There was the "*chacham*" – wise child, the "*Rasha*" – wicked child, "*Tam*" – the simple child and "*Shaino Yodea Leeshol*" – the unknowing child who could not even pose an easy question. This reminds me of a humorous anecdote. One day a student at the Religious school asked the Rabbi, 'how come the Torah constantly writes about the "*Bnei Yisrael*" – the children of Israel were always instructed to do certain commandments and to avoid doing certain actions but it never mentions what the parents were obliged to do or to avoid doing?

For a change instead of writing about the Four children of the Haggadah I will characterize the Four sets of Parents in order to address the aforementioned student's complaint. Do you know where we discover the role of the parents in the Passover drama? They appear in biblical texts in Exodus (13.8) "And you shall (*V'Heegadeta*) tell your child on that day saying because of this ritual of Passover offering, Matzah and bitter herbs did the L-rd do for me that I was able to exit Egypt." Also in (13.14) "It shall be when your child will ask you tomorrow or in a future time 'what is the meaning of this ceremony' you shall say to him with a strong hand G-d brought us forth from the bondage house of Egypt". Also in Deuteronomy it states (6:20-25) "When your son will ask you tomorrow (in the future) what are the testimonies statutes, and ordinances which the L-rd our G-d commanded? You shall say to your child we were slaves in Egypt and G-d took us out...in order to bring us and give us the land concerning which He swore to our forefathers... He commended to us all these statutes to revere G-d that it would be good for us all our days... it will be a righteous act on our part to perform this rite... "As G-d had commanded us."

The subsequent characterization of Jewish parents in the twenty-first century is purely fictional and any resemblance to actual parents is purely coincidental.

Chacham: The Wise Parents

The wise parents will try to gain knowledge of fundamental Jewish concepts and practices in order that they will be able to fulfill their biblical responsibility on this Passover occasion to the children. Those wise parents will try to utilize a variety of pedagogic skills by posing interesting and thought provoking questions (some are found in the "*Mah Nishtanah*") pertaining to the seminal event of the Exodus and how the rituals that we perform symbolize that extraordinary event and how it could help their children live a more fulfilled life. The parents teach that by personal involvement and performance of the precepts of the Torah we can begin to fathom the mysteries of life.

For example the parent will demonstrate the need to identify with the Hebrew slaves of long ago by eating "*Marror*" – bitter herbs as well as Matzoh which symbolizes the food of affliction as well as the haste in which the Israelites left Egypt.

A lesson to be derived is that there are times when we are obliged to face personal adversity in life as well as joy. Yet we can overcome tragedy just as our ancestors did in Ancient Egypt when they went from darkness to light and from enslavement to redemption. National adversity can be revealed to us by the recent experience of the Holocaust. The wise parent will, at the appropriate time, introduce their children to that great tragedy of our people and to the light, the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel as the haven for the Jewish people. Finally, it is to be hoped that our historical sufferings will make us compassionate to the suffering of others. That is why before Passover we send charity "*Ma'ot chittim*" to needy people and we invite them where possible to share our Seder Meal.

Rasha: The Rejecting Parents

The rejecting parents may have been wayward or rebellious children for having rejected everything that their parents tried to instill in them. Sometimes such a response was occasioned by parents who forced religious observance upon their children rather than to use positive methods by which they could have convinced their children to be more sympathetic to a religious life style. The products of such a hapless relationship resulted in having created a set of rejecting parents. They do not engage in any religious practices or associate with the Jewish community as they opted for an effortless assimilation to the North American mainstream whereas Judaism contributed a distinctive lifestyle to world civilization. Their children were placed in a spiritual and cultural vacuum. When the latter commence their search for meaning they are obliged to travel to the ends of the earth to drink from strange waters in order to quench their thirst. Those parents severed the spiritual life line that would have connected their children to their roots.

The rejecting parents are not interested in the ritualized Passover Seder they are only interested in eating a tasty meal. Our duty is to set their teeth on edge for not making any effort to perpetuate Jewish values to the next generation. If such parents would have been in Ancient Egypt they would not have been redeemed.

Tam: The Neutralizing Parents

The third type of Jewish parents are in a neutralized state just as the "*Tam*" – simple son of the Haggadah who asks curt questions because he wants limited involvement in Judaism. Too much knowledge of Judaism will limit their options

concerning the life-style that they want to choose. They desire some identification with their Jewish roots provided that it does not make them too identifiable as Jews. Just keep it simple. They want Israel to reflect the finest principles of utopian society and democratic values in an ideal political state. They refuse to acknowledge that Israel is located in a sea of Arab animosity in countries ruled by dictators.

The neutralizing parents transmit to their children the view of Israel as an unreal dreamland in paradise rather than as a state that confronts real challenges to its very existence every day of the year. That is why the answer to the "Tam" – neutralizing parents and their children is "Kee B'chozek Yad" – with a mighty hand G-d brought us forth from Egypt. We must defend Israel's vulnerability with a strong hand. This is especially so when our young attend secular university campuses where well funded Arab student propagandists practice 'Jihad' of the mouth against Israel and Jews while the majority of Jewish students are stymied like the "Tam" – simple child who does not know how to respond to the challenge. Too often they are influenced by left wing secular minded academicians who are too busy saving the world to address the plight of their own people.

The sight of a Jew in Chassidic garb is a source of embarrassment for the neutralizing parents as they are a throwback to a time in the distant past which these parents are fleeing from in their pursuit of acceptance in modern society. They are prepared to send their children to a Jewish camping experience provided that it is not too Jewish. Instead of using that opportunity to taste authentic Jewish living by studying some Torah they want everything to be abbreviated whether it applies to prayer, Sabbath observance or maintaining properly supervised Kashrut facilities.

What motivates the neutralized Jewish parent? It is a permissive attitude. They do not want to influence their children either way as they want to be democratic so that their children can decide for themselves what kind of Judaism they should imbibe. Children we all know can be manipulative especially when they are very young. That is the time when they most need direction from their parents and teachers and

not the open door policy of permissiveness. Unfortunately a minimal knowledge of Judaism which is by nature a maximalist religion, is a dangerous way for one to build their lifestyle upon for the future.

The true message of Passover liberation was its destination, to march to Mount Sinai to receive a structured Torah that provides answers for the dilemmas which confront modern society. If it teaches anything the Torah stands as a bulwark against permissiveness. The laws of Passover teach us to limit our appetites as well as to seize opportunities for doing good. "Chametz" leaven which is prohibited to us during this holiday reminds us of our inclination to do what is wrong and "Matzah" symbolizes humility. We ought to work on our attributes and attitudes to attain ethical equilibrium.

The Fourth Set of Parents: Know Nothing Parents

Know nothing parents present us with an opportunity. In all probability they were never exposed to a sound Jewish education irrespective whether they were raised in Israel's secular school system or in North America. Even Jewish children who may attend a Jewish community school may not be exposed to one hundred years of Zionist history.

Know nothing parents probably hardly ever frequent a synagogue. How then can their children be expected to comprehend what proper decorum is if they should ever enter a Jewish house of worship? Those parents cannot post the proper questions or instruct their children at a Passover Seder. Therefore the Haggadah states: "At Ptach Lo" – open the subject of Judaism to them so that they will not be enslaved by ignorance which is the greatest enemy of Judaism.

The last of the prophets "Malachi" whose prophecies we read on "Shabbat Ha-Gadol" the Great Sabbath before Pesach, stated "I will send to you the prophet Eliyahu before the Great and Awesome day of the L-rd comes, who shall restore the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of the children to their parents" (Malachi 3.23-24) referred to all parents and their children but especially to the fourth type of parents.



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Mendel Greenblatt, Moncton, N.B.

Dr. Joseph Naylor, North Wiltshire, P.E.I.

Elaine Levanthal

By Lonnie Dubinsky

Editor's Note: Elaine passed away peacefully on Friday, April 13, 2001. She was a longtime supporter of the State of Israel and a dear friend of the Halifax Jewish community. All of us who knew her will miss her.

Today we mourn the passing of a remarkable person. There was no one quite like **Elaine Leventhal**. Family, friends, employees, acquaintances, business associates and tenants, past and present, respected and cherished her for her integrity, frankness, keen mind and wit and her constant generosity which was expressed in so many ways.

Being with Elaine, and her devoted and loving husband **Abe**, was always an experience, if not often an adventure. She delighted in conversation and banter, in sharing ideas and stories. She had informed and strong opinions on everything from politics and politicians, to business and world events but was forever interested in hearing all sides.

I had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Elaine for almost thirty years. We enjoyed a close relationship that in many ways illustrates what made her so special for everyone. We met at a Bar Mitzvah party in Cape Breton soon after I had returned from graduate school. We instantly got on and a few months later I rented a small apartment from her on South Park Street.

From this point on paying the rent was an occasion to which I looked forward. Each month, I went to the hotel (it was the "Sterling" in those days) and Elaine and I, and often Abe

too, and usually over dinner, spent time chatting and cajoling each other about many issues and events. She insisted, for example, that someday I would be a refugee from the NDP and she was correct. What I received from her and Abe was a real education about many things, including a healthy cynicism about all matters political, party or otherwise.

These visits continued even after I purchased a house. Since leaving Halifax some 18 years ago we remained closely in touch. In the meantime and during their university days, my brother, two cousins and many friends rented from her and the circle continued.

For Elaine, trust, loyalty, caring and communication were thus uppermost and evident in everything she did. She was known publicly for many charitable acts but her quiet generosity and acts of kindness were even more extensive.

She had a great capacity for empathy but also could be no-nonsense and never was fooled. "Oh, come on, Lon," she would say and this response was often accompanied, depending on the situation, by the soundest of advice and encouragement.

She was an inveterate collector of memorabilia, antiques, and what-nots, but also had enormous knowledge about them and so many other things. Clearly, she had her eccentricities but she was a constant learner.

Many people of course know that she was astute in business but this was more than about accumulating property, stocks and other assets. Elaine believed passionately in old-fashioned capitalism in which customer service, honesty and efficiency were paramount. Until the very end she was vigilant in fulfilling these objectives with respect to her own affairs and to the conduct of others. Only a few months ago she took a TD/Canada Trust Vice-President to task and a few weeks ago, when we last spoke, she told me her next target was MTT/Aliant.

We are therefore paying our respects to a true individual, someone who stood out and stood up in a world taken up with too much conformity and convention. Elaine was an original: principled, enormously considerate, genuine and memorable, a lover of people who was constantly engaged with life around her. She will be greatly missed by her dear husband Abe and all of us here and afar.

As I say these concluding words, I can picture her in her office behind the big desk or across a dinner table or in the hotel lobby, so gracious, so aware. I can see the glimmer in her eyes and hear her distinct voice and wise words. Good-bye Elaine. You will be remembered as a person who above all else was a mensch.



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Greetings from the Co-Chairs of the Camp Kadimah Committee

Kadimah 2000 was a resounding success from beginning to end. Not only did we have a record enrolment of campers and staff; the physical site underwent extensive improvements. Under the guidance of our project manager, **Peter Wagner**, and the monetary assistance of Kadimah's alumni and friends, a new CIT site, and outdoor amphitheatre, a new Machar cabin and an overdue septic field expansion were all part of the improvements to the physical plant. These new additions, together with equipment upgrades and a fantastic program, made Kadimah 2000 a summer to remember. At our Visiting Day program we bade a fond farewell to one of Kadimah's longest serving staff members, **Michael Soberman**. Michael had advised the camp committee of his inability to commit beyond the 2000 season due to work commitments with Ontario CJC and UIAFC. We appreciate Michael's efforts over the years and wish him the very best. Kadimah 2000 also marked the end of an era with the announcement, following

the camp season, of **Sheldon's** retirement as the longest serving camp director in Kadimah history. Sheldon's achievements are many and he will be greatly missed. Sheldon was honoured by the Atlantic Jewish Council at our recent Biannual Convention in November 2000. He will be in attendance at Kadimah during pre-camp 2001 and will be more appropriately thanked at our Visiting Day program this summer. A great deal of thanks goes out to our Committee members who spend many hours helping to create a great environment for our children. As well, a special thanks to our new Administrative Assistant, **Joanna Mirsky**, who makes things tick in the office, apart from keeping **Andrew** and **Mark** in line (no small task!) See you all at camp this summer.

Kadimingly yours,
Mark & Andrew

Thank you JNF from the AJC:

The AJC would like to thank JNF for sponsoring our wonderful Saturday Kiddush at the Beth Israel Synagogue in November as part of our Biennial Convention. We appreciate your continuing support and cooperation.

I Remember Danny

By (Rabbi) **Herman Cohen, MSW**
Camp Kadimah Counselor – 1953-56

Editor's Note: Danny Ben-Hayim was the son of Mrs. Bina Funt. Mrs. Funt was the first ever recipient of The Foundation Award in November 2000.

As many residents and former residents of the Maritime Provinces know, Camp Kadimah, located in Lunenburg County, was the focus for the Jewish youth in the summertime. During those brief six weeks of encampment friendships often formed that have lasted a lifetime. After spending a year with five other Canadian Young Judeans at the Machon year program in Jerusalem, in 1956 I found myself at Kadimah as a counselor. Assigned to work with me as the junior counselor was **Danny Ben-Hayim**. Danny was built like a tank, burly but gentle, always enthusiastic but quiet in demeanor. Though he could always be firm with often boisterous fun loving eight and nine year olds, you always sensed a hesitation to discipline them when they would act up, as children will do at any opportunity. Only as the summer progressed and as our friendship developed did Danny reveal to me his life before coming to live in Halifax. His story might be a truly tragic but familiar one. His family was taken from their home in Poland to the death camps. His father died but somehow his mother, **Bina Funt**, managed to keep herself and her little son with her and they survived.

Recently, almost every filmgoer in the world became familiar with **Alberto Bergnini's** film "Life Is Beautiful" and the poignant tale of a father and his little son trying to survive in the concentration camp where they had been taken. The little boy is hidden in the barracks and his father makes their

incarceration into a "game". Though the details differ, Danny and his mother connived and cheated death at many moments and she managed to feed and house him until the allies liberated the camp.

Danny never sentimentalized nor sought sympathy each time he revealed details of his life during those terrible years. Surely, all the stories that have emerged from World War II testify not only to the brutality of man towards his fellow, but the often untold stories of human sacrifices in the face of such monstrous evil; the love of a mother and her grim determination to survive Hitler and, more important, to make sure her Danny survived to bear witness. The story of Danny is the story of "Life is Beautiful" and for me, as well as others, I will always remember Danny whenever I recall that film and watch it again.

The tragedy of Danny's death in Halifax after Kadimah ended for the season is just that – a tragedy beyond words. Danny loved life and lived it to its fullest, even as an 18-year-old student and camp counselor. He loved Israel and the Jewish people as he loved his mother and stepfather. He dreamed of the day when he too would visit and study in Israel as so many young Judeans planned and worked for. Danny loved life as his name, Ben Hayim implied.

May there always be a place in Camp Kadimah for Danny and may his memory never be dimmed from our minds and our hearts.

Thirteen Jewish Students Attend Toronto Law Conference

By Ted Frankel, Dalhousie Law Student

The theme of this year's Canadian Jewish Law Students Annual Conference was "*The Pursuit of Justice: Jewish Advocates and Advocating for Jews*." More than 100 Jewish law students – including 13 from Dalhousie Law School – gathered in Toronto for the event, which was held from January 26-28, 2001.

The conference featured an impressive array of speakers, including a keynote address from **The Right Honourable Antonio Lamer, P.C.**, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. He spoke of the parallels between Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and Israel's Basic Laws. Mr. Lamer also told students about his friendship with Israeli Chief Justice **Aharon Barak**, with whom he met several times during his many visits to Israel.

Israel was again the topic of choice during a panel discussion on the media's coverage of the recent conflict in the Middle East. Three of the four panel members gave the press a failing grade on its coverage of the most recent Palestinian-Israeli clashes, with the sole dissenter being **Drew Fagan**, Foreign Editor of the *Globe & Mail*, who argued that his paper was doing its best to present both sides of the issue. Other panelists included Canadian Jewish Congress President **Moshe Ronen**, National Post columnist **Ezra Levant**, who argued that anti-Israeli coverage by some media outlets was obscuring the Palestinian role in the conflict. Also participating on the panel was **Dr. Conrad Winn Ph.D.**, C.E.O. of COMPAS Inc., a national opinion and market research firm.

University of Toronto law professor **Ernie Weinrib's** presentation dealt with the intersection of Jewish law and British common law. Professor Weinrib made use of ancient passages from the *Talmud* to illustrate his point.

Bruce Elman, the recently-appointed Dean of the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law spoke about the origins of the Canadian Jewish Congress, a democratically-elected lobby group whose mandate is to promote Jewish and minority interests across Canada. Further, and perhaps more importantly, he spoke at length about the importance of community service and community involvement, and the importance of charity and helping the underprivileged. He ended by challenging students to do more for *tikkun olam*



Leigh Lampert with the Rt. Hon. Antonio Lamer, P.C., retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, in the lobby of the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto.

(social justice). It is now up to all of us to meet this challenge!

Noted criminal lawyer **Eddie Greenspan, Q.C.**, spoke on Canada's hate crime legislation, making specific reference to some of the provisions that have been used against some notable Holocaust deniers in Canada. The legendary Greenspan made a very convincing argument against using the criminal court system to deal with these individuals, suggesting that civil proceedings would perhaps be more appropriate. Taking questions from the audience after his speech, he answered in typical Greenspan fashion – without budging a millimeter from his beliefs!

Toronto sole practitioner, writer, and Law Society of Upper Canada Bencher **Gary Lloyd, Q.C.** spoke about the importance of Judaism in his life, and his personal struggle to achieve balance between his professional career and his Jewish religious beliefs. He also spoke of his experiences in attempting to have the Law Society offer kosher meals to its members, and to avoid holding meetings on Shabbat.

The well-rounded conference also featured a performance by lawyer/comedian **Marcel Strigberger**.

Overall, the weekend was very successful, both academically and socially. **Leigh Lampert**, from Moncton, currently in his third of the four-year combined LL.B.-M.B.A. program at Dalhousie University, was selected as the new President of the Canadian Jewish Law Students Association. He is the first person from Atlantic Canada to hold this position. His one-year term will begin in April.

The Dalhousie Jewish Law students who attended were: Leigh Lampert (Moncton), **Louis Wolfson** and **Nicole Borovan** (Halifax), **Ted Frankel**, **Jack Haller**, **Eli Lederman** and **Adam Newman** (Toronto), **Arlo Litman**, **Rachel Jacobs** and **Dan Segal** (Edmonton), **Noah Weisberg** (Kingston), **Adam Sheps** (Winnipeg) and **Josh Martin** (Montreal).

Special thanks to those members of the legal communities of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, CanJet Airlines and to the AJC, whose contributions allowed so many people from Dalhousie to attend. Finally, a special word of thanks to Leigh Lampert for his hard work in helping to organize the conference, in raising funds and ensuring a lot of participation from Dalhousie Law School.

Our Changing Jewish World

By Dov Harris, Director Gift Planning Atlantic Jewish Foundation

In the next few issues of Shalom I hope to outline some of the innovative and challenging initiatives Jews are taking to meet the seismic changes jolting the Jewish world today. There has never been a time quite like this. Increasingly the question is being asked, "Have our institutions and programs kept up with the pace of change"? If not, what do we retain, what do we discard and what do we put in its place, always recognizing the danger that just because something is new doesn't make it better.

Only twice before in our history has the Jewish people been able to view their journey through history from a summit of freedom and independence. We have now again reached that high ground of Jewish sovereignty and independence in Israel. It has had a life-enhancing effect on the psyche of the Jew in the Diaspora and in combination with the freedom and equality we enjoy in every facet of life here at home, a powerful argument can be made that we have entered another golden age.

With our history, should we take all this for granted?

Freedom and independence can be lost. This time, we say,

it will be different. Ours is the generation that has arrived. No door is closed to us. The open society welcomes one and all. Both individually and as a community we have succeeded beyond measure.

Yet, when we survey this brave new world, one feature is inescapable. With all of its strengths it is so very fragile. It is the paradox of our times. On the one hand we are blessed with all the material and organizational trappings of success and on the other, how many of us can say that this generation's grandchildren will be Jewish?

Who would have believed that when we said "Never again" to the enemies of the Jewish people that the ultimate enemy would be among us? We have withstood Roman conquerors, Holy crusaders, Spanish inquisitors, Cossack raiders and Nazi murderers. Can we withstand apathy, indifference and disinterest?

Statistics persuade us that this may not be the case. To quote **Emile Fackenheim**, "if the current rate of assimilation continues unchecked, we are in danger of giving Hitler a

continued on page 17

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Remembering our Past ~ 60 Years Ago

From Our Archives...

Halifax – YMHA Ball 1941



Front Row: Blanche Medjuck, Becky Arron, Rae Stein, Irene Glube, Sophie Newman, Betty Arron
 Middle Row: Louis Arron, Abe Newman, Betty Simon, Betty Rubin, Charles Arron
 Back Row: Irving Medjuck, Jack Stein, Nathan Rubin, Sam Glube

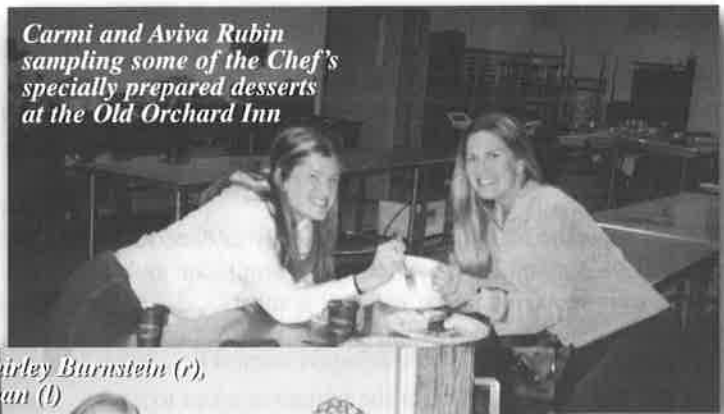
Editor's Note: To our readers: if you have a picture from your community past, we'd be delighted to print it in future editions.

Around and About ~ Halifax

*Yom Hashoah
Commemoration 2001
Linda Schroeder*



*Carmi and Aviva Rubin
sampling some of the Chef's
specially prepared desserts
at the Old Orchard Inn*



*Purim 2001 — Shirley Burnstein (r),
Edith Schneiderman (l)*

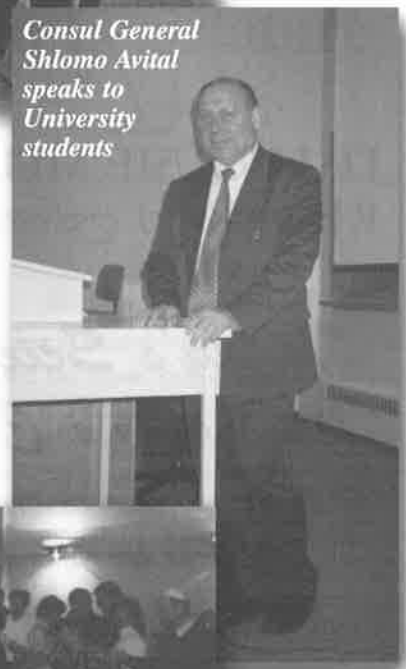


THE WELDON LAW BUILDING



*Left to Right:
Dov Harris,
Dr. Hillel Sommer,
Leigh Lampert*

*Consul General
Shlomo Avital
speaks to
University
students*



Purim Monte Carlo Night

continued from page 13
posthumous victory”.

Is this the end? Take heart. We Jews have a way of surprising even ourselves. How often have we not written ourselves out of history only to bounce back with greater vigour? The second lesson we learn from our history is never to underestimate our remarkable powers of regeneration. We are history's original “come back kids”.

With Jewish brains focussed on the problem, with Jewish philanthropy providing the resources and with belief in ourselves carrying the momentum forward, we are indeed entering a golden age. Hyperbole? Fantasy? Wishful thinking? Consider the facts.

When the watershed 1990 demographic study of American Jewry exposed what many already knew that assimilation and acculturation were wreaking havoc with our numbers, particularly among our younger people, the oy vey! response was followed by a call to action.

Perhaps the most imaginative of the initiatives taken to redress the situation was the brainchild of two major Jewish philanthropists, **Charles Bronfman** and **Michael Steinhardt**. With extraordinary insight they worked from the premise that a young Jewish person however removed from the Jewish people always retains a spark of Yiddishkeit, “*der pintela Yid*” and that this spark would burst into flame in the one place where a Jew would find himself - Israel. Thus was the Birthright Israel program born.

Joined by twelve other philanthropists, the United Jewish Communities of North America and the State of Israel, each assuming one third of the cost, the program was launched two years ago. The objective is to send every young Jew in the Diaspora, between the ages of 18-26, to Israel who has not visited Israel on an organized trip - that for a young Jew it become a rite of passage and that it be a free trip with no strings attached.

Such is the belief we have in our young people. Given the chance to open their eyes they will see, know and understand the joy and challenge of being a Jew.

To date there are twenty thousand young Jews who can testify to this - the number who have visited Israel on the Birthright Program since its inception.

Their impressions, the outpouring of genuine emotion which caught many of them by surprise- they simply never knew that they would feel that way- has made this one of the most effective programs of recent times. The follow-up with these young people will, of course, be crucial. But given the focussed energy and resources this program has attracted, there is every reason to hope that future generations will look back on Birthright Israel as the program when we got it right.

In future articles I will be writing of other programs to provide further evidence that on this ancient tree we call the Jewish people, green shoots are appearing everywhere. It is we who will make it blossom.

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Bequests and Endowments

Mrs. Rosanne Griffin

*By Dov Harris, Director Gift Planning
Atlantic Jewish Foundation*

Had the late Mrs. Griffin, *zichrona livracha*, read what I had written about her in the last issue of Shalom, she would have taken me to task. And, I would have told her how inadvertent it was for me not to have mentioned the late **Dr. Mendel Burnstein** who, upon her return to Halifax from the U.S., was her doctor. Dr. Burnstein reinforced and reaffirmed the qualities she had come to admire and love in the Jewish people. After his passing, **Matthew**, Mendel and **Shirley** Burnstein's son, continued this deep and abiding connection.

It is simply remarkable how the torch of decency and devotion was passed from one Jew to another in Mrs. Griffin's life: the doctor in the U.S., the Burnsteins, **Jack Prince**, pro bono executor of her estate, **Victor Goldberg** and I dare say many more. As far as she was concerned it was a torch that never dimmed. Now through her generosity, just under half a million dollars, there will be children in Israel, leading difficult lives, who will know just how brightly that torch burns.

Baron DeHirsch Cemetary Beth Israel Synagogue

The Beth Israel Synagogue has produced a database of all those buried in the Baron de Hirsch Cemetary and their present and past relatives. A significant amount of work has been accomplished so far, but we are still in need of additional family member names of the following list. Any information

would be greatly appreciated to finalize our data bank. Please call **Phil Alberstat** at (902) 422-5526. Thank you very much to all the people who have given so freely of their knowledge to help with the accumulation of this data bank.

xxxx	David Lenard	1918	Kiva Leviat	1937	Rose Geller	1955	Ben Boxer
xxxx	Kronss	1918	Lionel Symons	1938	Hiram Diamond	1955	Sarah Eisnor
xxxx	Yanofsky	1920	David Harris	1938	Jonah Spiro	1956	Barney Ross
1898	Daniel Weiner	1920	Rachael Zwerling	1938	Markus Ducoffe	1957	Joseph Cohen
1902	Dora Miller	1921	Rachel Bell	1939	Thomas Napsky	1964	Hyman Webber
1903	Lesser	1922	Rachel Finkelstein	1940	Betsy Kravits	1966	Louis Webber
1905	Herman Webber	1923	Copel Webber	1942	Lewis Harris	1966	Martha Webber
1909	Isaac Miller	1924	Bertha Magonet	1945	Israel Webber	1967	Isaac Marshall
1912	Sarah Cohut	1925	Ida Napsky	1948	David Horventz	1971	Rebecca Simon
1918	Charlie Miller	1927	H. Lawrence	1952	Bertha Levanter	1975	Cecelia Cohen
1918	Herman Laurie	1928	Samuel Kitz	1953	Rose Cohen	1991	Marvin Burke
1918	Jacob Whitzman	1932	Dora Horwetz	1953	Samuel Cohen	1998	Sidney Simon

The Lord's Prayer in the Nova Scotia Legislature and Mr. Taylor's Comments

Editor's Note: The following was released to the local media in Halifax following comments about the Lord's prayer by Brooke Taylor.

Press Release

Statement of **Dr. Sheva Medjuck**, President, Canadian Jewish Congress, Atlantic Region

The Atlantic Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress believes it is inappropriate for the Lord's prayer to be used exclusive of prayers or readings representing other faiths in contemporary Nova Scotia. If prayer is to be used, it should be used in such a way that is representative of our Province's religious diversity.

We feel that Mr. Taylor has a mistaken view of what makes up Nova Scotia society. Christianity is a major faith tradition in our Province but there are other traditions and faiths in Nova Scotia and indeed all of Canada, which is a multicultural democracy. I would remind Mr. Taylor that in our democracy it is the rights of the minorities that have to be protected.

Freedom is more than being the recipient of the tolerance of the majority; more than a guestroom in the home of the establishment. Freedom demands equality, respect for the views of others and, importantly, understanding cultural bias and historic context that while seeming innocuous to the bulk of a populace, may well be perceived as an unspoken threat to other

groups or individuals.

Our Province, the first in British North America to have a Responsible Government, has made, over the last two or three decades every effort to strengthen the rights of all minorities within the cultural mosaic in which we live. This had indeed included reversing, changing or amending many traditions and practices that were carried on for years and years – some of which was done by legislation through the House of Assembly.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United Church of Ontario believe that the use of prayer in the legislature should reflect the diversity of our society. Newfoundland does not have a tradition of prayer nor does Quebec, and the House of Commons has an opening prayer in both languages that is inclusive and meaningful to all Canadians.

The Atlantic Jewish Council, through our Chaplain's office here in Nova Scotia, will be in touch with Christian denominations and various other faiths in our Province to come together in common cause to find an accommodation for the use of prayer to open the Assembly's legislative day that will be inclusive of all Nova Scotians.

TU B'SHEVAT & PESACH: "Seder, What's Going on Here?"

By Rabbi Yochanan Samuels, Fredericton, N.B.

In the dead of winter, when our minds are not concentrating on growing things, Tu B'Shevat comes along to remind us that the sap is starting to rise in the trees, and spring will soon be here. In Fredericton, this gives rise to the annual Tu B'Shevat Seder, held for the third year at Congregation Sgoolai Israel. This year, a new seder, with kabbalistic overtones was instituted. We paid homage to the Land of Israel, and the seven species which it is noted for. With grape juice, various nuts and fruits, we celebrated the beginning of the growing season. Next year, we invite Shalom readers to join with us, increasing the joy of our celebration.

From the seder of the trees, to the Seder of Freedom; come, let us go out of Egyptian slavery to the freedom of serving *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*. In the Haggadah, four is the magic number, what with the "*Fier Kashes*", the four sons, the

four cups of redemption, and don't forget, HaShem's four declarations to the Israelite slaves. In Fredericton, three is the number, the third time is the charm. Fredericton again hosted a community seder for those who wanted to experience a real *heimishe* - family-style seder. With the appointing of table captains and wine pourers, everyone present was brought into the larger "Sgoolai Israel" family, participating and singing [and eating a wonderful meal], learning all about freedom. If you can't be "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM", try being "NEXT YEAR IN FREDERICTON."

Let's not neglect the rest of the year. We have on-going classes, such as the "Pardes Society", Torah study class, Prayer class, and Learn to read Hebrew. If you're in the area, call for information; come on down and be a part of us.

Report from Moncton

By Nancy Cohen

There is lots of news to report for Moncton this spring, thanks largely to the efforts of our energetic arevim, **Eliezer** and **Na'ama Ghelber**. In February the Hebrew School children and their parents took part in a Tu b'shevat seder which was sponsored by the AJC. During the seder some of the children presented a dramatic reading of **Shel Silverstein's** book *The Giving Tree*.

It is said that with the beginning of Adar joy is heightened, and with this in mind, Eliezer and Na'ama organized a Rosh Hodesh Adar party for all the children. With funding from the AJC, Wacko the Clown was hired, and the children enjoyed having their faces painted and watching Wacko make balloon animals. Purim soon arrived and for the first time in Moncton's history a parrot led the megillah reading and gunshots (a cap gun) joined the gragers to drown out **Haman's** name. The following Sunday there was a community Purim party with a carnival, a Purim spiel acted out by several of our members, and a short concert of purim songs by the Tiferes Israel Singers. A karaoke machine added to the fun with people of all ages giving it a shot. Thank you to the AJC for funding the rental of the karaoke machine.

A Sunday brunch provided the setting for a very interesting talk and slide presentation by **Eli Shenav**, an archeologist with the Jewish National Fund, who spoke about the excavation of the site at Shuni. The brunch was well attended and everyone was captivated by Mr. Shenav's stories.

One of the highlights of Hebrew school this year will surely be the Shabbaton. After shabbat services and dinner, parents left their children in the hands of Eliezer, Na'ama and **Israel Pupko**, shaliach for Young Judea who had traveled here from Toronto to help out with the Shabbaton. The children spent the night and all day Saturday at the shul. They had so much fun, that many were reluctant to leave when Shabbat ended.

Although Na'ama and Eliezer have been the organizers for many of these activities, none of them could have taken place without the help of many people in our community - the Sisterhood who prepared food for the Purim party and Sunday brunch, the parents who prepared and served the food for the Shabbaton, the teenagers who helped run the Purim carnival, and all the others who do their bit to make things happen.

Happy Birthday to **Irving Schelew** who celebrated 80 years on March 28. A community birthday party took place at the home of **Isaac** and **Betty Druckman**. Betty had promised to do it again for Irving's 85th birthday.

Moncton is now busy preparing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Tiferes Israel Synagogue with a Gala Kum-Ahaime to take place from June 30 to July 1. Beginning with Shabbat services on Friday evening and ending with a dinner and dance at the Delta Beausejour Hotel on Sunday night, the weekend promises to be a fun filled trip down memory lane. We hope to see everyone who has been a part of our community. If you would like to attend and have not received an invitation, please let us know.

Sincere condolences from the Atlantic Canada Jewish War Veterans to Mendel Greenblatt on the death of his beloved wife, Bessie.

Are you moving or changing your phone number or e-mail address? Please notify Ann at the AJC office at 902-422-7491.

Young Israel Club and Junior Congregation of Glace Bay

By Raymond Goldman, Secy. Treasurer of Congregation Sons of Israel Glace Bay, NS and a member of Beth Shalom West Congregation, Ottawa

Rabbi Simon Kantaroff, originally from Boston, Massachusetts, can be credited with organizing the Glace Bay Jewish children to form the Young Israel Club & Junior congregation around 1938. He became our spiritual leader, cantor and Hebrew School teacher with an emphasis on preparing boys for chanting the Shabbat morning services. In addition, he taught the upcoming *B'nai Mitzvah* recitation and preparation for *Haftorah* and *Maftir*. He is best remembered for resembling the then President of the United States, **Franklin D. Roosevelt**. The Rabbi was always impeccably dressed. In summers he wore light coloured suits and a straw hat. There was an ever-present cigarette in a holder.

In addition to Rabbi Kantaroff, we were privileged to have had a "senior" in **Rabbi Kirshenblatt**, who conducted religious services, gave *Chupal Keddushah* and performed last rites at funerals. He was a *mohil*, a *shachet* and found time to teach *cheder* lessons, starting from the *Aleph Beth* right up to *Bar Mitzvah*.

He arrived in Glace Bay around 1935. He had two daughters, one of whom died at the age of two and is interred in the congregation Cemetery. On completion of his tenure in 1941, Rabbi Kirshenblatt left Glace Bay with his wife and older daughter, Shoshanah, for Toronto.

Shortly after Rabbi Kantaroff arrived, he noticed that the boys were unable to participate in the religious services because of lack of knowledge. He realized that the lifeline of the Congregation was its youth and convinced the elders to form a Junior Congregation. And so, services began in the Talmud Torah Building, adjacent to the main shul, every Shabbat morning. The boys built their own *Oren Kodesh* under the supervision of **Archie Cohen**, a *homer shabbot*. Mr. Cohen, an immigrant from England, happened to be an architect, employed at the time by the local coal corporation.

The Congregation loaned us a *Sefer Torah*, and, before long, we began *Shabbat Schacharith* services which continued without interruption.

As well as teaching us how to conduct the religious service, Rabbi Kantaroff instilled in us the utmost respect for Shabbat Service. Good manners, clean attire (shabbat clothes) and discipline were essential in our sanctuary.

However, we did not abandon the main synagogue altogether. We attended *Kabalath Shabbat* (Friday evening)

celebration of a *Bar Mitzvah* and naturally, the High Holy Days and other occasions.

Rabbi Kantaroff left around the same time as Rabbi Kirshenblatt. He joined the American War effort as a chaplain December 1941.

Rabbi Kantaroff was replaced by **Rabbi Petruska Prince** who arrived as a refugee from war torn Europe. The Rabbi proved to be a disciplinarian and an articulate cantor. He was a great asset to the Junior Congregation and the main synagogue. His tenure lasted until 1947.

In all modesty, it is fair to say that the Junior Congregation of the Young Israel Club, Glace Bay, produced some of the best non-professional cantors anywhere.

The main synagogue service, adhering to the European custom of praying, was individualized; whereas, we of the Junior Congregation, were taught to doven in unison and the result was the most beautiful melodies.

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News from Saint John

By Susan Isaacs-Lubin

The calendar may tell us that it is Spring - but as I look out my window - it is hard to tell with all the snowdrifts. We have had a very snowy, cold winter. I am sure that we all have at least a tinge of envy for the Snowbirds who have escaped to warmer climates. We welcome our returning Snowbirds, and we in Saint John are gearing up for a busy spring and summer season.

We want to wish **Lillian Kashetsky** mazel tov on her recent 94th Birthday, and also warmest Birthday wishes to **Bertha Master** who will be soon celebrating her 84th. Our condolences to the families of the late **Samuel Goldstein** and also **Ruth Isaacs**. We wish **Herzl Kashetsky** a speedy recovery from his recent operation. **Dr. Lew Freedman** also recently had an operation in Toronto and we wish him G-d speed. Mazel tov to **Danny and Anne Elman** on the birth of a new granddaughter **Sophie Eden** to their children **Katie and Michael**. Mazel tov also to **Sandra and Ron Levine** on the birth of a new granddaughter, **Shayna Beth** to their children **Tammy and Matthew**.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will once again be sponsoring the annual Yom Hashoah observance on Thursday, April 19th. Our Guest Speaker is **Bernie Farber**, Executive Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress. The **Beatrice Cummings Mayer** Holocaust Essay Prizes will be presented to High School students throughout the City who have submitted entries for this annual competition. This year's

topic is "Canada's Response to the Holocaust 1938 - 1948". As usual, we look forward to a large crowd at this event.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will open for the summer on May 22nd and stay open through October. We hope to once again offer the Jewish Heritage bus tour to visitors from Cruise Ships docking through the summer and fall. This summer's new exhibits will be "Going on a Summer Holiday" - remembering summers in Pampdenec; a history of the Isaacs family and Art from Jewish artists from New Brunswick. Once again we wish to thank **Katherine Biggs-Craft**, our very able Curator of the Museum for the heart she puts into her work.

Dateline Fredericton

It is with great sorrow that the Fredericton community announces the death of several of our members.

Condolences to **Louis Levine** and daughters **Bonnie and Ellen** on the loss of their wife and Mother, **Sue Levine**.

Condolences to **Irene Leckie** on the loss of her beloved sister, **Nessa Leckie**.

Condolences to **Peter Leighton** and daughter **Robin** on the loss of their wife and Mother, **Marilyn Leighton**.

Condolences to **Joan Levine** on the loss of her Mother, **Mollye Brown**.

May the mourners be spared further sadness.

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Jewish Legion Remembered

Citadel Museum to display rediscovered rare group photo

By David Redwood
The Daily News

A rare photo of a Jewish army unit that trained in Nova Scotia in 1918 has turned up in the storage room of the military museum in the Halifax Citadel, exciting historians across Canada.

The metre-wide photograph shows more than 100 Jewish volunteers in British Army uniforms standing at attention in front of canvas tents in Windsor, Hants Co. The volunteers - from the U.S. and across Canada - were sent to fight Turks in Palestine in the later days of the First World War.

"There were about 2,700 (Jewish) soldiers recruited in the United States who were trained in Windsor," said **Jim Derby**, a volunteer military adviser with the Army Museum.

"It was the nearest (British) training facility at the time."

The photo is among a number of artifacts emerging from mothballs after decades in storage. Other items to be



Section of a rare group photo of the British Army's Jewish Legion in Windsor, to be displayed at the Halifax Citadel. The Sunday Daily News, March 25, 2001 (Yom Kippur, 1908)

on display when the museum re-opens May 7 include a Meissen porcelain figure collection and a refurbished 20-millimetre anti-aircraft gun used in the Second World War to destroy German V-1 rockets.

Curator **Roderick MacLean** said the long-hidden artifacts are coming to light as the museum makes a computer inventory of all its holdings. A staff changeover about three years ago has also brought fresh eyes to the 50-year-old collection - much of which must be kept in storage for lack of display space.

The discovery of the Jewish Legion photo is generating excitement across the country.

"It was the first Jewish military formation in 2,000 years - since Roman times,"

said **Irving Abella**, a York University professor of Canadian Jewish History.

"That's why it is so important that there is a picture of them."

Abella said the Jewish Legion was formed after the British promised Jews a homeland in Palestine in 1917. At the time the Allies were fighting Turkish forces in the Middle East.

Jewish leaders wanting their own state recruited British, Canadian and American Jews for the force. About 300 Canadians enlisted.

Many photographs exist of the soldiers. But few in Canada, if any, are formal regimental portraits.

"I've never, ever seen a group photograph," said **Janice Rosen**, chief archivist with the Canadian Jewish

Congress.

The photo is dated Yom Kippur 5679, which in the Jewish Calendar corresponds to Sept. 16, 1918.

The soldiers in the picture almost certainly formed part of the 39th Royal Fusiliers - a unit that earlier in 1918 had helped defeat the Turks along the Jordan River.

The Legion was slowly disbanded in the 1920s by British Army leaders as tensions between Arabs and Jews increased.

Many members - including future Israeli prime minister **David Ben-Gurion** - were demobilized, but returned to Palestine to found what would eventually become the state of Israel in 1948.

Father, Son Supported Jewish Homeland

Felix (Phil) Wolofsky's parents forbade him to sign up with the British Army's Jewish Legion. It was 1918, and the 17-year-old desperately wanted to help fight for a Jewish homeland by joining the volunteers boarding a train in Montreal's downtown.

So Wolofsky did what any teenager would do: he got creative.

Wolofsky snuck out to Montreal West, the next station down the tracks. Soon, he was on the train to Nova Scotia, distinguishing himself in training.

"He escaped from his father's clutches when he got on that train to come out to Nova Scotia," said Wolofsky's daughter **Goldie Eskenazi** in an interview from Montreal.

But Eskenazi said her grandfather, Montreal newspaper publisher **Hirsh Wolofsky**, didn't object much to his son's fighting spirit. He strongly supported a Jewish homeland in Palestine in his editorials, and helped the campaign to build a Jewish Legion.

In a strange coincidence, Hirsh Wolofsky was asked by

the British Army to mediate a dispute in the Nova Scotian camp. The "rowdy" young volunteers were demanding a separate set of dishes for their kosher diet.

"The poor British officer was at a loss," said Eskenazi.

The officer appealed to the elder Wolofsky, who had a reputation as a Jewish leader and conciliator.

Wolofsky hopped on a train, mediated a settlement with the rebellious recruits, and returned to Montreal, never telling the officers his 17-year-old son was in the camp.

Felix Wolofsky served in Egypt as the war came to an end. He worked in intelligence in the city of Alexandria and stayed for some time after the war in the British occupation force.

His son, **Jack Wolofsky**, is excited by the rare photograph of the Jewish Legion recently discovered in Halifax, and the possibility a list of names goes along with it.

"It makes me feel good," said Jack. "I'm most anxious to see if my father's picture is on there."

From the AJC Chaplain's Desk,

By Rabbi David Ellis



Rabbi Ellis in discussion with Dr. Robert Kennedy, Department of Religious Studies, St. Francis Xavier University — Fall 2000

Jerusalem Days

During this time of year I cannot help but recall the marvelous days I was so greatly privileged to spend in Israel just a decade ago. Any time of the year, of course, is a special time there, but the spring days, of both old and new holidays, coalesced into their own pattern.

Just before Pesach you could bake your own matzah. In *Mea Shearim* and some other neighbourhoods, there are locked storefronts which conceal matzah bakeries, which are only open during the weeks before Passover. Obviously, nothing is as authentic as creating your own "bread of affliction," the very same as it was baked about 32 centuries ago not that far away, in the land of Egypt.

Chol haMoed Pesach is a time for many vacations. The spring flowers will all be in bloom along the roadways. Unfortunately, this can be a tragic time as well - many are killed on highways at this time, due to increased traffic. Let us hope, that a campaign, sponsored jointly by the government and the Chief Rabbinate started some years ago to alert Jews to the responsibility of safe driving, has been effective in reducing this tragically needless carnage, which has in fact claimed more lives than all of Israel's wars.

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Were You Forced To Work For The Nazis?

Jewish Holocaust Survivors May Be Entitled To Compensation From A New Fund

Individuals who performed slave or forced labor under the Nazi regime may be eligible for payment from the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future." In accordance with the German legislation, eligibility for "slave labor" and "forced labor" is as follows:

- **Slave Labor** – work performed by force in a concentration camp (as defined in the German Indemnification Law) or a ghetto or another place of confinement under comparable conditions of hardship.
- **Forced Labor** – work performed by force (other than "Slave Labor") in the territory of the German Reich or in a German-occupied area, and outside the territory of Austria, under conditions resembling imprisonment or extremely harsh living conditions; or work performed by force under a program implementing the National Socialist policy of "extermination through work" (*Vernichtung durch Arbeit*) outside the territory of Austria.

The Claims Conference is administering this program for the benefit of Jewish Holocaust survivors in this country. Heirs of laborers who died on or after February 16, 1999 may be eligible for this fund.

The deadline is **August 11, 2001**. If you think you may be eligible, please obtain an application form by calling:

Atlantic Jewish Council
902-422-7491

or Mr. David Korn
902-443-2799

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.

Claims Conference web site: www.claimscon.org

Shavuot and Vegetarianism

By Richard H. Schwartz

There are many connections between vegetarianism and the important Jewish festival of Shavuot:

1. Shavuot is described as "z'man matan Toratenu" (the season of the giving of our law (the Torah)). It is this Torah that has in its very first chapter G-d's original, strictly vegetarian, dietary law: "And God said: 'Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed - to you it shall be for food'" (Genesis 1:29).
2. To honor the Torah, many Jews stay up the entire first night of Shavuot to study Torah teachings. It is some of these teachings -to guard our health and our lives, to treat animals with compassion, to share with hungry people, to protect the environment, and to conserve natural resources - that are the basis for Jewish vegetarianism.
3. Shavuot is also known as "Chag Hakatzir" (the Harvest Festival), since it climaxes the year's first harvest. Hence, it can remind us that many more people can be sustained on vegetarian diets than on animal -centered diets. While the Torah stresses that farmers are to leave the corners of their fields and the gleanings of their harvests for the hungry, over 70% of the grain grown in the United States is fed to animals destined for slaughter, as 15 to 20 million people worldwide die annually because of hunger and its effects.
4. The Talmudic sages also referred to Shavuot as "Atzeret" (the closing festival of Passover). This name implies not only that Shavuot completes the harvest begun at Passover time, but also suggests that the Torah completes the physical liberation celebrated during Passover. Yet, while the Torah has many teachings on compassion toward animals and indicates, as part of the Ten Commandments, that animals are also to be able to rest on the Sabbath day, most farm animals are kept in cramped confined spaces where they are denied exercise, fresh air, sunlight, and the fulfillment of their instinctual needs.
5. There are several other Torah teachings that are seriously violated by animal-based diets:
 - a) While the Torah mandates that people should be very careful about preserving their health and their lives (Deuteronomy: 4-9, 4-15), animal-centered diets have been linked to heart disease, stroke, several forms of cancer, and other illnesses.
 - b) While many Torah teachings are concerned with protecting the environment, modern intensive animal agriculture results in soil erosion and depletion, extensive air and water pollution related to chemical fertilizer and pesticides, and the destruction of tropical rain forests and other habitats.
 - c) While the Torah mandates bal tashchit, (Deuteronomy 20:19, 20) that we are not to waste or unnecessarily destroy anything of value, livestock agriculture requires the wasteful use of food, land, water, energy, and other resources.
6. Shavuot is a festival of thanksgiving to the Creator for His kindness. The full Hallel, psalms of praise and

thanksgiving from Psalm 113 to 118, are chanted during morning synagogue services. Since one must be in good health and have a clear conscience in order to fully rejoice and be thankful, the many health benefits of vegetarian diets and the knowledge that such diets are not harmful to hungry people or animals are factors that can enhance thankfulness.

7. On Shavuot, Jews read the Book of Ruth in synagogues. One reason is that its barley-harvest setting echoes the harvest just ending as Shavuot arrives. One of Ruth's outstanding attributes was her acts of kindness. Vegetarianism is a way of showing kindness, because it best shares food with hungry people and it doesn't involve the mistreatment and death of animals.
 8. The Book of Ruth begins with Naomi, Ruth's future mother-in-law, and her family leaving Israel because of a severe famine. Today, major shortages of food in the near future are being predicted by the Worldwatch Institute, a Washington DC think tank, and others, and one major reason is that people in China, Japan, India, and other countries where affluence has been increasing, are moving to animal-centered diets that require vast amounts of grain.
 9. The Book of Ruth indicates that Naomi's family suffered the death of her husband and her two sons because the family fled in the time of famine rather than using their leadership to help others in need. In contrast to this selfish act, vegetarianism considers not only personal well being, but also encompasses broader concerns, including the global environment, the world's hungry people, animals, and the efficient use of the world's resources.
 10. According to the Talmud, Shavuot is the day of judgment for fruit trees and there is an obligation to pray for them. Yet, to create pasture land for cattle, tropical forests are being rapidly destroyed. The production of just one quarter-pound fast food hamburger can require the destruction of almost 55 square feet of tropical rain forest along with much animal and plant life.
 11. Shavuot involves the highest spiritual teachings (the revelation of the Torah on Mount Sinai) and down-to-earth considerations - the wheat harvest and the offering of the first fruits in the Temple. This reminds us that ideally we should relate heaven to earth and translate the Divine laws to our daily lives. Vegetarianism is an attempt to do this because it applies Torah teaching to our sustenance needs.
- In view of these and other connections, I hope that Jews will enhance their celebrations of the beautiful and spiritually meaningful holiday of Shavuot by making it a time to begin striving even harder to live up to Judaism's highest moral values and teachings by moving toward a vegetarian diet.

Richard H. Schwartz, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314 (718) 982-3621 FAX: (718)982-3631 Author of "Judaism and Vegetarianism", "Judaism and Global Survival", and "Mathematics and Global Survival."

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In the Aftermath of SR 111: A Decision in Jewish Law

By Dr. Jay Levinson
Israel Police (retired)

In many ways the crash of Swissair 111 on the night of 2 September 1998 was a landmark in aviation history. To cite one example, this crash was the first major accident in which DNA played a key role in victim identification. In all, 1264 pieces of human remains from 228 bodies were identified by RCMP laboratories in 105 days. Those DNA identifications raised another cardinal question — the evidentiary value of DNA in Jewish Law.

Earlier this year **Rabbi Moshe Klein** of Bnei Brak issued a decision about DNA in Jewish Law. That decision, approved by **Rabbis Wozner** and **Karelitz**, set forth the rule that DNA cannot be the sole basis of an identification. It must be supported by some other information and then be brought to a rabbinic court for decision.

If this position appears to be more conservative than current scientific thinking, it must be remembered that DNA identification was first initiated in 1985, and extensive experience is only now being accrued. The decision also takes into consideration basic aspects of Jewish Law. Since DNA is insufficient as sole evidence, there is no fear of establishing a mamzer (a child fathered by other than a married woman's husband). The decision also reminds about another reality, sometimes forgotten in secular law — the scientist only presents opinions and findings; it is the Court that makes decisions.

This halachic ruling, undertaken because of the Swissair crash, has already been accepted by several rabbinic organizations when weighing DNA evidence.

Coming to Halifax – Summer 2001

The Atlantic Jazz Festival will be held in Halifax from July 6 to 14, 2001. The following performances may be of particular interest to our community:

1. The **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** which will be the main act in the tent (World Music Stage) at the corner of Spring Garden and Queen on Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at 8:00 p.m.
2. **Marilyn Lerner** (pianist) and **David Wall** (voice) – both members of the Flying Bulgars – are presenting a program

of traditional Yiddish songs – in Yiddish – at the du Maurier theatre. The tentative date is Tuesday, July 10 at either 7 or 8 p.m.

These artists and others are involved in additional collaborations incorporating Eastern European and middle eastern music. The full program will be announced in the media on May 29. Information will also be available at www.jazzeast.com or phone 492-2225.

Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Leonard** and **Miriam Goldberg** on the recent Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Marissa**, daughter of **Dr. Marc** and **Marilyn Goldberg** of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Sheva Medjuck** on her appointment as Dean of Arts and Science, Mount St. Vincent University.

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Barrie & Bette Ross** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Cohana Neria Esther**, on January 31, 2001. Proud parents are **Brian** and **Susan Ross** of Los Angeles, CA and maternal grandparents are **Paula** and **Phil Nathan** of California.

Mazel Tov to **Risa & Zev Gewurz** on the birth of their daughter **Danya Irit** January 29, 2001. Grandparents **Carol Lee & Ralph Loebenberg** and **Sam & Brenda Gewurz** of Montreal and Great Grandparents **Rita & Sol Urman** of Montreal.

Mazel Tov to **Aviva Rubin & Jonathan Schneider** on their engagement and to their parents **Myrna & Zack Rubin** and **Elaine & Ivor Schneider**.

Congratulations to **Joel Jacobson** who was honoured by the CIAU at the recent Final Eight men's basketball championships at Halifax Metro Centre. Joel has been a volunteer at CIAUs since the tourney found a home here 18 years ago.

Congratulations to **Dov Bercovici** on his recent appointment as Vice-President Growth and Operations at Acadia University, Wolfville effective May 1st, 2001.

Congratulations to **Adam Conter** who played the lead role of Billy Crocker in the Halifax Grammar School Production of "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter. Congratulations also to **Eric Goldberg** (Reporter Charlie), **Jenna Conter** (Chastity Angel), and **Yolana Wassersug** (Purity Angel) and stage and makeup – **Lisa Goldberg**.

Congratulations to **Marianne Ferguson** who recently celebrated her 75th birthday.

Congratulations to **Michael Argand** who recently celebrated his 50th birthday.

Congratulations to **Peter Herschorn** who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

The Atlantic Jewish Council welcomes **Yaron** and **Netta Vardi** and their family who recently moved to our community from Israel.

Condolences to **Alan Stern** and family on the recent loss of his mother, **Sophie**.

Condolences to the family of the late **Jean Zabrowski**.

Condolences to **Renee Dankner** on the passing of her mother Mrs. **Anne Wineberg**.

Condolences to **Abe Leventhal** on the recent loss of his beloved wife **Elaine**.

continued on page 27

Chanukah and Purim at the Temple Sons of Israel ~ Sydney, N.S.

By Evelyn Davis

A Chanukah supper was held at Temple Sons of Israel on December 27th. A hot meal was served with plenty of potato latkes. **Faye David** and **Edith Lecker** were convenors. Deserts were provided by the members.

Front row (L-R): Diana Schwartz, Avvie Druker, Ethel Webber, Evy Druker; Back Row (L-R): Irving Schwartz, Harvey Webber ▼



The Yazer family: Standing (L-R): Jack, Harold
Sitting (L-R): Zelda, Eleanor, Thomas, Florence,
Shelly, Erica ▼



▲L-R: Ruth Goldstein, Ron Kaplan, Shirley Chernin, Sharon Ervin



▲L-R: Harold Davis, Ana Harlot, Dan Harlot, Sam Mendleson, Herman Nathanson, Barbara Nathanson

For Purim, we had four Queen Esthers and one King Ahasverosh. A Purim party was enjoyed by the congregation.

Shirley Dubinsky with her pupils: Nesy Ostry, Ella Dubinsky, Whitney Karrell, Leah Ostry and Justina Zatzman ►



continued from page 25

Condolences to **Mike Merovitch** on the loss of his sister, **Miriam Zipes**.

Mazel Tov to **Bob and Shirley Wolman** on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to **Joseph Zatzman**, C.M. who was recently presented with "The Inaugural Foundation Award" by the Dartmouth Seniors' Service Centre.

Mazel Tov to **Lysa Magder** and **Mark Appleton** on their upcoming wedding.

A fond farewell to **Yakov Feig** and **Denise Sherman** and of course, Joshua who will be leaving the Atlantic Region for Boston in June 2001.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom** who received an Honourary Degree from NSCAD on April 22, 2001.

Mazel Tov to **Sari Zelenietz**, who received an NSERC – Summer Undergraduate Research Award at Dalhousie University in Science.

Mazel Tov to **Justin Keyes**, son of **Elaine and Terry Keyes** and grandson of **Anetta and Sid Chernin**, upon graduating from St. Mary's University with his MBA. Justin has accepted a position as a Bond Trader with Cosgrain & Co. in Montreal.

Mazel Tov to **Morris Strug** on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Matthew Offman**, son of **Joel and Ardith**, grandson of **Helen**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah on May 5, 2001.

Mazel Tov to **Leonard and Florie Fineberg** on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary; also, on the recent marriage of their daughter, **Deborah** to **Rodney Hole**.

If you would like to place an announcement, i.e. high school graduations, birthdays, etc. please e-mail **Marie Herschorn** at mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca or call 422-7491 on or before August 15, 2001.

E-Mail addresses

Don't miss any of the latest news via the World Wide Internet. Join our ever growing E-mail list by sending, calling or e-mailing Ann Enman at: jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca your e-mail address or a change in your e-mail address.

The Future of the AJC Chaplaincy Dear Readers and Friends:

As many of you are aware, during the past three years, the AJC, through our Regional Chaplaincy, has been able to provide rabbinical support to many of our smaller communities throughout the region. Our Chaplain has visited the sick, performed religious services, officiated at funerals and has provided Halachic presence in many of our communities that have been without a Rabbi for decades.

Unfortunately I must inform our readers that our funding sources may no longer be available as of December 31, 2001. The AJC would like to maintain this position but we need your help. If you have any suggestions or if you can be of assistance in any way, please contact our Executive Director, Jon M. Goldberg at 422-7491, Ext. #22.

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Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay Board of Directors, October, 1988

Front row, L to R: Sammy Karrel, Ellie Marshall, Phil Simon, Len Schelew, Sender Zilbert
Second row, L to R: Phillie Simon, Benny Lipkus, Nate Simon, Sol Shore, Norman Simon, Sammy Mendelson, Isaac Ein



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The AJC and UIA Federations Canada are proud to sponsor the Saturday Night Gala Evening, August 4, 2001, as part of the weekend celebrations.

