

Shalom!

Winter 2002 Vol. 27, No. 1

Choref 5762

שלום!

at Chanukah



May the happiness of Chanukah
And all its joy and cheer
Remain within your heart and home
Throughout a happy year.

שלום

President's Message

President: Dr. Sheva Medjuck

By Dr. Sheva Medjuck



The Atlantic Jewish Council

Quarterly

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Supervising Editor:

Jon Goldberg

Assistant Editor

Marie Herschorn

Copy Supervisor:

Ann Enman

Contributing Editor:

Joel Jacobson

Design and Layout:

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

Address all correspondence to:
Editor, c/o Shalom
5670 Spring Garden Road
Suite 508

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6
Tel. (902) 422-7491
Fax (902) 425-3722

Email:

jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

Email:

atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

Website:

www.theajc.ns.ca

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It is hard to believe that it's almost Hanukkah and that winter is (alas) upon us. This fall has been one that has significantly impacted on all our lives.

Like everyone else in the community, I watched with great concern the unfolding of events in the world. The tragedies in New York and Washington and the subsequent crisis in Afghanistan has irrevocably changed the course of political history. And of course, for the Jewish community, we have the added concerns of what it all means for Israel and for a lasting peace.

On the home front, the Atlantic Jewish Council continues to represent the Jewish community as fully as we are able. I have attended several meetings of the Canadian Jewish Congress national officers. As well in December there are the semi-annual meetings of the Board of United Israel Appeal. While this region is small, rest assured that we are not quiet, and the Atlantic region is well known and well respected at these national meetings.

In response to the growing feeling of frustration among many members of the Jewish community and particularly among our university students in the region, we brought in a well-respected Israeli academic, Dr. **Gerald Steinberg**, to discuss the Middle East situation. His talk and ensuing question and answer period provided for many of

us a perspective and an analysis that has been lacking in the popular press. The Atlantic Jewish Council plans to have other speakers address us on the prospects of peace in the Middle East during the winter.

I am pleased to report that we have found a stopgap solution to the financial problems the AJC had encountered with the chaplaincy position. We had requested that the local communities that utilize **Rabbi Ellis's** services help in part to finance this position. We are very grateful that the communities have pulled through on this and recognize the importance of the chaplaincy. In particular, I would like to thank the communities of Saint John and Sydney and Glace Bay for their support of this most important initiative. This, together with help from UIA and from our own AJC budget, has alleviated the problem for now.

I had the most pleasurable opportunity of attending the Massada Club's Hanukkah lunch and was entertained by the very talented Northwood Players as well as being fed delicious latkes. It was a delightful entree into the Hanukkah season.

On behalf of my sister, **Shulamith**, and myself (and for you animal lovers my dog, **Herschel**) I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Happy Hanukkah.



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

“Chanukah – 5762”

Jon M. Goldberg

At Chanukah we light our candles to celebrate our freedom and in particular, the freedom we have in this wonderful country – to live and worship as Jews. Unfortunately there is a cloud of anti-Semitism hovering over our world which is being fed by hatred and terror perpetrated by Muslim fundamentalists and anti-Israel forces in the far Middle East. My fellow Jews, this is a fact of our lives today that can't be ignored but I assure you we can do something about it.

We now find ourselves as Jews for the first time in two thousand years exercising power. Until the establishment of the State of Israel we were powerless. From the destruction of the Temple in the year 70, with the exception of the Bar Kochba Revolt in 132 – 135 C.E., we did not wield power until the beginning of the Zionist movement, which culminated in the establishment of Eretz Israel. For whom do we now exercise power? We use power in fulfillment of our covenant with G-d. This time our fulfillment of the covenant with G-d is that not are we only responsible for G-d but we will help Him with His side of the deal as well. We will take care of ourselves. What does this mean as the Jewish people and civilization itself nears the end of 2001?

Since September 11 the world has been focused on terrorism and the threat of radical Islamic zealots to the peace and stability of our society. The State of Israel and the Jewish people have been confronting this reality in various degrees for over 50 years. As a people we have survived over 2000 years of anti-Semitism, which culminated in the Holocaust and had its origins in one way or another through Christianity. Now as we enter the 21st Century the new threat does not come from our Christian neighbours but from Islam and those who would use that religion for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel purposes. As Jews in Atlantic Canada we are confronted with the issues of Jewish security, terrorism, international human rights and anti-Israel sentiment, the rise of Islamic anti-Semitism and continued Israel bashing in the media. Our enemies would have the world believe that Zionism is a form of racism and continue to attempt to almost equate this word as a modern Nazism. An example is the recent Conference Against Racism in South Africa

and the continued anti-Israel rhetoric used on our campuses almost on a daily basis. While I personally believe that the Jewish community of Canada is under no real physical threat, I do believe each of us in our own way should feel free to express our views, our support for Israel and the values that we the Jewish people in our 3000 years of history have brought to western society and culture.

We have done our duty as citizens in this country. As a people we have been a key factor in nation building especially since WWII. If our government engages in a course of action, which is not in the best interests of the Jewish people or the State of Israel, we must speak out. If our newspapers, our radios and our televisions are being used to turn the hearts and minds of our fellow Canadians against Israel and our Zionist history, we must speak out. We have nothing to be afraid of for we are full partners in the Canadian mosaic.

As Israel buries its dead day after day, week after week, each name I read is like someone from our own community. The world has asked for restraint as Jewish blood is spilled. This is a same world that did nothing for Africans in Rwanda or Sudan, did little or nothing to prevent the slaughter in the Balkans. We as Jews must know that no one will help us unless we are prepared to help ourselves. Now is the time, my friends, to stand up for the Jewish people, to support the State of Israel financially, morally and even visit if you can.

Once again we are threatened by an ideology bent on our destruction. The State of Israel must remain strong. We must lobby our friends, our politicians and all those who can help. It is time for all of us as Jews to exercise the power and influence that we have built in this country over the past century as law abiding, productive citizens. We exercise this power for our sake and for G-d's sake.

Let us all light an extra candle this year at Chanukah as a memorial to those Israelis who have died because they chose to live as Jews in Eretz Israel.

Happy Chanukah to all and may 2002 be a year of peace for Israel and for the world.



From the Programmer's Desk

By Aviva Rubin

Shalom all!

My name is **Aviva Rubin** a new member of the Atlantic Jewish Council team. I have taken over the

position so capably handled by **Lysa Magder**.

Congratulations on her recent marriage to **Mark Appleton** and I wish them Mazel Tov on all their future endeavors. I have been working at the **AJC** for the past two months planning events, meeting students and young professionals and generally learning the ropes from **Jon Goldberg**, **Marie Herschorn**, **Joanna Mirsky**, **Ann Enamn** and **Rabbi Ellis**.

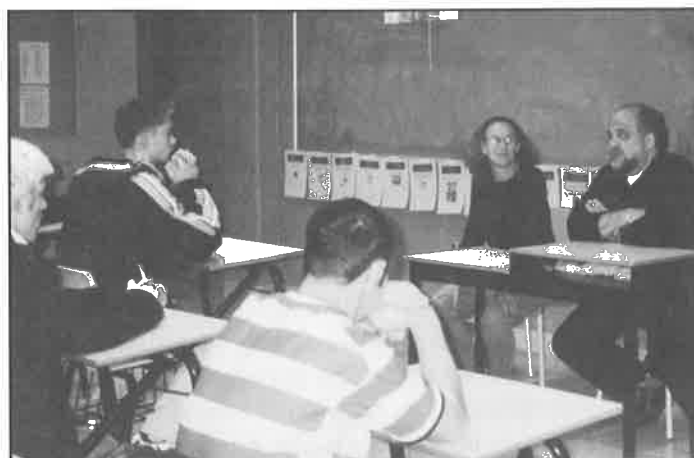
I was born in Halifax in 1973 and lived here for 6 years before my parents made the decision in 1979 to make Aliyah. We lived in Israel for 7 years before returning to Montreal in 1986. My Family and I returned to Halifax in 1993. I attended Acadia University and graduated with a BA in Sociology in 1996. In 2000, I graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education and I am now working on my Masters of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University. My love and passion for Israel, being in a small Jewish community and working with youth and young professionals are some of the many reasons I take pride in what I am doing here for you at the Atlantic Jewish Council.

On November 7th the Jewish Community, APJSF, and local dignitaries gathered at the Cenotaph at the Grand Parade in Central Halifax to remember and commemorate *kristalnacht* – 'the night of broken glass' also known as Dignity Day.

I am pleased to announce that the Halifax Young Professionals have met on two occasions thus far. On November 9th a Shabbat Dinner was held in conjunction with APJSF at which **Rabbi Benji Jacobi** joined us for discussions on "Where was God during the Holocaust," and "What it means to be Jewish in a small community." On December 8th a Hanukkah Party was held, and thanks to **Jack Haller** for arranging the venue. I am looking forward to many interesting and stimulating events come January and the New Year.

With regard to APJSF outlying regions, I recently had the opportunity to visit some of the Jewish university students for coffee in Fredericton and Moncton: *what a success!* I would like to thank **Sharonne** and **James Katz** for helping me contact the students at UNB and St. Thomas, and for the delicious dinner. **Sara Weinrib** for contacting the students at Mount Allison and keeping me up to date as to what they are planning. **Yaron** and **Revital Fuks** are Monctons own 'Aravim,' they have been extremely accommodating and willing to help with events dealing with the university students at Mount Allison and Universitee de Moncton. I would also like to thank them for their hospitality during my visit to Moncton.

Fred Hall, a history teacher at Millwood High School in Sackville, invited **Linda Epstein** and **Zack Rubin** to address



Linda Epstein and Zack Rubin at Millwood High School in Sackville.

two of his global history classes on November 20th. They discussed the current situation in Israel and the Middle East crisis. The students were eager to learn and asked many pointed and interesting questions. Thank you Zack and Linda for taking the time from your busy schedules to inform and talk to high school students.

As the Canada Israel Experience representative for the Atlantic Region, I am pleased to announce that the **birthright** program will be sending eight young adults to Israel in December and five in February. The participants are **Noah Schipper**, **Maya Hamou**, **Ben Kates**, **Mike Silver**, **Jeremy Richardson**, **Martin Kraft**, **Philippe Rabin**, **Sharonne Katz**, **Carrie Teitel**, **Joanna Stein**, **Lesley Henry**, **Sari Feferman** and **Brett Fine**. Sharonne Katz from Fredericton will be participating in the **Anguish to Hope/birthright** national program in December, a program which includes a three day educational experience in Poland prior to arriving in Israel. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing all their stories and experiences upon their return to our region.

On the early morning of December 6th the AJC represented by a group of youngsters accompanied by myself and **Darcie Richler** appeared on Breakfast Television. **Myrna Yazer** 'cooked up a storm' with her famous latkes and filled **Liz Rigney's** and **Scott Boyds'** bellies. We displayed a table with dreidles, Hanukkah cards and a menorah and briefly spoke about the 'festival of lights'!

As the new programmer at the AJC I look forward to many successful events in the future and your suggestions and input will be greatly appreciated. Thank you Jon Goldberg for your leadership and guidance while I learn the ropes. A special thank you to my husband, **Jonathan Schneider**, for his support and encouragement in my new endeavor.

I wish you all a very Happy Hanukkah!
Aviva



From the Desk of the Youth Program Director

By Darcie Richler

Editor's Note: A special program grant has been given to Moncton for youth programming. For information call Francis Weil, Moncton.

Shalom,

What an intense few months it has been. Who would have thought that the start of the school year would have brought such frightening and uncertain times for us all? Despite everything going on in the world, our youth group has been very busy. With a strong executive being led by **Sara Zatzman** and **Leah Zilbert**, we are having a great time with our programs. As well, our executive includes others such as **Ava Tsinman** and **Shira Tsinman**, **A.J LeVine**, **Amy Mendleson**, **Jill Chatt**, **Jenna Conter**, **Lauren** and **Brendan Rosen**, **Josh David**, **Sarah Whitzman**, **Eric Goldberg**, **Hanna Zatzman**, **Lena Rubenstein** and **Yoli Wassersug** (My apologies if I have forgotten any names here). This group has been extremely helpful in making sure that the programs are what the group wants. As well, they have many plans for the winter Shabbaton.

The grades 2-6 have had a great time. We started off by going apple picking in honour of Rosh Hashanah. Thankfully, the day was beautiful and warm, unlike the downpour that we experienced the year before. The apples were outstanding and most of us were well into our 10 pound bags once we were back on the bus back to town. Thanks to **Jody Kane**, **Kate Redvers**, **Barbara** and **Aviva Silburt**, **Rabbi** and **Mrs. Ellis**, **Sarah Whitzman**, **Josh David** and **Jenna Conter** for their help in making sure that the day would be a success! October brought the grades 2-6 an afternoon of cosmic bowling. Once again, with a great turnout, we bowled to our hearts content! The day would not have been as fun without the help from **Leah Zilbert**, **Aviva Silburt** and **Sarah Whitzman**. November brought a few fun programs for the youth. Laser Tag, mini golf and the arcade games were a blast...although running around in the dark with a laser gun is at times a little crazy! Thanks again to **Sarah Whitzman** and **Aviva Silburt** and **Sara Zatzman** for their help.

The grades 7-9 and 10-12 have had a whole bunch of fun programs too, as well as some bad luck at the same time! Deep sea kayaking in September was incredible. While our group was a little nervous about the whole idea of kayaking on open ocean, we had a great time. The scenery was gorgeous and again, we were lucky to have great weather. Unfortunately, our luck with paintball and our picnic at camp, seemed not to work in September and October. Between bad weather and the robbery at Splatshot, we were not able to play paintball. If the bus had shown up on the beautiful Sunday afternoon for the picnic, we would have spent the day at Kadimah! After spending five minutes with the ducks and birds in the Public Gardens (and watching me not enjoy the birds and **Brendan Rosen** getting bitten by a duck) with the hopes of eating all of our food there, we had a picnic in the AJC office (at least in good company!).



Back L-R: **Hanna Zatzman**, **Sarah Whotzman**, **Aviva Stilburt**.
Front L-R: **Robyn Budovitch**, **Louis Zatzman**, **Rebecca David**



Grades 7 - 12 - deep sea kayaking!

Thankfully we had some fun in November with Swing Dancing and the Harry Potter movie. Swing Dancing with **Michel Dube** was a delight. While the participants banned me from taking pictures, I can assure you all that they were very good by the end of the night. I must say that I was slightly worried about whether or not this program would work, but the level of enthusiasm was very high and we all learned a lot. The program was so successful that we are now in the midst of putting a Salsa class together for a couple of months over the winter. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was also a blast. With over sixty people in attendance, we were lucky to have the best seats in the house reserved for us. The consensus was that the movie was great, even for those muggles who have yet to read the books.

The winter will see all sorts of new programs. Between the Biluim and Kadimah Israel participants making a program for the younger children on their trip, perhaps a Purim mask making afternoon and some other new fun things to do, we will be kept very busy throughout January, February and March.

For anyone between grades 6-12, mark down February 8th-10th on your calendars. This will be the exciting weekend of the Shabbaton 2002 Ski Trip at the Old Orchard Inn. The applications will be sent out very soon and the spots are going to fill up quickly. I can promise you all a weekend of fun and crazy programs, and even better than the ones from last year!

If you have not already been put on our online newsletter, please do so. This will entitle you to getting updates on programs as well as different opportunities for you that will not be sent out in the mail. We are trying to move to an e-program so please help us out by emailing drichler@hotmail.com with your address.

Until the spring, have a safe and fun winter. Let us all hope that Israel sees a new light in the same period.

Two Hampton, NB Lawyers honoured by Canadian Jewish Congress and the Atlantic Jewish Council

By Joel Jacobson

Printed in Canadian Jewish News

HALIFAX – Two Hampton, N.B. lawyers were honoured by Canadian Jewish Congress and the Atlantic Jewish Council recently (Sun Sept.9) for their efforts in winning an appeal for newspaper cartoonist, **Josh Beutel** against Holocaust denier and former teacher, **Malcolm Ross**.

David and **Brenda Lutz** were recognized at a Congress national officers meeting in Halifax, the first time such a meeting was held in Atlantic Canada.

It was the most trying case of our careers, Mr. Lutz said. It went on for six years, from the time in 1995 when Mr. Beutel was served for libel until the appeal decision came down last May.

Mr. Beutel, an editorial page cartoonist with the (New Brunswick) Telegraph-Journal, had caricatured Mr. Ross as a Nazi following Mr. Ross' conviction on illegally using his Moncton N.B. classroom to foment anti-Semitism. A judge hearing the original defamation case ruled in favour of Mr. Ross but the three-member New Brunswick Court of Appeal overthrew that verdict 3-0.

Mr. Lutz is a real mensch, said **Tom Kuttner**, Fredericton, a lawyer and professor at University of New Brunswick, involved with many of AJC's anti-racism and anti-Semitism efforts. He did all his work pro bono and didn't even ask for expenses. He did a three-week trial before the first judge after doing many hours of preparation and, with Brenda writing the appellant brief, reviewed 4,500 pages of transcript.

Mr. Kuttner said he looked for someone in the Jewish community to do the work but Mr. Lutz had asked to help with the Ross case several years before and I went to him with this one. He readily agreed.

Mr. Lutz said "this was the most important thing I've done

since I became a lawyer. Hopefully I won't have to do anything this important again".

Mr. Beutel said the March 2001 decision and the passage of the Sept. 1 deadline for Mr. Ross to counter appeal (he didn't) lifted a heavy burden

from his shoulders. Still working with the New Brunswick newspaper on a contract basis, Mr. Beutel said the final outcome means nothing practically in my role as a cartoonist with a small conservative newspaper. But the implications are important to newspapers, cartoonists and journalists.

The court agreed with Mr. Lutz' contention that it was not necessary for Mr. Beutel to prove Mr. Ross was a card-carrying Nazi which his cartoon implied.

Mr. Lutz said he originally wanted to do the case from the legal angle but he realized how important it was for a non-Jewish person to do it.

I wanted Malcolm Ross and his followers to know it was not a (Jewish) conspiracy (to defeat them and their thinking). I wanted to show them it offends all Canadians. I did it pro bono, and with no expenses, so Mr. Ross couldn't say Jews have money to pay for cases like this. He told Congress members, "I recall how true the words of (18th century essayist) **Edmund Burke** are: All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. I wanted to do something".



L-R: Dr. Sheva Medjuck, AJC President, David Lutz, Brenda Lutz, Keith Landy, AJC President.

The AJC website has a guestbook so visitors can leave comments and messages. Sometimes the messages are for members of the community or inquiries or compliments and suggestions. All comments are welcome. Recently the website editorial team was singled out for some positive feedback, and we are sharing it with you. The feedback is from Keith Samuelson, one of the mentors for the PWC Holocaust project initiated by the Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's, Newfoundland. The project may be found by going to the website News, Etcetera section of www.theajc.ns.ca

Entry # 107:

"Incredible site! Quite user-friendly, interesting and informative.

"Very useful for teachers and students. Keep up the great work; you obviously have a deeply committed and highly skilled staff."

Keith Samuelson
St. John's, Newfoundland

Name: Edita Blitman

Where are you from?: USA

Comments:

Hi,

I want to say HELLO!!! to anyone who remember us, Edita, Juan, Leonel and Lizandro(born in St. John's!)

Herrera-Blitman.

We landed at Gander, on February 1992, and moved to St. John's the same month, from a long trip to Russia, our short stay in St. John's with many

friends of the Jewish community was one of the periods in our life, that we always remember everytime when we say our prayers.

We always remember and are grateful to all members of this small but, big in heart jewish community, and promising to come back to visit you one of these days.

Hope to hear from you our friends!
Date: 2001-11-29 19:58:42 (Pacific Time)

From Our Archives

**Shaar Shalom Synagogue ~ Hebrew School
Halifax, Nova Scotia**



Top Row (left to right): Dennis Perlin, Nordau Kanigsberg, Mark Offman, Elliot Jacobson, Allan Offman, Tommy Webber, Stanley Morris, Norman Ferguson, Jon Goldberg, Martin Frank, Marc Goldberg, Martin Herschorn, , Ricky Perlin, Ian Chernin, Elaine Chernin.

Second Row (left to right): Millie Pascal, Carol Ann Fried, Paul Goldberg, Lynn Jacobson, Nancy Herschorn, Harriette Pascal, Marlene Jakin, Paula Zebberman, Linda Offman, Susan Goldberg, Marsha Green, Laila Rockman.

Third Row (left to right): Shawna Perlin, Mavoline Simon, Randy Ferguson, Joey Sadofsky, Joey Sting, George Gutfreund, Shelley Simon.

Bottom Row (on floor, left to right): Keile Green, Cheryl Goldberg,
Susan Green,
Harriet Jakin.

*Circa ~ 1959?
Can you fill in the blank names?*

JNF – 100 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

It was at the fifth Zionist Congress (1901) that Herzl suggested adapting Professor Shapira's recommendation to create a Jewish National Fund for the purpose of buying and reclaiming the land of Israel.

100 years later, JNF's record of achievement is a most impressive one and contains, among other things:

Land purchasing	650,000 acres
Tree planting	220,000,000 trees
Reclaiming barren land for agriculture	275,000 acres
Road building	7,000 km
Housing infrastructure	1,000 settlements
Finding/creating/improving water resources	162,500 acres
Water reservoirs	100 reservoirs

What a record! And there is much more to do, most importantly in the areas of water and the improvement of the environment.

All this was achieved thanks to your support. We want this record to continue. The melody should go on with your help.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to JNF and to the Land of Israel.

The annual TuBshvat Telethon will take place this year on January 27th, 2002. Please contact the Halifax office at 902-422-7491 ext 25 and speak to Joanna Mirsky if you want to be a volunteer for this year's campaign.

Please give generously as every tree counts!

Happy Chanukah everyone!

Eli Shenhav

National Education Emissary

AJC Web Site Receives Extensive Revisions

Visit the AJC website at <www.theajc.ns.ca>

The AJC website has undergone major revisions and many improvements which we believe will make it interesting, informative and useful to the Atlantic Jewish Community.

Herewith a few highlights:

- There are buttons for various subjects such as "kosher food", "University Students", "AJC Contacts".
- There are three items that I specially wish to draw to your attention.
- On the main page there is a button, "Current Events in Israel". If you click on that button it will link you to the latest edition of the Jerusalem Post and the English edition of Haaretz.
- We have also provided a button that lists Frequently Asked Questions, (FAQ's), about the Intifada and short as well as more comprehensive answers. We obtained this material from the Foreign Ministry of Israel.

The Holocaust Education button leads to a page that has a Glossary, Chronology and FAQ's about the Holocaust as well as a few pictures and appropriate music. Most of the subject pages

have listed several links to other website with additional information in that area.

When you visit the AJC web site, you will find a useful site titled, "COMMUNITIES." We want to make this particular page more interesting and useful for members. Specifically we want to put short-dated information that would normally be published in Shalom Magazine, and give it a home on the AJC "COMMUNITIES". This material will continue to be published in Shalom but now it will be available on the web site as well on a monthly basis. We want to accomplish this, and we need your help. We ask that the individuals who provide the community events to the AJC for Shalom send it to Sandra Ireland<ireland@isn.net> What kind of news? All kinds...marriages, births, deaths, celebrations, anniversaries, new addresses, graduations, awards, events, news, help-wanted, and such. Please phone Sandra at 902-566-1427 evenings before 10 p.m. are best) if you have any questions regarding how to submit material for Shalom Magazine. Until further notice, e-mail is a better way to communicate with her, but don't hesitate to phone if you want some help with submitting articles.

I have already mentioned that Sandra Ireland is the website editor it would be remiss of me not to advise you that Fran Morrison from Sydney, NS is the web master.

Report of the Armistice Day Service Held in Monton

November 10 and 11, 2001

By Mendel Greenblatt

On Saturday, November 10, the regular Shabbat service was held at the Shul and attended by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada and Associate members.

The War Veterans Group were given Aliyas.

James Katz who is a law student at UNB in Fredericton recited the Maftir and Haftorah.

Amongst the veterans and the Associates were **Irving Schelew, Francis Weil, Jack Brodie, Mendel Greenblatt,** and **Aharon Fuchs** who is a veteran of the Israeli Army and he and his wife are posted here in Moncton to teach the Jewish children.

Jack Brodie read the Musaf Service which he does every Shabbat.

After the Shabbat service, a Kiddush was served in the Shul annex under the direction of Mrs. **Carole Savage**. (When Mrs. Savage is unable to attend, the Kiddush is served by Mrs. **Joan Mayer** and Mrs. **Sarah Gorber**.)

The Armistice Day Service itself was held the next day, November 11 at the Moncton Coliseum.

Mr. Mendel Greenblatt read the *Ail Malah Rachamim* in Hebrew in memory of the Jewish Veterans who did not return.

Around the Region

By Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Chaplain

I am writing this today from Glace Bay. Just before I came here, I told someone in Halifax that I was coming for services. He remarked that he thought that the *Kum A'Heim* last August was supposed to have been the closing of the community.

Well, someone never told them that ! They have continued to hold services since the *Kum A'heim*, even though they've lost their master of the *Shocharit* service, **Archie Shore**, to Florida for the season. There was a full contingent last weekend. They "get by with a little help from their friends". **Louis Allen** usually goes to Shul in Sydney, but he comes over to the Bay, if needed. With the proviso, of course, that he is not needed for the Sydney minyan. There was the usual **Raymond Goldman** Kiddush, the good friendship and conversation.

And then there was something new this time. Just recently when I had visited, someone had "a fall down the steps" inside (all fine now). To prevent any future mishaps, two new doors were placed by each inside stairway. Now would they be making these improvements if they were getting ready to shut down?! No, they are still going. In Glace Bay, it won't be over till it's over!

I had the privilege of being in Sydney for the High Holidays this year. Here also, you hear laments about the large community that was but is no more. Yet when I was there, all fell in place. The *Yom Tov* melodies all come back to their choir, with no rehearsal. Everyone gets to Shul. People bring out their old hospitality; I would like to thank the **Davis'**, the **Leckers** and the **Chernins** especially for their welcome to me. So, it isn't over in Sydney either.

For the fifth consecutive year, I was in Saint John for Sukkot. I returned for their inspiring service during the Sabbath of Remembrance Day. Thanks to Mr. **Gar Meltzer** for

his arrangements.

We continually hear how September 11 has changed the world. It has also changed my role as the AJC Chaplain.

There was, I recall, a certain amount of apprehension about bringing a Rabbi to the AJC. After all, some would say, we aren't so religious. Okay, we need a Rabbi for funerals. It's alright for him to say a *b'rachah* and lead services, but don't let him have too much say and clout in the community – you remember those oldtime Rabbis.

But now things are different. Not at all that I have looked for the occasion, but now I find I am being called regularly to speak on our Jewish religion – obviously vis a vis the Moslim religion, but also of general interest. I have spoken to teachers at Queen Elizabeth High School, several churches and civic groups. **Jon Goldberg** and I both appeared before seminary students at the Atlantic School of Theology. I have met with Moslem representatives to the Inter-Faith Council and had private discussions with others. More meetings are in the offing.

The message is clear. We must have a greater knowledge of the Islamic tradition, not just a quick course since September 11. It will be the intellectual challenge of the Jewish community for the next generation to have properly qualified scholars of Judaism and Islam study objectively each other's texts, just as Jews and Christians have done in the past generations. Undoubtedly, Israel will be the centre for such study, because of its resources, its knowledge of the languages and its proximity to the events.

But then, how can we learn about other traditions if we do not know our own very well?! Let us hope that September 11 will give our community an impetus to learn better its sources. I am available to assist. Give me a call.

A Chanukah Message

By Rabbi Saul I. Aranov,

Beth Israel Synagogue

Lessons From The Menorah's Enlightenment and from The Dreidle (Sevivon)

The Chanukah celebration always begins in the month of Kislev and ends in the month of Tevet. It is the only Jewish festival occasion that is observed during two different months. This time of the year darkness prevails, as there are very few hours of daylight. That is why the symbol of the flickering lights on the Menorah are so precious in an otherwise darkened world.

What is the nature of that darkness that encompasses all things? It symbolizes lack of clear understanding of what constitutes a value system that is based on truth. Instead of seeing things clearly they are beclouded by false doctrines and confusion. If we turn back to the situation that prevailed as the first Chanukah occasion we note that the Judean political leadership, the reins of power that were controlled in the advantages of the materialism which were espoused by the ruling Greek Empires of the Middle East. No effort was made by the majority of Judeans to maintain a balance between materialism and spiritual values.

A small number of Temple priests led by the Mattiyahu and his sons known as the Maccabees refused to permit Hellenistic practices and political considerations to extinguish authentic Jewish value. They started a rebellion against the Seleucid Empire and its **King Antiochus Epiphanes** and against all those Hellenizing Jews who sold out their heritage for monetary gain and political advantage. Other Jews sold out their religion because it was more fashionable to follow the Greek style of living. In modern societies many Jews have been known to jettison their traditions and to assimilate to ways that are foreign to the Jewish spirit. The lesson of the Chanukah experience applies therefore *Bayamim Ha-hem Bazman Hazeh* to our times as it did when the first Chanukah festival was proclaimed 2165 years ago. The Mishkan – Tabernacle of Moses' time was completed in what was later designated as the month of Kislev. The Event that led to the destruction of Solomon's Temple by the Babylonian Empire transpired on the Tenth day of the month of Tevet.

Another characteristic of Chanukah that sets it apart from all other Jewish festive occasions is that it is the only holiday that originated in the land of Israel. Yet, its message is universal because for the first time in the Jewish experience Jews were prepared to fight for what they believe in even though they were outgunned and outnumbered. This sense of self-sacrifice served the Jewish nation well throughout its subsequent history even when the Jewish people lived far from their ancestral land. Other religious faith systems such as Christianity endured martyrdom based on this post-biblical Jewish experience.

The Symbol of The Sevivon (Dreidle) and World and Jewish History

Since the early Middle Ages the 'dreidle', top, Sevivon or treidle has become a popular form of amusement

especially for Jewish youngsters. Some tried to romanticize this practice by trying to relocate it to the times of the Hasmoneans as a device used by the Judeans to educate their children through what would pass for an innocent juvenile pastime of spinning the top, at a time when the Torah was outlawed by the Seleucid-Greek King Antiochus Epiphanes' edict prior to the Maccabean rebellion.

What is more probable is that the 'dreidle' - 'sevivon' copied the medieval use of dice used for gambling, in Germany which had four letters N.G., H. and S. inscribed on four sides. The 'N' stood for nichts – nothing, the 'G' for ganz – everything is won, 'H' for halb – half of the pot is won and the 'S' – stillein – put in addition coins. Those letters were substituted by the Hebrew letters "Nun" for "Nes", "Gimmel" for "Gadol", "Hay" for "Haya", "Shin" for "Sham" which meant 'a great miracle transpired there (in the holy land). In Israel the "Shin" letter was replaced by the "Pay" for the Hebrew word "Poh" which means 'here, in the Land of Israel'.

There is even a mystical-messianic connotation in the numerical value of the aforementioned Hebrew letters, which spells the Hebrew word for the Messiah – "Mashiach" both having the numerical value of 358. This 'dreidle' then was an imagined symbol of defiance to the dominating Syrian-Greek Empire that after their decline the Messiah would make his appearance.

The symbol of the "Sevivon" – dreidle can have other meanings. Just as it turns on its axis so the planet earth, the whole world turns on this axis. The spinning action of the dreidle calls to mind the spin-doctors who try to manage propaganda. The whole world experiences the same fate either sooner or later. The tendency of some who imagine themselves to be geographically remote from trouble spots on the globe and immune to the fate of others will soon learn that what goes around comes around. Isolationism, the ostrich complex will not spare them from becoming involved in the world.

Let us use the Hebrew letters on the Dreidle for just such a lesson. Diaspora Jewry stated "a great miracle happened" Sham" – there as if to say it could not happen here. The Israelis say, 'a great miracle occurred here (in the Holy Land) and it did. Presently, while Israelis suffered from the Intifada II for more than a year, North Americans could not imagine what Israelis endured until unfortunately it happen here. If the Jews were in the first to suffer for their religious beliefs to which they tenaciously clung, which the observance of Chanukah commemorates, then it is only a matter of time until the rest of humanity becomes similarly engulfed. There is no escape.

Finally the letters of the Dreidle remind us of the ups and downs of human existence. Some like the 'Gimel' are winners take all in life, while others like the letter 'Hay' make half as much. Still others are struggling to make ends meet like the letter 'Nun' they are left with nothing saved. Others like the 'Shin' – 'shtell' are always in debt. When all is said and done we are all indebted to the experience of Chanukah for to light, hope, optimism and the enlightenment that there are values for which it is worth to be willing to sacrifice. A Happy Chanukah!

Camp Kadimah Update 2002

Planning for camp is well on its way for the summer of 2002. The new camp committee lead by **Victor Goldberg** and **Jim Spatz** is actively involved in reviewing all aspects of the physical plant and program to make this summer another memorable one for campers and staff. Many senior and general staff will be returning from last summer. Our expected camper numbers should also be at the same level as last year. Our new Kadimah 2002 website (www.campkadimah.com) went on line in late November and has all the information for the camp season. Pictures will once again be posted daily during the camp season. A camp rally was held in Toronto on December 2, 2001 where new parents and campers met many staff and campers from last year.

If you need information for the coming camp season please contact our office at the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax.

I will have more detailed information in the New Year as we get closer to the summer season.



Marty hosting Their Honours and Aide-de-Camp, Summer 2001.

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CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The deadline for compensation for the slave and forced labor program is December 31, 2001.

If during the Second World War, prior to or during German occupation, you were persecuted as a Jew and were:

- In a concentration camp or a ghetto or another place of confinement under comparable conditions of hardship and forced to work (considered as slave labor in the German Foundation Law; or
- In a place of confinement under the auspices of the Nazi regime or its allies where freedom of movement was restricted; or
- Forced to work including while living at home

And this persecution occurred under German occupation or in territory controlled by German allies including Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Italy, etc.), you may be eligible for a payment from the German Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future" and/or the Swiss Banks Settlement.

Persons who were forced to work in Tunisia under German occupation or in Libya during the war may also be eligible.

The German Foundation Law provides for specific payments for slave laborers (as defined in the Foundation Law) and therefore funds may not be available to make payments for all of the categories listed above.

Persons who were forced to work during World War II under the auspices of the Nazi regime or its allies, for little or no remuneration, because they were Jewish, may also be entitled to a payment from the Swiss Banks Settlement. No separate application form is necessary.

The heir(s) of eligible persons, where the eligible person died on or after 16 February 1999, can also apply. If a claim was submitted and the applicant subsequently dies, the heir(s) must contact the Claims Conference within six months of the date of death.

If you have previously filed an application with the claims Conference for slave or forced labor there is no need to fill out any additional application.

If you have not already filed an application, please do so immediately as the Claims conference must receive applications by 31 December 2001.

Applications are available on the website of the Claims Conference: www.claimscon.org

For additional information, please contact: David Korn, 22 Woodward Crescent, Halifax, NS B3M 1J7, 902-443-2799
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Joanna's APJSF Halifax Happenings

By Joanna Mirsky

University is an exciting time. One of action, learning, rejection and acceptance, pondering the world, drinking lots of beer... and Judaism? YES! Halifax really can offer all of these aspects of student life and do it in a fun way. There was a transition in October as I took over the Halifax portion of APJSF as part time staff. We organized a group of interested students to form an executive, with **Jordan Benson** as its president, and the group has been enthusiastic and active.

Lysa Magder (mazel tov again!) ran a Welcome Home "Shmooze and Booze" in September at the Economy Shoe Shop for returning students to socialize and catch up after the summer. To welcome in the newcomers as well as meet up with the returning students, we held a Shmooze in the Succah: Beer and kosher chicken wings in the Shaar Shalom Succah on a Thursday night! We had a great time, filling the Succah and overflowing out onto the lawn.

The next week, **Jack and Barbara Prince** sponsored a Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel Synagogue, and students got a taste of home with **Janet Casey's** delicious chicken dinner. As some students have had to eat only vegetarian food since their arrival in residence, there were some hungry and appreciative eaters! Thanks again for a beautiful Shabbat!

Co-Sponsored by the Shaar Shalom Congregation and the Beth Israel Synagogue, **Rabbi Michael Skobac** from Jews for Judaism came to do a workshop on "The Jew and the Lotus", the Jewish interest in Eastern religions for both students and the general community.

Students, **Jordan Benson, Michelle Landy and Joanna Grossman** added much to the community Dignity Day with their thoughtful words and kind assistance in helping out with the event.

APJSF held another Shabbat Dinner at the Beth Israel Synagogue in early November for a crowd of over 50 people, a joint event between APJSF and the Young Professionals in the city. **Rabbi Benji Jacobi** joined us from Toronto and gave an interesting talk and discussion on the relevance of Holocaust education, and engaging the young Jewish population.

APJSF had a delegation of 10 at the General Assembly held in Washington DC! Some great ideas and networking came out of the conference, with Joanna Grossman, **Michael Goose, Mike Silver, Alon Sternhill, Shira Webber, Merrill Lyons, Jenny Basen, Lucy Stein and Jodi Kaplovitch** each bringing in their unique perspectives, interests and ideas. They have since branched off and formed different subcommittees to address different aspects of campus life, including a pro-Israel campaign, a volunteer committee, cooperative movies for Tzedakah and holocaust education for next semester.

We held a Pre-Chanukah party/Vegetarian potluck Shabbat Dinner at **David Herbert and Josh Schwartz's** house. **Michelle Landy, Joanna Grossman and Kayla Wexler** met with the boys to make latkes for the party and did a great job! Moosehead Brewery sponsored the party, donating some beverages and an excellent time was had by close to 70 students over the course of the night. Thank you **Herbert** and

all the guys for such a warm kiddush and space.

As the community came out to hear **Professor Steinberg** speak on "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East", the students joined in strong in number, with **Darcie Richler** and **Leigh Lampert** bringing student issues in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the forefront.

Lots more in store for next semester...
Happy Chanukah to Everyone!



Ilana Kirsh, Mark Szepas & Phil Rabin "shmooze" in the Succah.



Jo Mirsky & Jordan Benson "Shmooze" in the Succah.



Henry Stern, Jared Lifson & Lucy Stein "shmooze" in the Succah.



Undercover Agents at the GA – Michael Goose & Mike Silver.



*Backrow L-R: Merrill Lyons, Shira Webber, Joanna Mirsky, Jon Goldberg.
Front Row: Joanna Grossman, Jenny Basen.*

New Restaurant Opening – Kosher Service Available – *Call Vardi at 852-2049*

Chef **Steven Kardass** and his team are honoured to invite you to enjoy the delicacies of his famous fine dining cuisine at the Big-Lake Lodge and fully licensed Restaurant. Chef Kardass personally tends to each course on the restaurant's dinner and lunch menus. His fine dining cuisine combines styles of the traditional Canadian, European and Mediterranean cuisine's including typical Israeli food (such as Hummus, Tehina, Falafel, etc.) and Israeli atmosphere.

The restaurant is situated in one of Nova Scotia's most picturesque places, renowned for its beauty "Light House Route" and a magnificent "Big-Lake". During the winter it hosts up to 120 diners, and in the summer it hosts as many as 250 diners inside the restaurant and on the deck overlooking the lake.

The restaurant and lodge are casual fine dining and serve breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, a Lunch'n Buffet and Saturday-Sunday Brunch.

Kosher food is available.

The restaurant also accepts reservations for private events all year round.

Big-Lake Lodge is the only lodge in the Peggy's Cove area to hold a Hotel-Motel license. All rooms feature a queen-size bed, private bathroom, color TV, coffee maker and sitting area. The "Honeymoon Suite" features a living room, bedroom, whirlpool-tub and private deck facing the lake.

Big-Lake Lodge and Restaurant offers water activities such as peddle-boats, canoes and kayaks, and travel rails, etc.

Big-Lake Lodge and Restaurant is located 17 miles West of Halifax and 8 miles west of Peggy's Cove on Highway 333 – "The Lighthouse Route".

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"The War Criminal"

Powerful novel takes a new look at anti-semitism

Anti-Semitism is an age-old problem and there have been many worthy books that try and explain it, but few are more engaging than "The War Criminal" by Canadian Jewish writer, **Leon Berger**, a powerful novel that builds to a heart-stopping climax.

Author of two previous novels, Berger has researched intensively, talking to survivors, touring the camps and delving deeply into his family history – but this is no personal "roots" novel. Through the guilt-ridden eyes of an aging ex-member of the SS, the intriguing story of "The War Criminal" seeks to understand not just what happened, but why – and comes to some fascinating conclusions.

The protagonist, **Horst Gerhard Schneider**, was once on the personal staff of SS leader **Reinhard Heydrich**, in real-life one of the principal architects of the "final solution." Now in his eighties, Schneider is still at large, living in poverty in an anonymous North American city when his

memories are awakened by a teen in his building who belongs to a supremacist gang.

With half a century to think about his own involvement with Nazism, Schneider tells us his innermost thoughts and, in the process, a good deal about the long-ignored psyche of the young male. Although focusing on anti-Semitism, "The War Criminal" is also a profound probe into why young men everywhere do what they do – whether in gangs, militias or terrorist organizations.

"I was intrigued from the very first page," says **Stefan Lesniak**, one of the few Schindler's list survivors to make his home in Canada. "It flows so well, I couldn't put it down," says **Liselotte Urban**, another survivor to whom the book is dedicated.

A must-read for every thinking individual, "The War Criminal" is available in hard cover at most bookstores, or online at Indigo.ca and Amazon.com.

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Professor warns of arms buildup Weapons race greatest Middle East peace threat, visiting Israeli says

By Joel Jacobson / Staff Reporter

Editor's Note: Article printed Tuesday, November 27, 2001
The Halifax Herald Limited

Weapons proliferation in the Mideast has to be taken seriously if peace in that region and the global defeat of terrorism are to be achieved, says a Jerusalem political scientist. **Gerald Steinberg** of Bar Ilan University, who's on a four-city speaking tour, said in an interview in Halifax that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is secondary to the arms buildup. He said Iraq's **Saddam Hussein** is leading an arms buildup that also involves Iran, Syria and Libya, all of which have missiles, chemical and biological weapons and are developing nuclear arms.

"There has been renewed international discussion since Sept. 11 to contain Saddam and his buildup, but as he builds more weapons, others are following and are close to his level." Born in London, England and educated in the United States, Mr. Steinberg has lived in Jerusalem for 30 years, the last 20 with his Ottawa-born wife and four children aged 9 to 19. "As an Israeli, you go from daily fear (of terrorist attacks) to a hardened, fatalistic perspective. It certainly sharpens the values that encourage you to stay in that environment and do what you'd normally do, not capitulate to the threats." Mr. Steinberg said the current spate of Arab-Israeli violence that started 14 months ago has adversely affected tourism and Israeli commerce. "But you go back to leading as normal a life as possible. My family was in Canada visiting family during the summer and we talked about returning to Israel or staying here. But it was unanimous. Israel is our home. We're conscious of the risks and will take them. Retaining our identity as Jews, as other generations have before us, makes us willing to accept those risks." Mr. Steinberg said it's important to understand why having a Jewish state and the Zionist movement are viable to Jewish survival. "The issues today are not really about occupation or settlements but about the Arab refusal, since 1947, to accept any form of Jewish sovereignty in what is basically the Jewish homeland." He said there's room for change after PLO leader **Yasser Arafat** is gone. "He hasn't changed in 40 years and isn't likely to now. But the leaders to come after him have a better sense of the depth of Israeli roots, that Israel is not a foreign implant that will leave." He added there's no unifying leadership in the Palestinian community but changes are happening.

"There is dialogue in the Palestinian press about dealing with the United States in a positive way and openly challenging Arafat's policies. Palestinians are writing that Arafat's policies in the last eight years have been wrong,



Steinberg at Dalhousie University.

gotten nothing and created great costs to the Palestinian society. Those few voices mean debate is taking place." Mr. Steinberg is on a speaking tour of universities in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton.



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Happy Chanukah to All!

UJA 2001 Halifax Highlights



Shown here at Canvassers' Kickoff, Sept. 9, 2001 (hosted by Michael Argand & Jo-Anne Nozick).
L-R: Jo-Anne Nozick, Anna Krakovich, Isarael Crisis Management Center; Dov Altman, Director of UJA/Federation of Toronto.



Lions of Judah pin recipients with special guest speaker, Leslie Binstock Offman.
L-R: Lynda Suissa, Shirlee Medjuck (Lion of Judah with Ruby & Diamond), Marcie Gilsig Spatz, Judith Goldberg, Leslie Binstock Offman.



UJA Women's Campaign Co-chair, Kathy Zilbert welcomes everyone at the Women's event held at The Lord Nelson Hotel, September, 2001.



AJC President, Dr. Sheva Medjuck addresses the gathering at the Campaign Kickoff.



Ava Tsinman, one of our youth co-hosts for the evening, addresses the gathering.



At the Solidarity for Israel Kickoff at the Beth Israel Synagogue, entertainer Ehud Spielman performs a duo with Cantor Tibbey as accompanist looks on.

Around and About

Lewis Novak, Jody Kane, Zack Novak – Youth Programming – apple picking.



*Invitees at Millwood High School – Israel Information Session
L-R: Ryan (student teacher), Linda Epstein of Israel, Zack Rubin, Halifax, Fred Hall (teacher), Aviva Rubin, AJC Programmer.*



AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg and AJC Campus Coordinator (Halifax) Joanna Mirsky check out the sites in Washington during the General Assembly of Jewish Federations, November, 2001.

AJC Executive meets with CIC staff at a seminar for local Israel action.



Eric Goldberg, Brendan Rosen, Daniel Pink, Darcie Richler & Yoli Wassersug at an AJC program – Kayaking, fall, 2001.



APJSF students enjoying the Sukkot Beer & Chicken Wing party at the Shaar Shalom, October, 2001.

Dateline Fredericton

Mazel Tov to **Peter Seley**, son-in-law of **Peter** and **Sharon Pinsler**. Peter Seley was made a partner in the law firm of Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher, Washington D.C.

Mazel Tov to **Jonathon Pinsler**, son of **Peter** and **Sharon Pinsler**. Jonathon received his C.F.A. Charter after completing all levels. He is an investment advisor with TD Evergreen, Montreal

Mazel Tov to **Jason Budovitch**. We are pleased to announce the engagement of **Jason Budovitch**, son of Mitchell Budovitch (and the late Carolyn Budovitch) to **Jessica Caplan** daughter of Dr. and Mrs. **Stephen Caplan** of Montreal. The happy couple plan a summer wedding.

Mazel Tov to **Joseph Sherman**, son of **Beatrice Sherman**. Joseph's latest book of poetry, *American Standard* was launched in Charlottetown.

Mazel Tov to **Ann Sherman**, daughter-in-law of **Bea Sherman**. Ann received the Premier's Crime Prevention Award in the Criminal Justice Category for her work in Crime Prevention through Social Development. Ann is the Executive Director of the Community Legal Information which addresses family violence prevention, community safety, literacy, women's issues and peace.

Mazel Tov to **Marlene** and **Israel Unger** on the birth of their first grandchild. **Rebecca** was born at Mount Sinai in Toronto on October 28, 2001

Sharon and Peter Pinsler just returned from Rockville Maryland, after spending American Thanksgiving with their twin grandchildren **Hannah** and **Samson** and their parents **Jacki** and **Pete Seley**.

Sgoolai Israel is saddened by the recent loss of both **Jennie** and **Joe Chippin** within the last four months. Our sincerest condolences are extended to their children, **Carol**, **Ruth**, **Arnold**, and all other members of their family.

It was extremely pleasing to see so many families returning to Fredericton for the High Holidays. **Rabbi Samuels** did a wonderful job conducting the services. He was very ably assisted by **James Katz**, and I want to thank both of them for going above and beyond the call of duty.

October was a busy month for weddings. **Miriam** and **Warren Cohen** and **Linda** and **Marty Payne** gave their daughters **Marcy** and **Barbie** respectively in marriage. Mazel tov to both families.

September 11th, 2001, will always be remembered in American history. Every Jew in the world will always remember this day. We are now at war with terrorists. Again, as always, blame is being cast against Israel. As members of our governments tell us to keep our lives as normal as possible, let us pray each day that peace will again come to our nations.

Our community Chanukah party will have a "craft"-y twist this year. Materials donated by **Joshua Samuel** will enable party-goers to craft a Pesach plate, Rosh HaShanah honey-n-apple plate, and many other plates for the various holidays during the year. Our thanks to Joshua for adding to the festivity of our annual party.

Be well, and have a CHAG CHANUKAH SAMEACH.

Rabbi Yochanan Samuels

Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo

By *Evelyn Davis*

This is the report of the opening function of Hadassah-Wizo in Sydney.

In September, 2001 the Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo held their opening meeting at Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue with special guest, the President of Hadassah-Wizo of Canada, **Marian Mayman**.

Reva Nathanson, in introducing our guest reminded us of her growing up in Sydney, the third National President to come from our area. **Gail Chernin** presented Marion with a gift.

This year being the International year of the Volunteer, we were delighted to have the President present certificates to the six Kum Ahaym Committee members, **Shirley Chernin**, **Betty Shore**, **David Ein**, **Raymond Goldman**, **Sylvia Allen** and **Sidney Lipkus**. Shirley Chernin thanked the President for the honor of having been chosen as "Volunteers of the Year".

A delicious luncheon was served under the convenorship of **Evy Druker**, **Shirley Chernin**, **Reva Nathanson** and Chairperson, **Evelyn Davis**.



Marian Mayman, Betty Shore, David Ein



Marian Mayman, Shirley Chernin, Betty Shore



Evelyn Davis, Marian Mayman, Shirley Dubinsky, Betty Shore



Gail Chernin, Evelyn Davis, Marian Mayman, Reva Nathanson, Evy Druker, Shirley Chernin, Sylvia Allen

Chanukah Message from Keith Landy, National President of Canadian Jewish Congress



In observing Chanukah, each of us is called upon to light the candles and we are commanded to display the lit menorah publicly. Why this need for individual action and for publicity? And why is light the holiday's central motif?

The candlelight, I think, can be seen as the symbol of Jewish civilization – a common past, immemorial beliefs and practices, an eternal people, an everlasting State of Israel, and a single destiny. Over two thousand years ago, the rulers of the Seleucid Empire sought to extinguish the Jewish identity. They would have succeeded, had a heroic Judah Maccabee not emerged to thwart their destructive plans.

The emphasis on individual obligation tells us that we cannot always count on a Judah Maccabee to arise from our midst. To preserve our civilization and ensure our survival, therefore, each of us in every generation must take upon ourselves the role of Judah Maccabee. In that way the Jewish people truly is the sum of each one of its parts.

Furthermore, we light the menorah for all to see, as an

act of unabashed self-affirmation thereby demonstrating to others as well as to ourselves self-assurance and pride in being Jewish. We also do so because we are meant to be a light unto the nations. Rooted in our values, we fulfill the responsibility of contributing in every way to the societies of which we are such an integral part.

At great cost, September 11 awakened the world to those forces of darkness that the State of Israel has been confronting for all too long. Israel has been defeating these forces every day through the bright light of confidence and perseverance that burns brightly in each Israeli. It is from the Maccabean heroism of our brothers and sisters in Israel that we, and the world, must draw inspiration. It is from them that we learn the true miracle of Chanukah that, just as light dispels the darkness, so the human spirit will always triumph over evil.

A Happy Chanukah to One and All!

Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Richard Goldbloom** on his recent appointment as Chancellor of Dalhousie University. Richard received an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie in 2000 and has been an Officer of the Order of Canada since 1987.

Mazel Tov to **Lorne Rozovsky**, formerly of Halifax, was recently elected President of the 760 family Temple Beth-El in Richmond, Virginia.

Mazel Tov to **Joshua Rozovsky**, formerly of Halifax, son of **Fay** and **Lorne**, graduated as valedictorian of the Engineering Specialty Center of Highland Springs High School and is currently a freshman in engineering at Virginia Tech.

Mazel Tov to **Susan Charness (Argand)**, daughter of **Rose Argand**, who will be honoured with the "Woman of the Year Award" in April, 2002 by the Jewish Women International of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Jordana** and **Steven Sable** on the birth of their son, **Max Joseph**, proud grandparents are **Selma** and **Jack Frankel** and grandfather **Hy Sable**; great grandmother **Bessie Rinzler**.

Mazel Tov to **Helen Ziderman Webber** on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Rena Webber** on the occasion of her 75th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Pinnie Green** on the occasion of her 85th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Ina Kohler** on the occasion of her 85th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Sol David** on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Gloria** and **Steven Pink** on the birth of their grandson **Aaron Lawrence Pedvis**. Parents are **Cindy** and **Howard Pedvis**, Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Rena** and **Arnold Webber** on the recent Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, **Carly Shea Webber**, daughter of **Jeffrey** and **Mimi Webber**, Denver, Colorado.

Mazel Tov to **Shirlee** and **Ralph Medjuck** on the recent birth of their granddaughter, **Hallie Rebecca**. Parents are **Beth** and **Matt Benjamin**, Boston.

Mazel Tov to **Aviva Silburt**, daughter of **Barbara** and **Bruce**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Condolences to **Alta Mushkat** and family on the recent passing of **Lawrence**.

Mazel Tov to **Zachary Prince**, son of **Dana Price** and **Elana Sigal** of Vancouver, grandson of **Jack** and **Barbara Prince** and **Dr. Cecil** and **Mrs. Ruth Sigal** of Vancouver, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Condolences to the family of the late **Manuel Whitzman**.

Condolences to **Sally Maser** and family on the recent passing of **Gordon**.

Condolences to the family of the late **Reva Shane**.

News from the Rock

By Claire Frankel-Salama

Well, it's great to be home! It was with joy and relief that the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador moved back into its renovated premises. On the glorious Sunday afternoon that preceded September 11th, our tiny but dedicated community danced and sang the Torahs back into the Sanctuary after 7 months of exile. During those months, thanks to the superb efforts of **Dr. Michael Paul**, we had been meeting in the chapel at the Health Sciences, just across from the Tim Horton's kiosk. Although we may miss the smell of freshly brewed coffee, we now look forward to opening the doors into a bright, warm, dry and well-lit building with access for the handicapped, new bathrooms and a new kitchen. The night we inaugurated the Milchich dishwashers, we resembled Mottel the tailor oo-ing and aah-ing over his new sewing machine. The Sanctuary is still unfinished as is the outside shell, but on the inside we are warm, cosy, and pleased with our efforts.

Much has transpired during these last months. In June we held our annual Hebrew School closing / community barbecue at the country home of **Dr. David and June Mercer**. The weather was sunny and beautiful, the food was great and the hospitality of the Mercers truly exemplary. Towards the end of the summer, it was decided to try something completely different. On the last Sunday morning in August, **Messod Salama** and **Robin McGrath** organized a special Selichot Shacharit service and breakfast at Cape Spear, which is the easternmost point of North America and therefore the first to greet the new day. The Shofar (or was it a Jewish foghorn) was blown, and although the weather was characteristically cool and windy, the programme was deemed a success, and therefore, a new tradition.

The following Sunday we had our annual pre-Rosh Hashanah Kaddish service at the cemetery on Blackmarsh Road. At this yearly event we make a point of remembering those whose graves receive few if any visits during the year.

September, however, was to present us with an unexpected challenge that our little community met with its usual grace and enthusiasm. On September 11th all trans-Atlantic flights were forced to stop in Canada. Many of these flights ended up at one of our four major airports, i.e. St. John's, Gander, Stephenville and Goose Bay. In St. John's alone we had over 6000 unexpected « guests » for at least five days. As soon as we found out, we organized a meeting at our yet unfinished synagogue. Because of the proximity to Rosh Hashanah, we had many Jews from the U.S., Britain and Israel, some of whom had spent Tuesday night at the Salvation Army, Mile One Stadium, Holy Heart of Mary High School or one of the other emergency shelters. Some of them were able to get hotel rooms while others were invited to come home with the members of the Community and avail themselves of washing machines and hot showers. On Friday night we held an Oneg Shabbat and enjoyed a completely full service, the first in the new building. Many of those present insisted that they would come back on their own volition. Quite a few Jews were caught at the other airports, but all were treated with great



L-R: Dr. Michael Paul, President, Dr. Messod Salama, Dr. Barbara Grandy, Daniel Salama, Dr. Robin McGrath at Cape Spear Shacharit service.



Dr. Messod Salama blowing the shofar at the Rosh Chodesh service at Cape Spear, Newfoundland.



Dr. Michael Paul and Ernie Mauskopf affixing Mezuzah to the synagogue doorpost.

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sensitivity and warmth. I'm sure that most of them had no idea what was waiting for them when they landed on this remote island, but I know that the great volunteers at the shelters across the province helped to restore their faith in humanity at this most difficult time.

Despite a very destructive hurricane, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were observed with extra reflection but no unpleasant surprises. **Ernie Mauskopf** davened beautifully and was assisted by Messod Salama, Michael Paul and others. As in the previous several years, we held a community supper to break the fast. That Sunday we built our Sukkah and enjoyed the second set of holy days. Since then we have welcomed the Consul General of Israel for Eastern Canada, Mr. **Shlomo Avital** and **Mrs. Avital**. In addition to their official visits, the Avitals met with the community at a reception at the Salama's, where the consul spoke about the security situation in Israel today.

After six years of research and creative effort, **Arnold** and **Nancy Bennett** held a private screening of *Messiah from Montreal*, an inciteful and dramatic film on the well-known Jewish poet and novelist, **A.M. Klein**. On October 12th this film, narrated by the late **Al Waxman** and featuring professional Newfoundland talent and several members of our congregation, was aired on Vision TV. This film was also presented at the Jewish library in Montreal and received very positive coverage both locally and nationally.

All in all, this has been an extremely eventful year. Our building has diminished in sized but has increased in comfort and usefulness. So far, in addition to our regular duties, we have entertained Jews from all over the world, and guests from the outside



L-R: Tali Milstein, Areiva, Ruth Noel, Dr. Michael Paul, Dr. Robin McGrath, Ken Klein, Rachel Paine, Ernie Mauskopf bringing (and singing) the Torahs back into the Beth-El synagogue.



L-R: Jake Khoubian (back), Ken Klein, Daniel Salama, Sid Epstein at community inauguration.

community at a Hadassah reception. Many people have helped to bring about this little « miracle », including Dr. Michael Paul, our president, **Ken Klein**, our vice-president and resident engineer, **Rachel Paine** and **Bebe Richards**, our new Hadassah activists and many others who sorted, packed, unpacked, shopped, received, schlepped, cooked, washed, cleaned, designed, built and so on. Last but not least, we have been extremely fortunate in that our Areva, **Tali Milshtein**, has returned for a second year of teaching the children and the adults, as well as visiting schools throughout the Avalon peninsula.

This has truly been a lesson in the ability of a small community to achieve the unimaginable.

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Double Celebration in St. John's Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo

By Rachel Paine

Hadassah-Wizo in St. John's is waking up from its long hibernation. When I, **Rachel Paine**, born and raised in Israel, moved to St. John's two years ago, I was warmly received by the local Jewish congregation and happy to join in all the activities. In fact, one morning, the presidency of Hadassah Wizo was dumped in my lap, and together with **Bebe Richards**, our Vice-President, we rose to the challenge.

Our recent project was an ambitious one for a small chapter such as ours. **Marion Mayman**, the National President, was coming for a visit. At the same time, we nominated our well-known *Eshet Chayil*, **Ruth Noel**, to be our Volunteer of the Year 2001. We then decided to combine the two events, and give one big reception in their honour. The social hall in our synagogue was in the midst of renovations and looked like a furniture warehouse until the night before. By the afternoon of Sunday, November 4th, it was miraculously transformed into a beautiful « palace ».

In these very hard times for the Jewish state, it was indeed heartwarming to witness the leaders of our region pouring into the synagogue in full support of the Jewish Community and Israel. Her Honour, **Mrs. House**, the Honourable **Gerald Smith**, Minister of Human Resources and Employment (who gave a quietly amusing speech), **Mr. John Ottenheimer**, Member of the House of Assembly for St. John's East, His Worship **Andy Wells**, Mayor of St. John's, **Ms. Shannie Duff**, Councillor-at-large and **Mr. Frank Galgay**, Councillor-at-large were among our VIP's. For most of our guests this was a rare chance to learn about Israel and Hadassah-Wizo from a first-hand source. Marion gave an informative overview of our projects and the reality of life in the hospitals during the Intifada. Many of the guests were quite moved, and in addition to participating generously in the silent auction which accompanied the reception, they also made donations. Besides the formal certificate, we wanted to give Ruth a personal award as a token of our deep appreciation for her endless work in this community. We were fortunate in that **Bonnie Leyton**, a masterful artist and member of our congregation, designed and donated an insightful piece of art made especially for our honoree. Ruth, clad in a beautiful navy dress which showed off her Hadassah Wizo pins, gave an almost tearful speech which left us more convinced than ever of her worthiness.

As a treat to the guests and in honour of Hadassah-Wizo, **Thomas Lowenheim** gave a benefit concert. Thomas, born and raised in Israel and a graduate of a Hadassah high school, trained as a cellist in the U.S. Recently, he was appointed professor at the Memorial University School of Music. He is a great addition to our community and to Newfoundland as a top musician and conductor. His sensitive Bach concert was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The M.C. was **Claire Salama** who navigated the



L-R: Bebe Richards, Vice President, Hadassah-Wizo, Rachel Paine, President, Ruth Noel, Honoree for Volunteer of the Year, Marian Mayman, National President, Hadassah-Wizo Canada.



Hadassah-Wizo celebration for Volunteer of the Year at newly renovated Beth-El synagogue.
L-R: Bebe Richards (obscured), Rachel Paine, Her Honour, Mrs. House, wife of the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, Marian Mayman, National President, Hadassah-Wizo Canada, Dr. John Richards, Dr. Robert Paine.

ceremony with grace and humour. She gave a beautiful and evocative speech about Ruth to everyone's joy. **Annette Powell**, a friend of our Areva, Tali, volunteered as a photographer, and did an excellent job for which we are grateful. The St. John's Telegram covered the reception. On Monday morning, Marion and I were interviewed on CBC radio on the Morning Show. The interview gave us another chance to tell the public what Israel is really like and what Hadassah-Wizo is all about.

During her visit, Marion, our National President, met personally with quite a few members of our congregation. **Nancy Bennett** took her sightseeing on a beautiful fall day, and gave an Oneg Shabbat in her honour. Others took her for lunch or invited her for brunch.

And so, our tiny chapter, with its even tinier resources, managed, thanks to our wonderful members and friends, to pull together and put on a reception which made us all proud.

AJC Rep. Receives National Honour

This past May, **Claire Frankel-Salama**, a member of the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador, was given one of 15 Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Claire has taught since 1976, and is, at present, head of Modern languages at Bishops College in St. John's. She inspires students to expand their horizons and develop their talents while showing connections between language acquisition and other subjects. Her achievements include the pioneering of technology into the modern languages and economics programmes using the internet, electronic spreadsheets and powerpoint presentations. She also developed the first introductory and advanced high school Spanish courses in the province. Her students have excelled at French public speaking and Advanced Placement examinations. Several have become pages at the House of Commons and the Newfoundland House of Assembly while others have continued their studies at Francophone universities.

In addition to receiving a certificate from **Prime Minister Chrétien**, at a special ceremony at the West Block of Parliament, her school received \$5000. and a number of donations of free software from several non-governmental sponsors.

"Over and over, she demonstrated that she was a transformational teacher, working constantly to improve her own teaching and her students' learning."

Former principal



Winner of a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, Claire Frankel-Salama, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Prof. Messod Salama.



Shalom Report for Moncton

By Nancy Cohen

In September we greeted our new arevim **Yaron** and **Revital Fuks**. They were originally scheduled to arrive on September 12, but were delayed because of the tragedy of September 11. They finally arrived just a few days before Yom Kippur. They are now well settled and are busy giving classes to children and adults, and organizing special events.

On November 25 we celebrated the proclamation of the State of Israel by the United Nations. A documentary film was shown about Canadian volunteers who helped Israel during the war of Independence. Following the film, Judge **Irwin Lampert** led a discussion on the current situation in the Middle East. The Tiferes Israel Choir directed by **Evy Carnat**, sang Israeli songs, and the evening wrapped up with a light Israeli supper of delicious falafel.

Congratulations to **Isadore** and **Esther Fine** who received honorary doctorates at the fall convocation of the Université de Moncton. This marked the first time in the University's history that this honour has been given to a couple.

Mazel tov to **Hyde Jochelman** for the winning the Lieutenant Governor's award for youth volunteerism, in recognition of her volunteer work at Bessborough School.

Mazel-tov to **Harry** and **Anne Gorber** on the engagement of their son **Lorne** to **Heather Markoff**, daughter of **Rob** and **Edith Markoff** of Montreal.

Condolences are extended to the **Gorber** family on the recent death of their brother **Bill Gorber**.



Fall Convocation – Université de Moncton.

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The Middle East war is being waged in the media. The Voice of Palestine, controlled by the Palestinian Authority, is broadcast daily to Palestinians as it salutes the "exalted martyr" of the day and "star of the intifada".

ISRAEL RESOURCE NEWS AGENCY is an independent investigative media organization dedicated to fighting the distortion and historical revisionism tactics of the PLO. It provides the facts and background of the situation with briefings, tapes and videos to reporters, thus streamlining the flow of data to the media, and placing it directly into the hands of major media organizations.

Bureau chief of ISRAEL RESOURCE NEWS AGENCY since 1986, **David Bedein**, has a staff that retains the services of Mr. **Michael Widlanski**, a leading Arabic – speaking journalist, who translates the broadcasts of the Voice of Palestine.

Linda Smilestone, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, with a background in Marketing Communications and Public Relations, is the Tel Aviv Projects Coordinator for ISRAEL RESOURCE NEWS AGENCY.

ISRAEL RESOURCE NEWS AGENCY's recent accomplishments include:

- The Hebrew daily, Ma'ariv, published documentation that uncovered the European Union's Sponsorship of PLO support groups
- Revelation of a UN publication of a map of "Palestine" which obliterates the State of Israel
- Disclosed planned UJC award to Arafat which caused its cancellation
- Addressed the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. and the American Jewish Press Association
- Exposed Canadian Government's sponsorship of a PLO brochure that promotes "right of return"
- Discovered "right of return" computer network in Orient House, designed to provide every Arab refugee with a computer print out to locate their homes and villages from 1948
- *Middle East Myths And Facts 2001*, a publication that explains Palestinian deceptions, and their media dis-information efforts

David S. Bedein holds a Masters degree in Community Organization and Social Work from Yeshiva University, and a Bachelors degree in Communications from Temple University. His career in community work and Jewish student programming spans 21 years. David is married with six children.

"David Bedein is a person of great resource, with an infinite capacity for taking pains, a complete dedicated Zionist and a lover of Israel, a man on whom we can rely. I have absolutely no hesitation whatsoever in recommending David for his trustworthiness and devotion to the cause of Israel and Jews everywhere"

Jack Padwa – Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, Anti Defamation League, Israel

Michael Widlanski, Lecturer in Political Communication and Middle East Studies at The Hebrew University since 1993, holds a Certificate in Advanced Arabic, with distinction, from The American University in Cairo, a Certificate in Middle East Studies from The Middle East Institute, Columbia University, and a Masters degree in International Affairs, also from Columbia University. He is currently completing a dissertation at Bar Ilan University on the topic: The Palestinian Broadcasting Media: Models of Influence and Control. Michael speaks Hebrew, Arabic (Classical and Egyptian/Palestinian dialects), French, Intermediate Russian, and spoken Yiddish. He is married with three sons.

Mr. Widlanski's other accomplishments include:

- Diplomatic Correspondent for the Israel Broadcasting Authority (English), 1997-98
- Middle East Editor for The Jerusalem Post, 1992-94
- Advisor to the Israeli negotiating team in Madrid and Washington, 1991-92
- Coordinator of Strategic Division and Palestinian Project at the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, Jerusalem, 1989-90; editor of the book *Can Israel Survive A Palestinian State?*
- Arab Affairs Correspondent for IDF RADIO (particularly in Lebanon War) and Producer of The Military Magazine/Strategic Depth, 1981-82
- Reporter, The New York Times, 1980-81

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CJC National Officers hold first ever national meeting in Halifax

By Joel Jacobson, Canadian Jewish News Correspondent

Editor's Note: On Sunday, October 9, 2001, the officers of Canadian Jewish Congress met for the first time in Halifax. Over 25 officers attended from as far away as Vancouver and they enjoyed a weekend hosted by CJC Atlantic Region.

The final declaration of the World Conference Against Racism does little to advance the fight against racism, the National President of the Canadian Jewish Congress said in Halifax September 9. While speaking to national officers of Congress, **Keith Landy** – who just returned from the Durban, South Africa, conference – said the declaration is also damaging to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. The inclusion of the right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to return to Israel, in particular, is “a transparent attempt to deny the Jewish people their right to self-determination and is only the most obvious of many unacceptable elements,” Mr. Landy said while addressing the first national officers meeting ever held in Atlantic Canada. He met with representatives of Jewish organizations from Vancouver to St. John's, Nfld. The development of, and discussion surrounding, the wording of the final resolution, and the branding of Israel as racist because of its conflict with the Palestinians, caused bitterness at the conference, leading the United States and Israel to withdraw their delegates.

Mr. Landy said the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is political and territorial and had no place at the conference. “The United Nations has once again discredited itself as a body able to promote global peace and security,” Mr. Landy said.

He praised Canada's efforts to keep the conference focused on its original goals. And he welcomed the denunciation by **Hedy Fry**, junior minister responsible for multiculturalism, of the anti-Semitism at the conference. He agreed with Canada's disassociation from the parts of the declaration dealing with the Middle East.

Ms. Fry, who headed the Canadian delegation, issued a “statement of reservation” immediately after the declaration was announced. “Canada is still here today only because we wanted to have our voice decry the attempts at this conference to de-legitimize the state of Israel and to dishonour the history and suffering of the Jewish people,” she said Saturday in remarks directed to the conference chairwoman. “We believe ... that it was inappropriate ... to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in this forum.”



Remembrance Day November 10th and 11th 2001 Dr. J.B. Ross, Halifax Regional Commander

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada of Halifax were recognized in the Beth Israel and Shaar Shalom Synagogues on Shabbos November 10th. Aliyahs were given to Veterans of both shules representing not only World War II but of several other conflicts in living memory. Names of the Fallen were read and Memorial prayers recited.

The next day, Mr. **Mike Merovitch** accompanied by Dr. Barrie Ross laid a wreath at the War Memorial in the presence of **Her Honour Lieutenant-Governor Myra Freeman**. **Rabbi David Ellis**, Chaplain of Atlantic Jewish Council led the clergy in an address. Messrs **Harry Block** and **Julius Solomon** were also present as members of the Halifax Outpost. **Mark Rosen**, VP of the AJC, laid a wreath on behalf of the Jewish community.

Please note: The name of Jack Bernstein from Moncton shown on the previous list of veterans should be changed to Maurice James Bernstein.

World Jewish Congress 11th Global Assembly – Jerusalem

by Hedda and Franklyn Medjuck

This was our third World Jewish Congress Assembly in Jerusalem. Much has transpired since our first in the early 70's. We recall in the early 1980's when, with much hope and fanfare, **Edgar Bronfman** was elected President of WJC. Since then, he and his executive have achieved much for world Jewry, especially in rescuing hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union and in providing support to Jewish education and awareness throughout the world, especially in far flung places. A very tangible achievement has been the settling of the claims of thousands of families against the Swiss banks which is in the billions of dollars.

We attended sessions where speakers included **Prime Minister Sharon**, at the Knesset, and the President of the State **Moshe Katzav**, **Foreign Minister Peres**, **Mendel Kaplan**, who is Chairman of the WJC Executive, **Daniel Kurtzer**, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, **Lord Janner**, President, Commonwealth Jewish Council of the United Kingdom and several distinguished Rabbis including the Chief Rabbi of Paris, Chief Rabbi of the Ukraine, the Chief Rabbi of France and Chair of the Conference of European Rabbis, and the Chief Rabbi of Moscow. We heard from **Avraham Burg**, M.K., Speaker of the Knesset and **Stuart Eizenstat**, former U.S. Under Secretary of State, as well as **Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**, Chief Rabbi of the U.K.; also the Mayor of Jerusalem, **Ehud Olmert**, and numerous leaders from Latin America.

Our Canadian contingent was one of the largest and included 50 people from Vancouver to Springhill, Nova Scotia. On the first day we visited Gilo and Efrat and received a very different understanding of what you normally see in your nightly newscasts. We saw where gunfire is directed from Beit Jala directly to Gilo, a suburb of Jerusalem and to those travelling along the highways. Cinder blocks and concrete walls have been erected at critical points. Beautiful landscaped murals have been painted on them by talented local artists. We then drove for half an hour to Efrat, a community of almost 10,000 people and heard from the founder of this city, **Chief Rabbi Shlomo Riskin** who gave us an account of the challenges and joys of living in Efrat. His message was optimistic and heartening as, over the past 15 years, he has developed a friendly rapport with the local Arab villagers who come to Efrat to receive medical and dental care. Rabbi Riskin has forbidden any development of lands unless lawfully purchased. As a result, Efrat is elongated, stretching over hilltops and is surrounded by vineyards and orchards owned and maintained by local Arab villagers who are helped in the harvest season by the Efrat students. We saw a glass case with Menorahs which had been looted from the previous Jewish villages of the area when the residents were massacred in 1929, in the late 1930's and during the War of Independence. Local Arab neighbours have been returning these artifacts as a sign of their gratitude. We watched a film accompanied by a sound and light show of the history of Jewish life in the area since the 1920's. A group of 400 villagers came back to the



Halifax's Hedda Medjuck giving Israel's Prime Minister Sharon her recipe for cholent.

area in 1943, but during the 1944 War of Independence, they were badly outnumbered and defeated by the Jordanian Legion. The women and children had been evacuated but all the men were killed and their villages destroyed. In 1967, the sons and daughters who had been evacuated in 1948 returned to rebuild their community and are living there today.

The next five days were spent in sessions under the framework of "Securing the Jewish future" which discussed many topics such as: "Between Concern and Hope: The State of the Jewish Mood", "Examining Israel – Diaspora Relations and Policies", "Bolstering Jewish Identity in Europe", "Jewish Identity in the New Millennium", "Restitution and its Aftermath" and many other topics.

The most enjoyable event was a concert at the Jerusalem Theatre including the Raanana Symphony Orchestra, several popular singers and a 50 drum ensemble, as well as **Dudu Fisher**, Cantor and Broadway star of *Les Miserables*. He sang Kol Nidre, blended with the song "Who Am I" from the play. It was quite moving to be part of an audience of 700 people from the entire World Jewry, all singing familiar songs in unison with the entertainers.

As with all Jewish concerts, there had to be speeches and that night we witnessed the variety of views among the Jewish leadership. As Chairman, **Edgar Bronfman** opened the concert by declaring that the time had come to separate the populations and build a fence around hostile elements. On the other hand, the Chairman of the Executive, **Mr. Mendel Kaplan**, speaking with a distinctly South African accent, said that fences had been tried in South Africa, and they don't work and that we should seek to live together in peace with our neighbours. The President of the State of Israel who was formerly from Iraq, then gave a first-hand account of how Arab countries had treated their Jewish citizens by seizing their homes and businesses and by expelling their Jewish citizens in the hundreds of thousands.

One of the most outstanding speakers was **Shimon Peres**, even if you disagreed with his views. It was amazing to see an 80 year old man come to the podium without a single note and speak in clear measured thoughts for one hour starting with

world history from the turn of the previous century and discussing world economics and politics, together with military awareness, even to the current day.

He recalled his days with Prime Minister **Ben Gurion** when the State was first founded and that it was never the intent nor the object to govern or colonize another people. The Constitution was clearly written to include the Arab population as full citizens in every respect. He detailed his negotiations with the Palestinians at Madrid and Oslo, and the objective to provide the Palestinians with their own self-government and autonomy and how disappointed he was that the Palestinian leadership had chosen violence. He pointed out that only Israel offered the Palestinian Order an independent state. When others ruled the area, such as the Ottoman Turks, the British and the Jordanians, not one of them offered an independent state to the Palestinian Order and that Israel agreed to this in 1947, again in the early 1970's with **Prime Minister Begin**, and many times since, even last year at Camp David, all of which was prior to **Bin Laden** or the current uprising. They had no need to resort to violence, when a peaceful solution has been on the table for 53 years. Peres recalled telling **Arafat** that Ben Gurion had decided in 1948 that, although there are many Israeli voices, there shall only be one Israeli Army and he moved to dismantle, even violently, all of the smaller Jewish militias, including Begin's, who laid down their arms for the sake of peace. Peres told Arafat that Israel has many voices, but only one rifle, whereas the Palestinians have his one voice, and too many rifles. He urged Arafat to reign in the many dissident rifles that are now destroying the peace.

Peres reviewed the diplomatic relationships with various Muslim countries and that many good relations had been restored until the current uprising. Now there is a total breakdown because moderate Arab leadership will not condemn their fanatics and the militant Muslims are out of control, thereby risking the peace and safety of the "moderate Arab majority". Radicals have hi-jacked Islam and Peres stated that this can only be fixed within Islam. Turkey has accomplished this and now Israel and the West have excellent relations with Turkey. He was optimistic politics can change elsewhere and used Iran as an example where 22 years ago their revolution was based on "Death to America" and who could have predicted that after the September 11th tragedy, Iran is making positive overtures toward the U.S.

The Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, noted in his speech that there was no violence between the Arabs and Israelis who live in Jerusalem. Any violence occurring in Jerusalem comes from those who live outside the city. The resident population is friendly and restrained, although separate. Even if the Palestinian Authority wants Jerusalem as its capital, the Arab residents want Jerusalem united and undivided under Israeli sovereignty, not under the Palestinian Authority. They see only too well the corruption and lawlessness that has happened in other Palestinian jurisdictions. There are good examples of Israelis and Arabs living together peacefully as neighbours in Jerusalem.

Irwin Cotler, M.P., gave the most shocking speech, as he described what happened at the Durban Conference on Racism. It was hi-jacked by racists who turned the entire conference against Israel. The Durban Plan was created to discredit Jews and Israel over the next 10 year period and many non-government organizations have been taken over by

pro-Arab sympathizers including many United Nations organizations. You will see in the future many resolutions against Israel passed by these NGOs and by the United Nations. Irwin Cotler said that if the Durban Plan was like Mein Kampf, then September 11th was the new Krystalnacht. It was primarily the Jewish students of Durban who stood up to the barrage of anti-Semitism expressed at all meetings. All phrases like "Apartheid" and "racism" were turned on its head, as Jews are accused, regardless of the facts. For example, although slavery still exists in several Muslim countries and the racist caste system still exists in India, and although the Palestinian objective is to remove Jews geographically (all akin to Apartheid), it is only Israel who is called an Apartheid State with racial policies. Anyone walking around Israel can see how successful its immigration policies have been, gathering many races from around the world, as refugees from racism and anti-Semitism, live together in peace.

In spite of the seriousness of many topics, it was a delight to see that the Jewish sense of humour still prevailed throughout many speeches. We heard that China has one billion people and at one point in time, only 5 Jews, and it was still reported that "Jews were running the country". A story from Pre-Independence days, was cute:- when the British arrested a Jew in 1947, his wife wrote a harsh letter to him in jail asking who was going to till the hard soil. He wrote back telling her not to till the ground because there were rifles buried in the field. The next day the British Army arrived in full force and tore up the entire field looking for rifles, but could find none. The prisoner then wrote to his wife that the field was now ready for planting.

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The Atlantic Jewish Council, in cooperation with the Canada Israel Committee is looking for contacts in each of our communities to assist in the promotion of Israel's cause, to improve our collective effectiveness and to ensure that Atlantic Jewry speaks with a unified voice.

- ☛ "Israel Advocacy in the Media"
- ☛ "Pro-Israel Political advocacy"
- ☛ "How and when to react to Pro Arab and Pro Palestinian propaganda"

We need a few responsible individuals to monitor their local media and keep our AJC office apprised of such activities.

If you can help, please contact:

In Moncton – Francis Weil – 506-854-9053 – email – annfrank@nb.sympatico.ca
 In Saint John – Susan Isaacs-Lubin – 506-652-4291 – email – slubin@nbnet.nb.ca
 In Fredericton – Marlene Unger – 506-455-9787 – email – unger@unb.ca
 In PEI – Rosalie Simeone – 902-672-2075 – email – dsimeone@isn.net
 In NF – Thomas Loewenheim – 709-576-1313 – email – tloewenh@mun.ca
 In Mainland NS – Naomi Honey – 902-678-6852 – email – nhoney@ns.sympatico.ca
 In Halifax Regional Municipality – Jim Spatz – 902-422-9870 – email – jim.spatz@southwest.ca
 In Cape Breton – Evy Druker – 902-564-6615 – email – avviedruker@syd.eastlink.ca

Any questions, please contact Jon Goldberg at the Atlantic Jewish Council – 902-422-7491, email – jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

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K O S H E R

Massada News

By Shirley Burnstein

Massada's President has been installed – **Ralph Garson**, who comes to us at this stage of life having held many positions in our community. I remember with glee our days as counselors at Kadimah and as director and producer of many musical productions – and now it's "full circle". I look forward to planning and programming with you, Ralph, as Massada members.

The attendance at our luncheon meetings remains steady – with enjoyable programs that are informative and often stir up memories as someone will come up with a photo from the past – be it a Judean Conference held in Cape Breton, or a YMHA basketball team. It's not always easy to match the faces to names but we have fun trying.

Pinnie Green gave a very informative presentation to our group and it was indeed touching to hear her speak so tenderly and with such dedication of her work with Palliative Care- a subject that she presented with dignity, honesty and gentleness. Thank you, Pinnie.

Thursday, November 29th at noon, a crowd gathered at Northwood Community Centre to share a delicious meal with the latkes made by our "Massada Ladies" – **Mindy Jacobson, Sarah Yablon, Naomi Judah, Barbara Alberstat, Ruth Garson, Marta Marcus, Jean Zlatin** and Shirley B. The latkes were the best yet and many thanks.

The Northwood Players, 47 in number, entertained with a group of Chanukah songs – solos were performed by **Mindy Jacobson, Barb Yablon, Phylis Perlin** and **Lou Dauphinee**. The hall was beautifully decorated with Chanukah table clothes, menorahs, Chanukah gelt and dreidles. **Rabbi Ellis** made the blessing over the wine and bread.

Mr. Lloyd Brown, President of Northwood welcomed all and delighted in the growth of this annual happening. **Dr. Sheva Medjuck**, President of the Atlantic Jewish Council, brought greetings and shared her personal thoughts about Massada. Councilor **Jerry Blumenthal** brought greetings from the Mayor and City Council.

"Mr. Bright Spot", **Joel Jacobson** was in attendance and has been a loyal supporter of Massada.

Ralph made a presentation to **Pauline Scott**, thanking her and her staff for their continuing support.

Looking over the crowd, it was nice to see **Mr. & Mrs. Sol Shore** and **Barb** and **Phil Alberstat's** visiting sister and brother-in-law.

Massada has a lot to offer our senior community and one of the joys is to see visitors and seniors from senior facilities visiting us and being able to meet with friends and socialize.

If you have a loved one who could benefit from joining us, please call, get on our call list and become informed. We will call you – leave your number with **Celia Fried** – 423-5533.

NB – The Chanukah dinner scheduled for the 16th of December at the Beth Israel has been cancelled.



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Schwartz Continues Volunteering with Demining Effort

By Julie Zatzman

It would surprise many who know Irving Schwartz to hear he is involved in a money-losing venture. After all, the Sydney, Nova Scotia, businessman has a track record of profitable ventures that spans decades in industries ranging from retail sales to telecommunications and school construction.

But over the past decade Schwartz – best known for his emphatic “I guarantee it!” television ads for his furniture stores – has turned his attention increasingly to concerns far removed from Cape Breton. His latest project is international in scope and, at best, can only break even – maybe. It has, however, taken him to many of the world’s most troubled hot spots and allowed him to rub shoulders with military officials and foreign diplomats.

Trim and steely-eyed in his later years, Schwartz hasn’t changed much from the workaholic entrepreneur who earned the headline “Thank G-d it’s Monday” in a Cape Breton business magazine a decade ago. He still puts in 12 to 14-hour days. Now, however, most of his work is voluntary. For example, on the day of this interview he took part in a morning conference call as a board member for the Nova Scotia Community College system and followed that with another conference call with the National Capital Commission, of which he has been a member for several years, before turning to his latest project.

Voluntarism has been a part of his life since 1947 when he joined the New Waterford Volunteer Fire Department in his home town. He has been active in countless causes locally ranging from the Red Cross to the University College of Cape Breton Board of Governors. He is active in efforts to provide employment in job-hungry industrial Cape Breton and helped launch two growing software companies and an independent cheesecake producer in the Sydney area.

Schwartz has worked with Israel bond committees and B’nai Brith and is proud to be a life associate member of Hadassah-Wizo.

But it’s his most recent venture, the Canadian International Demining Corporation (CIDC), that is giving him the most satisfaction these days. “It’s the one major opportunity to work on an international problem on a totally voluntary basis,” he says.

Schwartz is the chairman and founder of CIDC, a Sydney-based non governmental organization that has operations in such war-ravaged countries as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Equador, Taiwan and Thailand.

He was as surprised as anyone by the start of this organization.

“It was in 1996. A fellow came to see me. He was an ex-



Irving Schwartz and Senator Sheila Finestone in Jordan.

soldier and said he knew something about demining. He wanted to start a company to raise landmines,” Schwartz recalled.

The former soldier had been referred to Schwartz by a Sydney woman who was an ardent activist for causes quite different from those Schwartz was involved with.

“I don’t know where she would get the faintest clue that I’d be interested in doing something like this. We were never on the same side of the table! I can’t understand it to this moment,” he says of the surprise referral. “But it just so happened that during my lifetime there were major events such as the Second World War that I was not able to participate in. I always thought one of the great scourges of the world were all the landmines left behind by all these wars and I said to myself if I ever got an opportunity I would get involved, never dreaming that

this could ever happen. Five minutes after we had spoken I said, ‘We’re going to do it.’” Schwartz agreed to start the company on the conditions that the office remain in the Sydney area and that it be a not-for-profit corporation. “Not only is it not-for-profit, it loses lots of money. It could break even...it would be nice,” he says almost wistfully.

Funded by corporations, government agencies, NGO’s (non governmental organizations) and individuals and groups across North America, CIDC today is recognized as a world leader in its field – training and working with landmine detection dog teams. The devastating effect unmarked and unrecorded landmines have on the spread of democracy and socio-economic progress underlines the importance of this work.

Seventy countries are known to be contaminated by landmines. There are hundreds of thousands of landmines in the Balkans and an estimated 300,000 to two million in Mozambique. Each landmine lasts up to 100 years. On any given day there are at least 60 landmine casualties in the world, most of them civilians. Where there is a threat of landmines children can’t go to school, farmers can’t work their fields, villagers can’t return to their settlements, economic activity is impossible. Years after the fighting has stopped people remain refugees within their own countries.

CIDC operates counter landmine measures integrated with community reconstruction initiatives in some of the world’s worst-ravaged sites: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Equador, Taiwan and Thailand. CIDC, supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), teaches local humanitarian demining organizations and NGO’s how to train dog teams to detect landmines. The result is a 500 per cent increase in productivity over traditional detection methods.

CIDC has also just completed a \$2.5 million national

landmine impact survey for the Mozambique government. The study charts the location of landmine fields as well as detailing their socio-economic impact on the country. Approximately 2,000 villages took part. The study is the first of its kind to be carried out in Africa and was funded almost entirely by CIDA. It will provide a road map for future mine-action programs in Mozambique.

Schwartz' business sense persists. He insists that CIDC keep control of the funds earmarked for demining activity and won't negotiate otherwise. "We just told the Croatians to take a walk," he said regarding a specific proposed project. "We're taking our ball and bat and going home. We're controlling the money."

His involvement with CIDC has taken the New Waterford-born businessman to Jordan, Bosnia, Croatia and Mozambique. "When I went to Mozambique the last time, I met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I met with the Ambassador of Land Mines in Mozambique and I met with Nelson Mandela's new wife Graca Machel, all in the one trip. I said to myself 'I can't believe I'm doing this,'" he confides.

For his voluntary activities Schwartz was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 1997.

Giving back to society is something Schwartz and his siblings were brought up with. The family owned a general store and knew they were better off than most in New Waterford during the Depression. "We saw all kinds of poverty and sadness. We always felt luckier and knew we had to share some of that."

His brother Harold, also of Sydney, agrees. "My mother

always believed you had to give back. That's where it came from." Three years ago he and his wife Diane purchased a building near Tel Aviv to serve as an after-school centre for disadvantaged children. The centre is operated by United Israel Appeal.

And Schwartz's sister Ruth M. Goldbloom O.C. began her volunteer activities at an early age under her mother's guidance. "I was a dancer...tap, ballet, highland...She would lend me out as a fundraiser. I never knew where she was taking me. It was a very ecumenical kind of practise." Goldbloom went on to become the Chair of the Board for Mount Saint Vincent University and the first woman to chair the annual United Way campaign in metropolitan Halifax. Her crowning achievement came as President of the Pier 21 Society in 1997 when Pier 21, the Canadian Immigration Museum in Halifax, officially opened. For her voluntary efforts she has been named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

"Volunteer work is part of a tradition of being Jewish. From the time we were little we were made to realize we had a responsibility to the community in which we lived," she said.

Schwartz says being Jewish motivates him to work on projects such as CIDC.

"Being Jewish comes in there everywhere you are. You're always constantly aware you're being judged as being Jewish, wherever you go, whatever you do. It's part of us. Whatever we do we keep thinking we're representing Jews. We have a responsibility to do the right thing. We've been lucky, we've been allowed to come in to this country and make a living and survive and that's the way I look at it."

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Chanukah

Chanukah ... the festival of lights ... the celebration of the victory of the Maccabees over King Antiochus' army ... the restoration of the Temple and the miracle of the cruse of oil burning for 8 days. Our modern day miracle is the State of Israel. Once again, the Jews of Israel are threatened as they were more than 2000 years ago.

While we celebrate this festive holiday with song and delectable delights, we must also remember to remain vigilant and steadfast in defence of our homeland. We must stand united with our brothers and sisters in Israel. We must do all we can to assist the most vulnerable and those who have experienced violence and terror and whose lives have been dramatically altered by the events of the recent past ... like Sasha, pictured here with his grandmother who himself sustained wounds and whose father was killed and mother critically injured in the May 2001 Netanya Mall attack.

As we light each successive candle, let us all be mindful of the journey that generations of Jews have taken and do all we can to ensure that we maintain a strong and vibrant Jewish community at home and abroad.



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

