

Shalom!

Fall 2002 Vol. 27, No. 3

STAV 5763

שלום!

Rosh Hashanah wishes for You!



In this issue:

Middle East Basics: Busting Myths — Building Understanding
Yom Hashoah Commemorations across the Region
Washington — A Trip to Remember

שלום

President's Message

President: Dr. Sheva Medjuck

by Dr. Sheva Medjuck



**The Atlantic Jewish Council
Quarterly
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STAV 5763
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As I write this article for the Yom Tov
Edition of *Shalom*, it is a beautiful
summer day. I know that we talk about
Yom Tov being either early or late. Does it
ever arrive at just the right time? But
really, Yom Tov in the same week as
Labour Day and the very first week of
classes is really somewhat extreme. There
must be something wrong with the
Gregorian calendar.

While one usually expects summers to
be a bit quieter, this summer has been a
busy one at the AJC. The Israel
Emergency campaign took considerable
time and effort for our staff to organize.
Without our devoted lay volunteers and
without the support of the entire Atlantic
community, we could not have reached our
goal of \$300,000. In these troubled times,
it is reassuring to know that everyone
wants to do all he or she can to help our
Israeli brothers and sisters.

We were delighted that **Yoine
Goldstein**, President of UIA-Federations
Canada and his wife, **Elaine**, visited
Halifax this summer. His dedication and
leadership serves as an inspiration to all of
us. I was especially heartened that Yoine
was very impressed by our community,
commenting especially on the dynamism
and commitment of our small community
and congratulating us on how we manage
to act, think, and perform like a big
community. While there is very much to
accomplish in enhancing our Jewish life in
this region, it is good to hear that we are
doing some things well and that our efforts
are valued and appreciated.

We also took Yoine and Elaine
Goldstein to Camp Kadimah. We were
also graced by a visit from her Honour
Myra Freeman, Lieutenant-Governor of
Nova Scotia, and His Honour, **Lawrence
Freeman**, accompanied by their daughter,
Debra. The campers certainly get a kick
out of the fact that it was at Camp
Kadimah that the Lieutenant-Governor met
her husband. Her Honour emphasized to
the campers in her remarks that they can
accomplish anything that they wish and
that they should dare to dream.

There is no
doubt that the
Camp is an
absolute jewel of the Atlantic Jewish
Community. It has become a national and
international camp training young Jewish
leadership from across the country. We are
indebted to the current co-chairs of the
Camp Committee, **Victor Goldberg** and
Jim Spatz, for their tremendous
commitment to Camp Kadimah and to the
former co-chairs, **Mark Rosen** and
Andrew Wolfson, whose devotion to
Camp was extraordinary.

On a side note, this summer I had
several visitors from Toronto who went to
Pier 21. One of these visitors was a
colleague from the University of Toronto
who was a bit reluctant to go to Pier 21 but
we had arranged for **Ruth Goldbloom** to
accompany him. When I met up with him
after his visit, he was absolutely ecstatic.
He had found the ship his father and uncle
had come to Canada on, with a listing of
the passengers, their trades, and the
amount of money they had (in this case ten
dollars). He was on the phone to his
mother and brother and with each phone
call he became more animated. A group of
13 year olds from Heschel School (a
parochial day school in Toronto) came to
Halifax on their school trip and they too
were wowed by Pier 21. We are indeed
fortunate to have a leader like Ruth
Goldbloom who had the foresight to
envision Pier 21 and the stamina and
determination to make it happen.

I want to give everyone a heads up
that the Atlantic Jewish Council's Biennial
Convention will be held the weekend of
November 15-17 in Moncton. Please make
every effort to attend as it promises to be
an exciting event. Mailings will be sent to
you as we get closer to the date, but please
mark your calendars now.

Finally, my sister Shulamith joins me
in wishing everyone a very Healthy and
Happy New Year. At this holy time, I
know that our thoughts are even more
focused on Israel. May our prayers for
peace in Israel be fulfilled in the New Year.



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

by Jon M. Goldberg

Welcome to our annual New Year's edition of Shalom. This is by far our largest issue ever. On behalf of Marie Herschorn, Assistant Editor and all the staff who worked so hard on this publication, we trust you will find it both informative and enjoyable. Good Yontif from all of us!

5762 is almost a memory. It's been quite a year for the Jewish people. We have seen our brothers and sisters in Israel under constant attack by terrorists and suicide bombers. Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish bashing has reared its ugly head throughout Europe and even here in North America.

In Atlantic Canada we are somewhat out of the mainstream but we also have been struggling with the media and battling for the hearts and minds of our fellow Canadians.

This past May many of you showed your support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people with your generous response to our emergency campaign. As we wait daily for the news from Israel and watch their economy, particularly tourism shrink, our hearts go out to the families of all who have been injured and have died because they were living in the Jewish State.

On a local level we have continued our efforts to promote Jewish continuity, Holocaust education and provided programs for seniors, youth, campus and young professionals as best we can.

Camp Kadimah had another terrific summer – it's 59th, and preparations are already underway for our 60th anniversary next summer.

I would like to thank all members of the AJC Executive for their guidance and assistance this past year. Also I extend many thanks to our regular contributors to this magazine.

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Our office staff is constantly changing. We have said goodbye to **Lysa Magder**, **Aviva Rubin** and **Joanna Mirsky**. I want to thank all of them for their wonderful contributions and efforts during their tenure with the AJC.

As we move into a New Year we will be joined by Mr. **Michael Anthony** from Toronto, who will be handling youth programming, working on campaign and involved in outreach. We will also be welcoming Ms. **Yael Goodman** from Israel who will be our campus staff person. This arrangement was made possible through a grant by UIAFC.

The New Year marks the beginning of my 12th year as Executive Director. Each day brings new problems and new challenges – both exciting and exhilarating – most happy – some sad. This is the nature of Jewish communal service. On behalf of everyone here at the office I want to wish our readers a Happy and Healthy New Year. May you all be blessed with good health and long life.



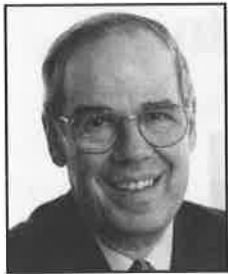
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New Year Message

by Yoine Goldstein, President,
UIA Federations Canada

I am writing this message shortly after my return from a weekend visit to Halifax when I had the great pleasure of meeting the Community leadership and spending a lovely Sunday afternoon at Camp Kadimah.

The Atlantic Jewish Council is blessed with outstanding leaders. Although I had met many of your leaders before my recent visit, refreshing my friendship with them and meeting others whom I had not met before was a thoroughly pleasant and interesting experience for me. The devotion and commitment of your leadership, the fact that it is young and dynamic and the mutual respect that they have for each other bodes well for the future of the community.

The Jewish world is not going through an easy time. The ongoing terrorism in Israel, notwithstanding the fact that Israel has retaken the parts of the West Bank that breed extremism and terrorism, has required the mobilization of the reservists and has placed a tremendous strain on the economy. Outside of Israel, including Canada, anti-Semitic incidents are proliferating. While we are not experiencing anything near the ongoing, upsetting racism which we witness virtually every day in Europe and, especially, in France, we in Canada have nevertheless also been victims of synagogue bombings and brutal racist crimes.

These are hard times.

Nevertheless, we, as Jews, are now empowered by the fact of the existence of a Jewish sovereign state. Israel's prowess in many scientific fields, in economics and, yes, in matters military, makes us proud and enables us to be responsive to all challenges with self-respect and with the comfort which results from the knowledge of "belonging".

Canadian Jews have continued to display an outstanding commitment to our brethren in Israel and abroad. The Community Solidarity Rallies which took place throughout Canada were evidence of the fact that we identify with, and support, the Israeli people. The outstanding success of the Israel Emergency Campaign has heartened everybody and has made it clear yet again that we will be responsive to the needs of our brethren. The funds that were raised in the Campaign – more than we usually raise for Israel in an entire year in Canada – were used to alleviate human suffering, encourage immigration, repair psychological wounds brought about by terrorism and satisfy human needs of the people of Israel at a time when the Israeli government is obliged to devote extra resources for fighting terror at the expense of social, health and education budgets.

The Canadian Jewish response to Prime Minister Sharon's call for help was nothing short of spectacular and, especially, the response of the Atlantic Jewish community, which raised an outstanding amount of money for this purpose in a very brief period of time. I was particularly happy and proud to be able to announce, when I was in Jerusalem in late June, the outstanding contribution made by Canadian Jews in general

and the Atlantic region, in particular.

Our responsibility for the welfare of our brethren will continue. Notwithstanding the events in Israel, immigration is continuing virtually unabated. Argentinean refugees join with members of the former Soviet Union in arriving to Israel, and seeking a new and better life. At least initially, we are called upon to help support them and this is a role which Canadian Jews have been very proud to play. Our active participation and our contributions discharge the responsibility of helping to create the social and financial conditions which will ease their integration into Israeli society and the Israeli economy.

This has been a terrible year, both for us as Jews and as citizens of this marvelous country in which we are honored to live. As terrible as the year was, however, the fact is that this year will be remembered in Jewish history as a year during which an outstanding assertion of togetherness, of self-respect, of solidarity and of giving and sharing, which distinguishes us as a People, took place. May we all, therefore, celebrate the new year as we choose, but in the knowledge that we have actively contributed to making the past year so much better than it would otherwise have been, but for our activities and our support.

Shana Tova to all!

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APJSF: A New Name for A New Year

by Joanna Grossman, Co-President,
Jewish Student Association of the Atlantic

looking to renew its image for the upcoming school year.

Formerly known as APJSF, the new *Jewish Student Association (JSA) of the Atlantic* is gearing up for an exciting year.

Our new website: www.JSA-East.com is just the start of what we will be providing students in the Atlantic Provinces with this year.

We are looking forward to offering new programs to really revive Jewish Student life in Halifax.

Myself, **Joanna Grossman**, and my co-President, **Jordan Benson** are excited to welcome **Yael Goodman** from Israel who will be acting as our new staff person.

We are sure that she will bring great enthusiasm and knowledge to the group.

We are certain that Yael will prove to be a great resource and leader, given her experience with Birthright Israel and her first hand thoughts of living in Israel during the current political situation.

The new name is just a start: the JSA is geared up for a great year.

We will be welcoming students to the region with apples and honey thanks to a generous grant from the Soref Foundation for Emerging Campuses and Hillel International.

The generosity of the community and the support of the AJC Executive Board has enabled us to undergo the search for a site for a Jewish student Bayit; we hope to have a site in place for the school year.

Also, on a national scale, plans are underway to establish a Canadian Union of Jewish Students so that Jewish students all across Canada can share ideas, challenges, and advice to strengthen Jewish student life across the country.

These few things are just the beginning.

We plan to take advantage of the growing number of students, and to create vibrant Jewish student communities across the region.

Don't hesitate to contact us through the AJC or, starting September, come and visit our new website!!

Birthright

by Oliver Sauve, age 19 Victoria, P.E.I.

I recently traveled to the holy, yet controversial, land of Israel on a ten day tour called "Birthright".

The purpose of the Birthright program is to help the Diaspora Jews better understand their homeland of Israel; its history, the Jewish religion, and the Jewish people as a whole.

The journey started on May 23, 2002 when I met up at Pearson airport (Toronto) with forty-five other Jewish youths from across the country. Despite a few people on the trip that knew each other prior to our departure, we pretty much left to Israel as complete strangers.

However, besides the fact that we all cheered upon our arrival in Israel, we shared another common identity.

That identity was that we were all Jewish nationalists interested in the culture of our roots, and how we can improve it.

Over the ten days we stayed in hotels, kibbutz's, a Bedouin tent, and did practically everything we could in the short amount of time we had.

Some of the things we did included: spending time in the old city of Jerusalem and at the kotel, camel riding, rafting,

repelling, wine tasting, swimming at the dead sea, charity work, an archeological dig, and many hikes including Mount Masada.

We were also very fortunate to have visited several memorials in Jewish history such as: Yad Vashem, the military cemetery, and Independence Hall.

Aside from the sites and sights, I believe that we all got a lot more out of the trip.

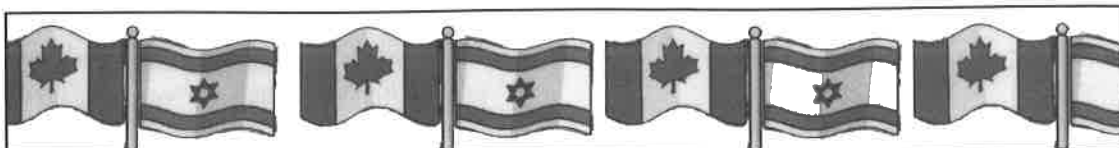
Not only did we create memorable relationships with each other, our madrich's **Rachel** and **Patrick**, and our very inspiring tour guide, **Tzvi**, but we also grew to know ourselves better, or at least I did.

This trip gave me the opportunity to understand myself from a different perspective and a chance to reanalyze my personal morals.

In addition to that, the Birthright experience taught me a lot about our past and present situations, and how important it is right now for us to think and speak critically, and avoid biases both in the media and from the ignorant.

Special Feature:

The following pages are dedicated to the generous contributors from the Atlantic Canadian Jewish Community to the the Plus Giving Campaign – UJA of Atlantic Canada 2001.



United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה A Division of UJA of Canada Inc.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to include pictures and letters of thank you from Israel for the Plus Giving donations which many of you made to our 2001 UJA Campaign. As you know our campaign increased over the past year by 17.2%. We are pleased to inform you that \$45,000 of our increase was given to improve bomb shelters and communication centres in the Galilee Panhandle which is our partnership affiliated area in the North of Israel.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosen

UJA Regional Chair

Galilee Panhandle
BOMB SHELTER





20 May 2002

Mr. Jon Goldberg - Executive Director,
Atlantic Jewish Council,
5875 Spring Garden Road,
Suite 800,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L2
CANADA

Dear Jon,

It was wonderful seeing you during my recent visit to Canada, and I just wish we could have spent more time together. I now have the pleasure of sending you letters of thanks from educational institutions in the Galilee Panhandle whose bomb shelters have recently been transformed.

Bomb shelters are not places that one generally associates with pleasure. All too often we have seen bomb shelters in conditions that are so depressing that it's hard to imagine people having to spend any time there at all, let alone sometimes hours on end.

Thanks to the generosity of the Atlantic Jewish Community, under your fine guidance, the Kiryat Shmona Educational Resource Centre and three Schools in the Galilee Panhandle now boast bomb shelters that also offer a source of pleasure and enrichment. We are sending you a copy of the story that appeared in the first "UIAFC E-Newsletter" from Israel regarding the improved bomb shelters, which you may already have seen.

In times of security unrest and in times of peace, the children and educators will be thinking of their wonderful friends in Canada, whose generosity and foresight have made a significant improvement in their lives. On their behalf, and on behalf of UIA Canada, I extend heartfelt thanks

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
Howard M. Weisband,
Director-General

Please extend my personal appreciation to all of your donors!

CC: Maxyne Finkelstein,
Dov Harris,
Nurit Biderman,
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המרכז הפדגוגי האזורי
קריית שמונה

Translation From Hebrew

April 2002

Dear Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada,

On behalf of the educators of the Galilee Panhandle region, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to you for your generous donation towards the purchase of equipment for the bomb shelter in the Kiryat Shmona Educational Resource Centre.

Your wonderful gift has enabled us to create a **Telecommunications Centre** and **Canada-Israel Learning Centre** in the bomb shelter. As you probably know, the Educational Resources Centre provides services to educators from Kiryat Shmona and the rest of the Galilee Panhandle region, particularly to all the schools involved in the Schools Living Bridge program.

Your gift will help to further promote and strengthen the wonderful 'living bridge' - the special relationship - between your community and the people of the Galilee Panhandle.

For the people who live along the northern Confrontation Line, bomb shelters are part of daily life. Thanks to the foresight and concern of the Atlantic Jewish Community, under the guidance of our friend Jon Goldberg, the bomb shelter in our Centre has now been converted into a multi-functional facility, which will fulfil a wide range of functions in times of peace, and in times of security threat.

Todah rabah to you all. We join together in prayers for peaceful times.

With heartfelt thanks,
Yours sincerely,
Sigalit Koren
Sigalit Koren - Director,
The Kiryat Shmona Educational Resource Centre

CC: Mr. Jon Golberg, Executive Director, Atlantic Jewish Council

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טלפון: 04-6949270 פקס: 04-6903399
sigalit.koren@hotmail.co.il

The Kiryat shmonah Educational Resource centre

Before



During renovations



During work



After



לב העמק בית ספר יסודי משותף בעמותת מרחבי



23 April 2002

Dear Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada,

On behalf of my School, "Lev HaEmek", I would like to thank you from the depth of my heart for your contribution to our School.

You have given us the possibility to create an active centre with all kinds of thinking games, in a bomb shelter that daily serves us as a place to protect our pupils during shellings or war.

Thanks to your support, we can enrich our students and give them a chance to spend their time in a positive manner when they have to stay underground in the bomb shelters.

Todah rabbah!

Sincerely,
Mira Alexander
Mira Alexander - Principal,
Lev HaEmek Elementary Regional School

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מזכירה 04-8848170
מנהל 04-8848124
חידור מורים 04-8848188
קסם 04-8802887

1/1/02 22:11:04

דואר נע גליל עילון 120 12

"Lev Haemek" shelters



BEFORE



AFTER RENOVATIONS



BEFORE



AFTER





ב"ס משותף בכפר גלעדי מיקוד 12210 טל' 04-6946361 04-6940828

Translation From Hebrew

April 2002

To:
The Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada,
C A N A D A

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you, on my own behalf and in the name of the pupils and the educators of the Alei Givva School. We thank you for the wonderful gift that you have bestowed upon us. Thanks to the Atlantic Jewish Community's donation, we were able to transform the school bomb shelter into an active area.

For us who live along the Confrontation Line, the border with Lebanon, use of the shelters is part of our daily lives, so it is important that the shelters be a pleasant, relaxing place.

The children can go and spend time there during their breaks, and in this way, in times of security threat, their fear of being ordered into the bomb shelters will be eliminated.

In these days of unrest and security threat, your donation towards conversion of the bomb shelter is particularly deeply appreciated.

With blessings and thanks,
Ruthi Calavari
Ruthi Calavari - Principal,
Alei Givva School

"Alei Givva" shelter



Before



Before
renovation

After



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Translation From Hebrew

April 2002

To:
The Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada,
C A N A D A

Shalom!

I am writing to try to express my feelings about the wonderful donation that you sent us, that has enabled us to transform the school bomb shelter.

Unfortunately, due to security warnings or katyusha rocket fire, we often have to spend time in the bomb shelter, which was in a terrible condition - neglected, deserted, and bare.

Thanks to your donation, we have now been able to add "colour" and "life" to what was a bleak, empty bomb shelter. I believe that this will make it easier for us when we have to spend time in the shelter, in times of security threat. We will now be able to considerably reduce the pupils' level of anxiety and stress.

A bomb shelter that has carpet, furniture, a television, video and computer, as well as games for activating the children, will most definitely create a feeling of relaxation. The children will be kept so busy that they will forget their fears. We know that this pleasant, aesthetic environment improves the atmosphere.

You will considerably reduce the suffering of our pupils, particularly in these difficult times of uncertainty.

The school educators, the pupils and their parents - we all bless you for this wonderful initiative, and we thank you.

With sincerest gratitude,
Sylvie Shlomo
Sylvie Shlomo - Principal,
Yitzhak HaNassi School

Yitzhak Hanasi shelter

Before renovations



After



During work



The On-Line Roving Rabbi

by David Ellis – AJC Regional Chaplain

Okay, I know I should have done it long ago. I guess it was part of being one of the “stiff-necked people.”

I fought against the Internet and e-mail for a long time. For communicating, I always liked Moses’ way with G-d, panim al panim, face-to-face. If necessary, the telephone. For writing, the good old Canada Post; for an emergency, I grudgingly conceded to a fax.

The Internet – I had seen it for several years. Some interesting things, but my reaction was that I heard of **Ed Asner**, quoting Newton Minnow: “A Vast Wasteland” (Newton Minnow, you might know, was head of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission in the late 50’s; his remarks were about television. If he was appalled then, he would be even more so now!).

But then, the sensible approach of my good friend from the Island, **Joe Naylor**, prevailed. Yes, he said, the Internet and e-mail can have much garbage and be a waste of time, but for those who know how to use it, it can be a great tool.

So I have gotten hooked up at home now. Am I getting hooked altogether? “Abba, why are you spending so much time on the computer?”

Well, there are tremendous resources on the Internet. You would have to spend hours going through a library to find all you were looking for. And if you find an informative article, you can mail it to everyone instantly.

So the roving rabbi is now the on-line rabbi: david_rose_ellis@juno.com. It is just the free Internet and e-mail to begin with, and it has limitations. But I am in the early Dayenu stage of usage, thankful and appreciative of even the minor benefits of technology, not to speak of the advanced stages.

So contact me with any insights, articles or questions to my attention. I will be grateful for your input.

Some of the web-sites I have found useful so far (besides the familiar ones – Jerusalem Post, etc.) are the following:

- Judaism 101: www.jewfaq.org : Basic, solid knowledge about Judaism
- Jewish Telegraph Agency: www.jta.org : Reliable, well-written articles about the world Jewish scene
- Forward Magazine: www.forward.com : The English survivor of the old Yiddish paper, Die Fohrwarts, for which our own Sheva Medjuck’s father wrote many years ago. Thoughtful articles. The homepage has over 100 click-ons, to every major Jewish media source as well as major newspapers.

- Shema Magazine: www.shma.com : Well-written articles, variety of Jewish opinion
- Chief Rabbi of England, Jonathan Sacks, www.chiefrabbi.org : Insights from one of today’s most astute Jewish thinkers
- Dennis Prager: www.dennisprager.com : Dennis Prager hosts a radio show in Los Angeles. His articles and the sources he cites are always worth reading.

A Very Timely Website

We are daily hearing of massive amounts of corporate fraud, greed, and dubious business dealings rocking the stock market. What does Judaism have to say about these events? Plenty.

There is a widely mistaken notion, which sometimes we rabbis are guilty of promoting, that Jewish law is only a matter of ritual and ceremony – keeping kosher, davening, celebrating the Sabbath and holidays. As integral as all of these are to Jewish life, there is also another tradition of Jewish law which has been neglected for many years but which is now beginning to become relevant – the corpus of Jewish civil law.

Beginning with the Bible and going through the Talmud, its commentaries and codes, there is a centuries old tradition of civil legislation, dealing with every subject one would study at Law School: laws of evidence, damages, buying and selling, contracts, real estate and the like. It is the role of the Center for Business Ethics and Social Responsibility <http://www.besr.org> to relate this ancient tradition to up-to-date problems.

Go through the website and you will find articles on genetic engineering, computer hacking, corporate responsibility, environmental issues and many other timely subjects.

I consider this to be one of the most important organizations and examples of Jewish scholarship in Israel. If we are to settle the land, are we not to settle it according to our Jewish traditions of charity and justice?

And we Jews in Canada should approach our social problems – poverty, health care, immigration, the environment – with a background of how our tradition would see these issues. We should have our own distinct outlook and not simply subscribe to one of another political or academic group.

From Last Rosh Hashanah to this Rosh Hashanah

by Rabbi Saul I. Aranov, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, NS

Last Rosh Hashanah we were confronted by a course of events that affected all of humanity.

No longer was Israel's struggle with Palestinian terrorists and Hizballah a localized or regional matter.

It took a while to convince even the U.S. that the Palestinian terrorists were part of a world-wide network of terror organizations.

They are all aligned to declare war on America as well as on Israel and on all so-called moderate regimes in the Muslim world.

The European countries have brought their latent anti-Semitism back to the surface again.

What symbols can we draw on from the Torah tradition that relate to The High Holy Days and current events.

"Unetaneh Tokef" Revisited When The Whole World Is Being Judged

Every Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year occasion, when the entire world is being judged, has supra-global significance as even the angels tremble also the souls of departed are being judged.

Not in recent memory on this day that is called Yom Hazikkaron – A day of Remembrances has the Yom Ha-Din – Judgment Day aspect been so palpable as the world experienced as an act that has a sweep with global repercussions for years to come.

The name of what once stood on ground zero in New York City was aptly called the World Trade Centre where significant numbers of people from many countries identified with capitalist societies were slaughtered by the most cunning kind of terrorism.

I am amused by the average American citizen who thinks that the entire world sympathizes with the United States.

The naïve forget that what this confrontation implies is a struggle of ideas that is the background for front line terrorism.

The **Bin Ladens** are not of the minority Shiite sect in the Muslim world. They are fundamentalists and racists of the major wing of Sunnite Islam, something that **President Bush's** advisor **Condeleeza Rice** did not know.

Are there no moderates in the Islamic Religion?

Even if eighty percent of Muslims are considered to be moderate, that still leaves 200 million Muslims who sympathize with the fundamentalists whose ideological anchor is the Quranic teaching of "Jihad" holy war which they regard as a sixth pillar of Islam to be waged against infidels – Jews and Christians. (cf. Quran, Sura 2:186-90, 212-15, 245 and 247).

The astute scholar on the Middle East, Professor **Fuad Ajami** in his work "The Arab Predicament" characterizes the Arab contradiction as a juggling of past and present.

The Muslim feels subjugated to dominant Western culture and uses fundamentalism as a response – an uprising against the U.S. since the reactionary Arab regimes have not met their peoples' needs.

While so-called moderate states such as Egypt and Jordan accept a compromise with the West, the masses in their countries are fodder for fundamentalism and seek to destabilize their countries.

Years ago when I lived in Edmonton, Alberta, it was a bastion of Christian Pentecostalist fundamentalism.

These sects regard other mainline Christians as 'lukewarm' Christians.

Similarly Muslim fundamentalists believe that moderate Arab leaders have sold out Islam.

We Jews, the mother faith of monotheistic religions, are reviled by Islam, a daughter faith.

The Palestinians for both political and religious predispositions refuse to accept the existence of the mother just as they wish to deny the State of Israel its existence.

Perhaps their psychological non-recognition stems from the Torah's rejection of Ishmael as an inheritor with Isaac of which we read this day.

Indeed we have our scripture which predates Islam by almost two thousand years.

Our prophets foretold our return to Israel.

National return was to precede spiritual repentance.

The "I" of Islamic Fundamentalism reflects the "I" of intolerance.

If a person of another faith steps on their land or in their mosque, we defile it; so much for their reputed tolerance.

If they claim to originate from **Abraham** they must be reminded that Abraham practiced religious inclusion not exclusion.

Our Torah reading reminds us that Abraham did not want even to exclude **Ishmael**; it was **Sarah** who insisted that Ishmael should be sent away.

When **King Solomon** dedicated the first Temple he invited worshippers of all religions to visit since it is a house of Prayer for humanity.

So much for the world scene today.

Let us now turn to the Judgment theme of this Rosh Hashanah day.

Every year we recite a haunting prayer known as "Unetaneh Tokef".

It states, "We will express the mighty holiness of this day for it is awesome on which Thy Kingdom is exalted and Thy throne established in grace... Verily thou art Judge and Arbitrator..."

G-d as Judge is often emphasized but He also operates with grace.

Normally in the judicial process both the plaintiff and the defendant state their claims before a rabbinic tribunal whereupon the judges study the representations and render a just decision.

Once the path of litigation is chosen the judges cannot arbitrate but must follow 'Din Torah'.

The Almighty who is judge is also a claimant against those who violate His Torah Laws.

He has the option of settling with us without resorting to litigation against us.

G-d is characterized as the good shepherd who leads his flock with compassion.

That is the meaning of the words "Kevakarat Ro'eh Edro" –as a shepherd numbers his flock.

After we recite the aforementioned prayer we recite that G-d is easy to appease for He does not desire our demise but that we should repent and live and He is always ready to accept us since He knows our vulnerable nature.

This symbolism is also noted in the Haftorah for the Second day of Rosh Hashanah (Jeremiah 31) where it states "G-d protects us as a shepherd guards his flock".

So also did the prophet Ezekiel state (34:12-16)

"As a shepherd seeks out his flock...so will I seek out My sheep and I will deliver them...where they have been scattered in the day of clouds and thick darkness...(I will) father them from all the countries and I will bring them into their own land...I will feed them in a good pasture and upon the high mountains of Israel shall be their fold...I will feed my sheep and cause them to lie down, saith Hashem.

I will seek that which was lost and will bring back that which was driven away and will bind up that which was broken and will strengthen that which was sick".

The aforementioned texts indicate that the shepherd's efforts are all positive concerning Israel.

G-d faults those who led Israel poorly and now he seeks their repentance.

The Talmud in Rosh Hashanah (18a) teaches "on Rosh Hashanah all inhabitants of the world pass before Him as "B'nai Maron". One sage explains B'nai Maron as sheep passing to be counted.

Reish Lakesh said, "like the narrow mountain path of Maron."

Rav Yehuda in **Samuel's** name said "like the armies of **David's** house".

In the first case one might imagine a judgment without mercy since all sheep pass by in similar fashion, yet when G-d views everyone, it is as each individual is taken into consideration from all their aspects, not that all are bunched together in a general judgment.

The Maharsha substantiates this view.

The second view of a narrow mountain path indicates one whose options are limited and their position is precarious in judgment as those who are "Beinonim" people who are in a fifty merits and fifty demerits situation.

The third view of the armies of David's house is that of full control that David exercised.

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That is why the Midrash states that when David stated, "Before you (O' G-d) may my judgment go forth", David expresses confidence that G-d will judge him more compassionately than will a human court.

We must take a positive attitude even when our judgment process commences.

Also we need not wait for the grace of Yom Kippur to give us encouragement since Rosh Hashanah also possesses an element of atonement that is contained in the Musaf offering of Rosh Chodesh which is part of the Rosh Hashanah ritual.

G-d's Oath Supersedes The Oaths of Human Beings

The Almighty told Avraham that his seed would inherit the land.

On the occasion when Avraham dug a well at Beersheva the ruler **Avimelekh** noted Avraham's success that he was blessed by G-d.

Avimelekh wanted to associate with Avraham so that he would also benefit by receiving a piece of prosperity.

The covenant that Avimelekh struck with Avraham involved the taking of an oath that Avraham would not exercise his option to take the land for four generations.

The nature of that covenant was unilateral.

Avraham made an oath but Avimelekh did not reciprocate.

Much as modern day Palestinians do not live up to the agreement that they signed and try to delegitimize Israel's very existence.

The Almighty was wroth with Avraham for having forestalled the Divine Promise which granted the land to Avraham and his descendants.

The immediate result was that Avraham had to endure his most severe test that was the Akedah-binding of Isaac of which we read this morning.

Just as Avraham jeopardized the Divine plan so the Almighty made him endure the potential death of his beloved son Isaac who was to be the instrument of the Divine fulfillment.

Perhaps that is why Avraham did not pose the question, 'If Isaac would be offered as a sacrifice, what would become of the Divine promise that Avraham's progeny would inherit the land?'

Immanuel Kant, the eminent German philosopher, held that Avraham's action at the Akedah was a violation of ethical behavior and was an irrational act.

It is my intention to demonstrate that Kant was in error.

First because the tenth test of Avraham was not an indiscriminate command from G-d but it involved Avraham's violation of the Divine covenant to possess the land.

Other commentators explain the test as originating when Avraham celebrated the weaning of Isaac that he did not offer a sacrifice to G-d in thanksgiving for the gift of Isaac.

Another error on Kant's part was that he viewed the Akedah in total isolation from all past events in Avraham's relationship with G-d which was evolving.

According to the Rambam they began with the Divine

advise "Lech Lecha", leave your father's land to the place that I will show you".

At that time Avraham was seventy-five years old.

Prior acts by Avraham which are not scripturally based, such as when he was thrown in a furnace for his religious belief in one supernatural G-d, was not counted among the ten tests because it was not suggested by G-d but it was self-motivated.

Avraham's many tests established a pattern of trust in G-d which was totally discounted by Kant.

By the time of the Akedah, Avraham responded to G-d's challenge as one who was a beneficiary of Divine Grace time and again.

The fact that the Divine intention for Avraham's benefit never wavered is indicated by the words "Lech Lecha" go to the land which I will show you, the land of Moriah.

These same words initiated the first test.

When Isaac was spared, G-d reinstated the original covenant that He made with Avraham when He stated "your seed will inherit the enemy's gates".

That did not mean that Israel would not have enemies in the future.

It did mean that they would prevail over their enemies.

G-d took an oath (22:16) "Because you were prepared to offer your cherished son" then the previous covenant that was dependent on mutual fulfillment is now rescinded.

That means even if Isaac's descendants do not live up to their side of the terms to be devoted to G-d's ways, they will never become lost because of the faith that Avraham and Isaac displayed before the world at the Akedah.

The togetherness of father and son would endure throughout all ages and all humanity will benefit therefrom.

That is why Avraham responded by declaring G-d as the L-rd in the future events of human history.

Only twice in the Torah do we hear G-d referred to as "Kel-Olam" – L-ord of the world, here and in Isaiah (40-28).

That is why all the nations of the world will be blessed through Avraham's seed.

A Tower of Incense

1. *The Nature of the Incense of Yom Kippur Day vs. the Incense of the Rest of the Year in Temple Times.*

The dictionary offers two definitions for the word 'incense'.

The first meaning is odors of spices burned in religious rites.

The materials burned for producing perfumes, incense in Latin.

The second definition is designated 'incensus' in Latin meaning to inflame to violent anger, to excite angry passions, to provoke, irritate, exasperate.

The Kohen Gadol – High Priest was the central character on this Holy Day of Yom Kippur as only he performed all the Temple rituals.

The paramount ritual on that day was the offering of incense in the Holy of Holies.

Throughout the year that task was observed by the other Kohanim – priests as noted in Deuteronomy (33:10) "They

shall place incense to quiet anger” – According to the Midrash Sifrei this text refers to the special Yom Kippur incense ceremony in the Holy of Holies.

According to the Rambam in his Laws of Avodat Yom Ha-Kippurim (5:25) the Yom Kippur incense offering was unique for it contained the ingredient referred to as “Ma’aleh Ashan” which caused the column of smoke produced by the incense to ascend.

If that ingredient was missing the death penalty from Heaven would be incurred.

This qualification would not apply during the rest of the year when incense was offered daily outside the Holy of Holies on the Altar of Incense.

Why was the column of smoke necessary?

The Rashbam, **Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra** and **Rabbenu Bachya ben Asher** agreed that the smoke had to darken the Holy of Holies with its cloud so that the High Priest will not be able to see the Divine Glory over the Ark cover.

According to the Zohar Chadash II (page 218B) commenting on Shir Ha-Shirim (1:4) “Draw me, we will run after thee”, the Shulammite muses beseeching her beloved to take her away, the function of this incense was to remove the defilement that is produced by the evil inclination known as “Yetzer Ha-Ra” which is also identified with the angel of death, the destroyer, who will be swallowed up forever as the spirit of defilement and sin will be removed from the world.

That is why the Accuser is silent on Yom Kippur but not completely nullified until the end of time.

The central blessing sanctifying the Yom Kippur day in all Amidah prayers contains the following passages in Isaiah (44:22) “I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions and as a cloud thy sins, return to Me for I have redeemed thee”.

“I am He who blots out your transgressions for my sake and I will not recall your sins: Isaiah” (43:25).

Here the cloud functions as that symbol that blots out sin. Henceforth Israel is drawn closer to G-d.

2. *The Tower as symbol in the Torah*

The tower has been used as a symbol having both positive and negative connotations in Biblical literature.

The Tower was a symbol of human rebellion against G-d after the Deluge.

In the Psalm for the second weekday it is written (Psalm 48:13) “Walk about Zion go round about her relate concerning the towers thereof”.

Here the towers around the old city of Jerusalem are lauded.

Another reference to those towers is noted in the Second book of Chronicles (26:9) “Uzziah built Towers in Jerusalem and he strengthened them”.

In Proverbs (18:10) it states “the name of the L-rd is a strong tower, the righteous run to it and are set up on high”.

This verse seems to refer to the righteous ones, those firefighters and police who ran to the New York City World Centre Towers to save the lives of people employed there after a devastating terrorist attack perpetrated by Muslim terrorists as the Psalmist stated (61:4) “A Tower of strength before the

enemy (of humanity)” as the victims represented people from many nations.

Those martyred fire-fighters and policemen are assured their place on High with the rest of the martyred victims.

There the constant columns of smoke billowing upward and onward, suffocating all in its path, also formed into towers.

Those towers of smoke call to mind the smoke ascending from the crematoria during the Holocaust when several thousand people were incinerated in a few minutes.

The notion of catastrophe requires refinement by definition.

Instantaneous incineration, as hideous as it is, cannot be equated with prolonged concentration camp and ghetto incarceration that ended with gassing and crematoria.

The Jews were demonized and dehumanized and now the shrill cry ‘kill the Jews’ and Westerners is a déjà vu of that old exercise in demonization.

The second meaning of incense as expressions of violent anger that excite passions is now being realized as war has finally been declared against terrorism.

All past commemorations and Yizkor recitals for martyrs of our people and humankind call out in despair.

What was indeed achieved by our sacrifices if the world still cannot learn to live in peace?

Apparently all frustrations and grievances have not yet been spent.

The messianic advent has as yet not reached its full expression.

We have come full circle today as every Yom Kippur Eve begins with the phrase “We declare it lawful to pray with sinners”, which is recited before Kol Nidrei.

This phrase is part of a passage inserted by the great **Rabbi Meir** of Rothenburg, at the end of the thirteenth century in Germany.

He based himself on the Talmudic teaching in tractate Keritot (6b) “A public fast wherein Jewish transgressors do not participate is not to be regarded as a proper fast though “chelbonah” the aromatic odor of the ingredient galbanum is unpleasant the Torah still including it among the fragrant spices of the incense – offering”.

This year the pleasant aroma of the incense had again to accommodate the unpleasantness of human tragedy on a grand scale.

May death as the destroyer be removed forever and may humanity finally learn to live and prosper in peace.

What questions confront us in the New Year to come?

Everyone is waiting with baited breath to witness what will unfold in the months and year to come.

Is there a credible moderate element in the Arab world that will join in the war against terrorism?

How will Israel fare in the unfolding of events if and when war will break out in the Middle East?

This year in particular the whole world is in need of G-d’s compassion.

May all of us in the Maritime Provinces be blessed with a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

AVINU MALKEINU – What's in it for Me?

by Rabbi Yochanan Samuels,
Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton, N.B.

Well, it's that time again. If we're getting ready for the Yamim Noraim, we must be getting ready to say Avinu Malkeinu again.

We can count them on one hand, the benchmark prayers with familiar melodies that remind us each year of the High Holy Days' return.

Even marginal Jews have some familiarity with, say, Kol Nidre, and with Avinu Malkeinu, too.

Kol Nidre will come and go in a brief cameo appearance on Erev Yom Kippur.

Avinu Malkeinu, however, will be sung over and over again on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as daily, in between.

In many ways, Avinu Malkeinu epitomizes the traditional message of the High Holy Day period.

So it is indeed Avinu Malkeinu time again.

Not all Jews are universally happy, however, with what the prayer says.

It is an appeal to G-D's compassion as we face the fact that we have sinned.

Compiled and added to by generations of anonymous poets over the course of centuries, it is a litany of one-line appeals asking G-D, who is "our Father [Avinu] and our King [Malkeinu]," to "have pity on us and answer us, for we have no deeds."

At issue is an ancient idea that good deeds save us from an early death.

Another interpretation is that in some way, we live on after death, but only if our good deeds are sufficient to warrant it.

In any case, many modern Jews have difficulty with this theology of quid pro quo, punishment and reward based on heavenly bookkeeping of our comings and goings.

At the very least, even if they agree with it, they do not think that we are all such "evil people" that we have "no good deeds" at all, and they are uncomfortable with the image of a G-D who towers over us like a father and king, reducing us to mere children and subjects.

We may also object to the masculine imagery.

Must G-D be male?

Believing that if the rabbis of old were alive today they would address the problematic imagery, some prayer book translators and editors have worked hard to meet such objections.

For instance, the American Reform version prays for compassion, not "because" we have no merit on our own, but "even when" we find ourselves in that condition.

The Hebrew word *ki* can support either meaning.

A liberal Israeli prayer book prints an alternative version, in which G-D is addressed in feminine imagery, thereby balancing the traditional masculine language.

Given all this difficulty, if we are to continue using this prayer as a hallmark of our most sacred days, we would do well to search Jewish sources for commentary that lets its words and imagery speak to us positively.

A wonderful example comes from our tradition's recognition that Avinu Malkeinu was originally intended to remind us of the two-sided nature, not only of G-D, but of ourselves, namely, our tendency toward compassion on the one hand [symbolized by parenthood] and justice on the other hand [symbolized by monarchy].

By itself, this notion is a truism, but one commentator notes the appearance of the same Avinu Malkeinu image in a daily prayer preceding the Shema where G-D is addressed also as "the compassionate one who shows compassion."

Isn't this redundant?

If G-D is by nature compassionate, why add that G-D "shows compassion"?

What else would "the compassionate one" do?

The answer given is that the imagery of Avinu Malkeinu teaches us as much about our own failings as about the G-Dly ideal that we strive to copy.

Humans, too, are by nature compassionate.

But unlike G-D, we often stifle the merciful urge within us and fail to act out our compassion in our day to day affairs.

On the other hand, the prayer does not say "the just one who shows justice."

We may fail to emulate G-D's display of compassion, but apparently we are as quick as G-D to administer justice.

G-D's uniqueness, then, lies in the faithful application of mercy, not justice.

Our challenge, plainly, is to match our natural inclination to be just by our less than zealous insistence that we be compassionate as well.

An ancient midrash teaches that G-D created our universe with equal amounts of justice and compassion.

Tipping the scale in the direction of either destroys the equilibrium that holds the world in balance.

But given our inclination to justice, let the new year of 5763 be dedicated to our Recommitment to compassion.

Rosh Hashanah is, after all, the anniversary of the day the world was created, with humanity sharing G-D's responsibility for the world's ongoing creation and maintenance.

We won't do better than committing ourselves to parenting the world and its suffering inhabitants into a better life.

To do that, we need to be like G-D, not only "compassionate" by nature, but people who actually show compassion day in and day out.

Lishana tova tikateivu

Club Massada News

by Shirley Burnstein

The membership of Club Massada has grown this year from 73 members to 107 members. This is indeed something of which to be very proud. This growth has not only given us a boost in members but also in "Ruach" spirit,

The AJC, **Llyod Newman** (Managing Director of the Northwood Foundation) and **Sheldon Lipkus** (Chairman of the Board of Governors for Northwood Care Inc. and Northwood Home Care Ltd.) have been very supportive of Massada's endeavours. Their support has enabled us to fund transportation and programs suitable to the needs of our senior community, i.e. transportation to programs, monthly Shabbat dinners, theatre outings and performances at the Rebecca Cohn.

All seniors in our community can avail themselves of these outings without being a Massada member. Everyone receives notice and phone calls with information regarding our activities. Our hope is that all will become members and enlarge our membership. At the cost of \$10.00 you receive a membership rate on our luncheon meetings making it very worthwhile.



Peter Herschorn showing his slides of Nova Scotia to the Massada Group in April, 2002.

Our thanks to **Moishe Sadofsky** and his staff for providing us with such a delicious meal at our closing meeting.

Your Massada executive will meet over the summer months planning upcoming programs and fall activities. We welcome your input, not only by attending, but by letting us know what we can do to add to the programs, outings and lectures so we can enjoy and learn from our meetings.

Thanks to our executive members for their "efforts" and "good words".

President – **Ralph Garson**

Past President – **Edith Schneiderman**

Treasurer – **Phil Alberstat**

Recording Secretary – **Maryann Ferguson**

Membership and Tickets – **Celia Fried**

Telephone Convenors – **Mindy and Borace Jacobson**

Photographers – **Naomi Judah and Lawrence Ferguson**

Driver – **Lawrence Green**

Programmer – **Shirley Burnstein**

Best Wishes for the New Year!

Shirley B.



Lloyd Newman, Chairman of Northwood Foundation, addressing the May meeting, 2002. In photo with Lloyd are Sheldon Lipkus, Chairman, Board of Northwood Inc. and Ralph Garson, President of Massada.



Sara Yablon, Lillian Mosher, Borace and Mindy Jacobson enjoying the closing meeting of Massada, June, 2002 at Dofsky's.



Mort and Joyce Gordon, Naomi Halper, Helena Jockel, Lillian Aronson and Sophie Sherman at the General Meeting of Massada in March, 2002.

Club Massada – Spring Report

by Barb Alberstat

Spring is finally here, and with it comes the time of looking back over the past year of Club Massada.

It has been a very successful year for the Jewish seniors (55+) of the Halifax/Dartmouth area.

We started the year on September 13, 2001 with the opening meeting at Northwood's Activity Room, with a full board.

Ralph Garson, President; Shirley Burnstein, Program Director; Correspondence Secretary, Marianne Ferguson; Treasurer, Phil Alberstat, Recording Secretary and Card Convenor, Barbara Alberstat; Head of Phone Committee, Mindy Jacobson; Photographers, Lawrence Ferguson, Naomi Judah; Membership Chairperson, Celia Newman.

We have had seven delicious varied luncheons, meetings and delightful and educational programs, ranging from lectures on health, drugs for the elderly, wonderful sing-a-longs, and a slide presentation.

All the members have expressed their delight with the menus, programs and the opportunity to socialize in this friendly atmosphere.

The highlight of the monthly meetings was the wonderful Chanukah Luncheon, and many thanks to

Northwood for their great effort in catering all the luncheons held there.

Plans are underway for the closing dinner in May, and perhaps a summer social to round things out.

Special thanks to all the Board for their help during the year, and especially to the A.J.C. for their continuing support and financial aid to Club Massada.



Borace Jacobson, Bob Wolman, Peter Herschorn, Bessie Rinzler



Lil Newman,
Shashana Katz,
Ina Kohler,
Max Fishman,
Pinnie Green



Jean Zlatin,
Doreen Gordon,
Shirley Wolman,
Pearl David



Ike Schneiderman,
Edith Schneiderman,
Ralph Garson



Greetings

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A Trip to Remember

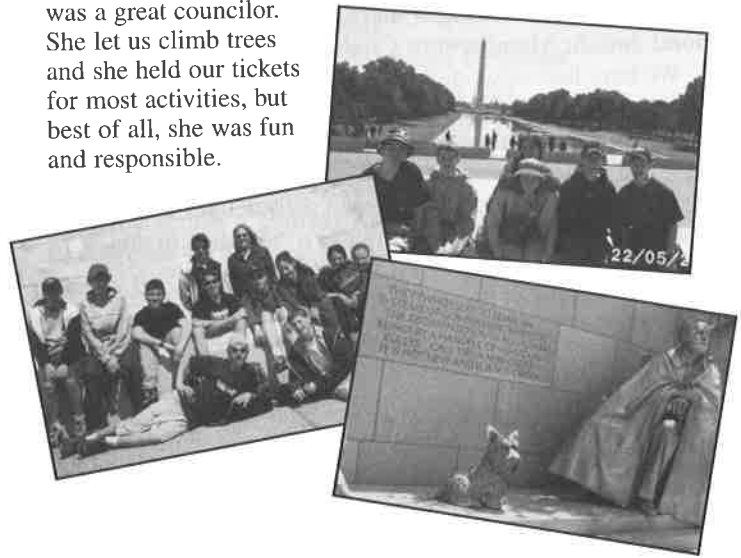
by Anastasia Feigin, Cape Breton Island, N.S.

The trip to Washington was a trip to remember! Here are some of my most interesting adventures and memories.

We stayed at a great hotel and I met young Jewish people from all across Canada. The main highlight of the trip was the visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. It was very impressive that they could fit all that information into one building. The architecture was very interesting. It made you feel closed into the exhibit – as if you were part of it and you would desperately look for an out – for a window, or some sign that you could escape. It was pretty emotional for me at times. For example, by walking through the museum, time seemed to stop and reverse. I really felt I was a part of the Holocaust but at the same time safe with my group. Near the middle of my visit to the Museum, I lost the group by slowing down to absorb the information. The exhibit was not always sad though. There were times that you would laugh and there were times you had no expression – only awe. The “Daniel’s Story” exhibit was very well done. After our visit to the museum we had a picnic in the park.

During our trip, we also walked around the city of Washington, visiting museums such as the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and the American

History Museum. We saw most of the major monuments, such as The Lincoln Monument, the Washington Monument, and the Vietnam War Memorial. We had a great bus driver who knew a lot about the history of Washington. We ate in a kosher restaurant. We also went bowling (why do they make those balls so heavy?). Aviva was a great councilor. She let us climb trees and she held our tickets for most activities, but best of all, she was fun and responsible.



My Trip to Washington

by Samuel Silburt

Before the trip, I thought I would be embarking on a joy ride to Washington. Not only would I meet new Jewish kids from all over Canada, but I would also be able to tour Washington’s historical monuments, buy souvenirs, and have fun. It would be the first time I would visit the United States (let alone its capital city) since I was four years old. Even though I loathe visiting museums, and the whole purpose of the trip was to visit the Holocaust Museum, I figured that the fun times would outweigh the boring ones.

Before the trip, I knew the basics of what the Holocaust was all about – the murder of millions of Jews, communists, gypsies, etc. triggered by Nazi hate. This was magnified through the “sessions” and papers that Aviva had us study. However, the Holocaust didn’t mean much to me in a day to day sense.

After visiting the Holocaust Museum in Washington, however, I have become a different person. The Holocaust Museum wasn’t like the average boring museum that I’ve visited, in which the displays are only for one’s intellectual interest. What I saw in this museum affected me a lot more. I suddenly became linked to the Holocaust after the realization that what I saw was what *My People*, my Jewish forefathers, went through.

Rather than *hearing* (again) that the Holocaust was the tragedy that my father had told me about when I was younger, I

was *exposed* to the Holocaust. I was given enough information to allow me to consider the big picture: why it started, how the Nazi’s and Adolf Hitler rose to power, how they systematically killed millions of innocent lives, and why Jews were targeted.

The visuals at the museum helped give me a mental image as to what the Holocaust was like. In some instances, the exhibits made me feel like I was actually in the midst of the Holocaust. For example, in the “Daniel’s Story” exhibit, you were able to walk through a typical room in the ghetto. In the main exhibit, some of the walls were decorated with barbed-wire fencing and the floor was made of rotten wooden planks, such as the ones used in the ghetto.

What’s more, I got to stand in a real cattle cart from the Holocaust and saw the piles of shoes from Jews collected by the Nazis. I saw the clothes Jews had to wear in the ghetto, with the yellow stars that every Jew was forced to show. The museum also had small movie theaters, which played interesting 20-minute films on the Holocaust and World War II.

Visiting the Holocaust Museum in Washington changed my life. It was an extremely emotional, and unforgettable event for me, and I am very grateful that I had this opportunity to experience part of my Jewish history in such a tangible and graphic way. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone wanting to learn more about their Jewish past.

Washington – May, 2002

My trip to Washington

by Aaron Washburn, Saint John, New Brunswick

Hello, my name is Aaron Washburn and I went on a trip sponsored by the Atlantic Jewish Council.

The trip itself was really fun. I learned a lot of things I did not know before from the Holocaust Museum.

My favorite parts of the museum were the art exhibit, and the *Daniel's Story* exhibit. My favorite part of the *Daniel's Story* exhibit was walking through his house.

I also enjoyed seeing the National Museums and the other sites. My favorite sites were the Pentagon, the White House, and the Capitol Building.

I would like to thank the Atlantic Jewish Council for making it possible for me to go on such a wonderful trip that I will always remember.

I hope I can go back someday and see it again.

Washington

by Alyssa Byers-Heinlein

This past May I was privileged to go on a human rights trip to Washington, D.C.

It was for youth in grades 8 and 9 from "small towns" in Canada including (believe it or not) Vancouver, Halifax, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Calgary.

There were 6 of us from the Atlantic Provinces – from Fredericton, Saint John, Cape Breton, and Halifax.

In all there were 105 youth from across Canada on the human rights trip.

All the other kids found it fascinating that we came from the Atlantic Provinces and could not stop asking us questions about it, especially those of us who came from real small towns like Fredericton and Saint John.

During our time in Washington, we stayed with the group from our region so the 6 of us from the Atlantic Provinces hung out together, and went everywhere together.

Each group had a group leader. Our leader was **Aviva Rubin**. She was tons of fun!

The first thing we did in Washington was go to the Holocaust museum. We not only toured all of the exhibits but we also got a chance to learn about the architecture of the building. I found it particularly interesting that the building was designed so that we would feel different things in different parts of the museum. For example, the first part of the main exhibit was in a narrow room and there was not much room to move around.

Further on, it was much more open and spacious. This was to give the effect of being in different places and different periods of time.

We also got the chance to hear from a Holocaust survivor. She told us her story which touched all of us.

I Went to Washington

by Daniel Washburn, Saint John, New Brunswick

Hello, my name is Daniel Washburn and my trip to Washington DC was one of the most enjoyable times I've had in a long time.

We saw many different sites and memorials such as the Korean and Vietnam Memorials, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument, and the Pentagon.

The most important building, in my view, that we went to was the United States Holocaust Museum.

There, they taught us many things about the Holocaust and our past which we hadn't had the chance to learn about back home.

I am extremely thankful that the Atlantic Jewish Council allowed me to go on this trip and to experience things that I wouldn't have been able to otherwise.



ASPER Foundation participants:
l to r: Benji Mendleson, Alyssa Byers-Heinlein,
Anastasia Feigin, Sam Silburt, Daniel and Aaron
Washburn.

Our trip was educational, but also tons of fun. We got to tour the Smithsonian, go shopping, go bowling, see all of the monuments, as well as walk around and explore Washington. I don't think I've ever seen so many white buildings in my life.

Not all of our time was scheduled so we got to do spontaneous things like climbing random trees.

At one point, Aviva thought that someone outside one of the government buildings looked like **Kenny Rogers**, so a couple of us crazy Atlantic kids went up to him and asked if he was Kenny Rogers. He said that he was not. We then asked for proof and asked him to show us some identification. At this point his friends were in hysterics and were laughing so hard they almost fell off the bench they were sitting on. The identification proved that he was not Kenny Rogers but we still made him give us his autograph signed in Kenny Rogers' name and not his real name. We also got pictures of him to show to all of our friends.

In my opinion, the best part of the trip to Washington was meeting so many Jewish kids my age from all across Canada.

I got many e-mail addresses and I am keeping in touch with about 10 of my new friends from Ottawa to Vancouver and in between.

Even though we only stayed in Washington for 2 days, I still made a lot of friends and know that if I am ever in the city they live in, their door will always be open to me, just like mine will be if they ever come visit Fredericton.

Our trip to Washington was a great experience.

I hope that every Jewish kid in the Atlantic Provinces will get the opportunity to go to Washington, learn as much, and have as much fun as I did, when they are in grade 8 or 9.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

The harmonies were exquisite.

Joanna Mirsky blended her sweet tones and guitar with **Ezra Wexler's** well-trained voice.

They sang "Al Kol El" (All These Things), a Hebrew melody expressing what brings people together as one.

The duo is performing at the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Halifax.

They're part of the entertainment segment of a celebration to promote equality, recognize diversity and build strength through both.

More than 100 people are at the Dartmouth Sportsplex on a snowy, stormy March 21, maybe half of what organizers, including the Atlantic Jewish Council's **Aviva Rubin**, expect to attend.

But those who are here – African Canadians, caucasians, native Canadians, a mix of religions and beliefs, teenagers to seniors – are given a message of hope.

Gabrielle Verri, acting director of the Department of Canadian Heritage in Halifax, says Canada is a country to be proud of, "but the pride is diminished when we allow racism to take a role in our society.

But we are able to show respect for others by voicing our objection to racism."

Noel Knockwood, Mi'kmaq elder and spiritual leader talks of teaching the public that racism is wrong, that racial profiling, all too prevalent with visible minorities, is wrong and that education is the tool for social justice.

Shaar Shalom Hebrew school student, **Jennie David**, grade 5 at Halifax's Duc D'Anville School, represents the AJC by sensitively reading a poem by Halifax's **Sheree Fitch**, "If You Could Wear My Sneakers."

But it's Saint John, New Brunswick raised **Lee Cohen**, now a Halifax immigration and human rights lawyer, who captivates the audience with his thank you speech after receiving an award from the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

"We came here with love in our hearts and a goal to eliminate racism in our country and the world," he says.

"But I have feelings of hate."

The audience holds its collective breath until Lee continues, "I hate hate. I am intolerant of intolerance.

And I abhor violence."

He talks of the people he's met, in dozens of countries, speaking hundreds of languages and worshipping in countless ways, who believe in freedom, safety, and liberty.

"Yet we live in a world marred by violence and hate. There's something wrong somewhere.



We can't be loving and participate in acts of violence. Someone's lying."

He admits that we all have a bit of good and bit of bad in us.

"If each of us, today, makes a commitment to eliminate the racist feelings we harbour in the privacy of our own hearts, I can promise you racism can be eliminated.

Only we can do it.

Our institutions – churches, synagogues, mosques, schools – won't do it. It's up to us, as individuals, to eradicate racism from our hearts."

A second Human Rights Award winner is **Juan Carlos Canales-Leyton**, a Chilean immigrant to Halifax in 1978, who works with the poor and needy as well as consulting on publishing and computers.

He is a former publisher of Kaleidoscope which printed Shalom Magazine for several years.

Atlantic Jewish Council supported the March 21 event as a member of Partners Against Racism, a coalition of Nova Scotia community groups dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights.

Camp Kadimah 2002

by Marty Zatzman, Camp Director

Another season has come and gone. The six weeks we spent together was truly fantastic and included many traditional programs that have been going on for years – *Maccabia* and *Hityashvut* as well as regular programming to include sports, waterfront, boating, scouting, arts and crafts, Israeli song and dance, and so much more.

Special highlights include trips to Rizzer's Beach Provincial Park, picking local strawberries, carnival day, Yom Israel, hockey marathon, socials, and dramatic productions done by Machar and CIT as well as a Gib/Gosh/Kochot production.

This year close to 300 campers and 115 staff attended Camp Kadimah. It was the largest camp in our 59 year history. To meet the challenges of a growing camp,



this year we added a new Kochot cabin (#35) and started work on our new sports field that will be available for use during our 60th year in 2003. It will be the major area of expansion for the next decade. Our bridge got a new facelift and we completed the CIT section with a second staff cabin. Our site on Lake William is one of the most beautiful in the country. The easiest way to see our summer is to look at our Web Site:

www.campkadimah.com. If you are interested in attending Camp Kadimah as a camper or staff member, please contact our office in Halifax (902)-422-7491 Ext #25 and information will be sent out.

I will be returning in 2003 as Director and hope to see many of my friends during our 60th year celebrations.



Dateline Fredericton

by Marlene Unger

Mazel Tov to **Kari Malka Adilman** upon receiving her BA from UNB on May 23rd, 2002. Kari presented her Senior Project in the Eaton Center at UNB on May 1, she received high marks for her project. Her parents, **Dave** and **Anita Adilman** and her sisters **Sari** and **Lea** are very proud of her accomplishments.

Mazel Tov to **Sydelle** and **Cary Grobe** upon the birth of a granddaughter, **Eliana Megan**.

Mazel Tov to **Alfred** and **Leona Brown** on the birth of a granddaughter.

Mazel Tov to **Warren** and **Miriam Cohen** on the marriage of their son **Dr. Robert Cohen** to **Lis Grossman**. The wedding will be at Beth Tzedec Synagogue on August 4th, Calgary, Alberta.

Mazel Tov to **Joseph Sherman** of Charlottetown PEI, son of **Beatrice Sherman** of Fredericton, upon receiving one of this year's Canadian Jewish Book Awards. His Oberon Press collection, *American Standard and Other Poems* was the winner of "The Betty and Morris Aaron – Henry Fuerstenberg" prize in Poetry.

The awards were presented June 4th in the **Leah Posluns** Theatre at the Koffler Centre of the Arts in Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Jonathan Pinsler**, son of **Peter** and **Sharon Pinsler**, upon his engagement to be married to **Miss Emmanuelle Lesage**. The wedding will take place in Montreal at the Shaare Zion Synagogue in the early summer of 2003.

News From PEI

by Rosalie Simeone

Mazel Tov and Best Wishes

To **Tory Thorkelson** and **Hye-Ah Yoo** on their upcoming marriage in Korea. Congratulations to their families.

To **Jack** and **Sharon Brimberg** on their relocation this August to Kingston, Ontario.

To **Roz Allen** (niece of **Evy** and **Barrie Carnat**) on her recent marriage.

To **Winston MacGregor** on his retirement from the teaching profession.

To **Aaron Smith** (son of **Leslie Smith** and **Maureen McIlwain**) on his graduation with the BSc – Honours Genetics degree from University of London (Ontario). Congratulations also to his parents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPH SHERMAN

Congratulations to **Joseph Sherman** who is a recipient of this year's Canadian Jewish Book Awards. His Oberon Press collection, entitled *American Standard & Other Poems*, is the winner of The **Betty** and **Morris Aaron-Henry Fuerstenberg** Prize in Poetry. Joe received the prize on June 4 at the Koffler Centre of the Arts in Toronto. (See PEI Guardian, 24 May 02.)

Joe Sherman was also featured in a PEI Guardian report (12 April 02, pp. C1, C8) on PEI poets, entitled *Poetic Justice*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN SHERMAN

Congratulations to **Ann Sherman** who is becoming president of the Rotary Club of Charlottetown Royalty (the first female president in its 15-year history).

Ann was the topic of an extensive article in the PEI Guardian, 8 June 02 (pp. A1, A4), in which she was quoted as liking the idea of heading a local chapter of an organization that actively promotes peace and international understanding through chapters spread throughout the world. The article outlined how Ann has been personally dedicated and actively committed to promoting peace, non-violence, equality, and social justice, "in a quiet unobtrusive way", seeking change in a gentle and cooperative way. Her efforts have been extensive as a professional and as a volunteer, with work in the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, the U.N. Association, Amnesty International, the External Affairs Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament, the PEI Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence, and the National Crime Prevention Council, among many others. She has worked with the Community Legal Information Association of PEI since 1985 and is its Executive Director.

*Royal Bank calendars with Jewish holidays
will be available in all branches in November.*

Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Dr. Richard Goldbloom**, O.C. upon receiving an Honorary Degree from his alma mater, McGill University on May 23, 2002.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom**, O.C. upon receiving an Honorary degree from Mount Allison University on May 13, 2002.

Mazel Tov to **Marcy Laing** on her forthcoming marriage to **John Lillard** in Florida in December, 2002. Marcy is the daughter of **Harriette Laing** and **Michael Laing**.

Mazel Tov to **Brian** and **Susan Ross** on the birth of their second daughter **Tirtza Natania**. Proud grandparents are **Bette** and **Barrie Ross** of Halifax, and **Paula** and **Phil Nathan**, California.

Mazel Tov to **Eric Goldberg** who received an Academic Achievement Award for top academic average in Middle School, Halifax Grammar School. Eric also received a Middle School Social Studies Award for excellence in Social Studies for History and was awarded the O'Halloran Trophy for excellence in academics, co-curricular activities and leadership in Middle School. Eric is the son of **Victor** and **Judith Goldberg**.

Congratulations to **Leah Zilbert** who graduated from Queen Elizabeth High School with Honours with Distinction. She received a Frank E. Milne Scholarship and the Helen McDowell Frandsen Memorial Scholarship. Leah will be attending McGill University this fall in the faculty of Education. She is the daughter of **Kathy** and **Arthur Zilbert**.

Congratulations to **Lisa Goldberg** who graduated from the Grammar School with Honours. Lisa received the Nancy Moir Hawkins Memorial Award presented to a student who has made an overall outstanding contribution to the school; and The Birks Medal for outstanding leadership in student affairs to a graduating student. She will be attending Queen's University in the fall. Lisa is the daughter of **Lorri** and **Paul Goldberg**.

Congratulations to **Lauren Rosen** who graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Lauren will be attending McGill University in the fall. She is the daughter of **Dr. Ethel Cooper Rosen** and **Mark Rosen**.

Congratulations to **Amy Mendleson**, daughter of **Dr. Irwin** and **Joy Mendleson**, who graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Amy will be attending McGill University in the fall.

Congratulations to **Ava Tsinman**, daughter of **Laura** and **Boris Tsinman**, who graduated from St. Patrick's High School. Ava will be attending Queen's University in the fall.

Congratulations to **Arinn Ryan**, daughter of **Susan April**, who graduated from St. Patrick's High School.

Congratulations to **Sara Zatzman**, daughter of **Debra** and **Michael**, who graduated with honours from Queen Elizabeth High School. She will be attending Acadia University in the fall.

Congratulations to **Philip Barkow**, son of **Irma** and **Jerry Barkow**, who received his Bachelor of Computer Sciences from Dalhousie University.

Congratulations to **Sari Zelenietz**, daughter of **Jill Grant** and **Marty Zelenietz**, who graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Biology. Sari was awarded an NSERC

Graduate Fellowship, and is now working as a Leadership Development Consultant for Alpha Gamma Delta.

Mazel Tov to **Daniel Pink**, son of **Rita** and **Joel Pink**, on being elected Head Boy of Armbrae Academy, and receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Award.

Mazel Tov to **Louis Wolfson**, son of **Louise** and **Andrew Wolfson**, who graduated from Dalhousie Law School. Louis was the recipient of the Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt Prize for the Creditor/Debtor Rights.

Mazel Tov to **A.J. Levine** who graduated from Queen Elizabeth High School and will be attending St. Mary's University in the fall. He is the son of **Lennard** and **Edna**.

Mazel Tov to **Jill Chatt**, daughter of **Amares Chatt**, who graduated from Sacred Heart School and will be attending Carleton University in the fall.

Mazel Tov to **Joshua David** on the occasion of his recent Bar Mitzvah. Joshua is the son of **Susan** and **Mark David**.

Mazel Tov to **Adam Sonmor** on the occasion of his recent Bar Mitzvah. Adam is the son of **Louise Carbert** and **Len Sonmor**.

Mazel Tov to **Dana Tax** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. Dana is the daughter of **Cara** and **Ted Tax**.

Mazel Tov to **Roy Argand** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah. Roy is the son of **Jo-Anne Nozick** and **Michael Argand**.

Mazel Tov to **Millie** and **Harvey Meretsky** on the recent marriage of their daughter, **Tami Deborah** to **Dr. Adam Zinkin**.

Mazel Tov to **Joanna Mirsky** and **Ezra Wexler** on their upcoming marriage.

If you'd like an announcement placed in the next issue of Shalom, please call Marie Herschorn, 422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

Shalom contributor **Joel Jacobson** has been honoured by several community groups in the last few months. In February, the Halifax Progress Club presented Joel and **Jack Yablon**, both members, Past Presidents, and Jack a Past National President, with plaques to commemorate 30 years of the Kingsmeadow Celebrity Dinner that they started for the club in 1972. In June, Joel received the Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit from ABC Canada Literacy Foundation for his ongoing efforts, through his columns in the Chronicle Herald, Mail Star and the Sunday Herald, to create awareness of adult and youth literacy issues. Also in June, Nova Scotia Special Olympics presented Joel with its first ever President's Award for his contribution as a volunteer, past board member and through his awareness pieces of challenged athletes in the Herald. In July, Joel was awarded the 5th annual *Rob Thompson Award* for his longtime commitment as a volunteer and organizing committee member for more than 10 years to the *DownEast Communications Danny Gallivan Cystic Fibrosis Golf Tournament*.

Mazel Tov!

Highlights from Around and About



Zack Rubin at Lakeview High School, Fall River. Giving a talk on middle eastern affairs to a grade 12 Global History class. Teacher Paul Stacey in background, May 7, 2002.



Darcie Richler, AJC Youth Programmer, second from left shown here with participants of youth Shabbaton held at the Old Orchard Inn in February, 2002.



L-R: AJC President, Sheva Medjuck, Her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman, His Honour Lawrence Freeman and Yoine Goldstein, President, UIAFC - Camp Kadimah, 2002.



Young professionals gather at Renee and Jonathan Ross' for a "Toast on the Coast", winter, 2002.

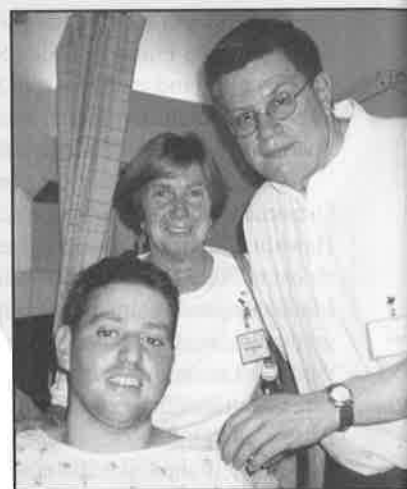


Ezra Wexler and Joanna Mirsky enjoy a drink after the Yom Ha'Atzmahut show with Thomas Lowenheim, AJC Nfld. rep. in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Victor Goldberg, Past President, AJC on a Solidarity Mission



Overlooking the Old City.



Kathy Zilbert and Victor Goldberg shown at Hadassah Hospital Trauma Ward with victim of terror during Solidarity Mission to Israel.



Mark David, Jennie David and Susan David at International Day for the Elimination of Racism in Halifax.

the Atlantic Jewish Community...

*JC and Kathy Zilbert, Secretary,
on to Israel – April 2002.*



Kathy and Victor at the Kotel.



*Leah Zilburt (left) participated in a Young
Judea Youth Mission to Israel in March
and is shown here speaking to a breakfast
club at the Beth Israel, June 2002.*



*Consul General Shlomo Avital (centre)
meets with Rev. Ivan Gregan,
Halifax/Dartmouth United Church of
Canada and Deacon Bob Britton,
Archdiocese of Halifax.*



*Dov Harris, Regional Director FRD, UIA
Federations Canada addresses the Fredericton
community during the
Emergency Campaign,
May 2002.*



*Howard Weisband, Director General UIAFC,
Israel addressing UJA Emergency Campaign
meeting in Halifax, May, 2002.*



*Batya and Mark Ludman, formerly of Halifax,
with their three children at Aaron's Bar Mitzvah
at the Kotel, Israel, summer 2002.*

News from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

It was a very busy spring in Moncton's Jewish community with many activities taking place. The big news here is that the congregation has hired a Rabbi. Rabbi **Zalmen Stiefel**, his wife **Aida** and their four children will be arriving in Moncton at the beginning of August.

It will soon be time to bid farewell to our arevim, **Yaron** and **Revital Fuks**. Like the previous arevim, Yaron and Revital have played an important role in our community. They have taught classes to children and adults, led junior services, organized many successful activities, and brought the situation in Israel closer to home for all of us. They will be greatly missed, but we wish them much success in their future endeavours.

Our nineteenth Yom Hashoah memorial service was held on April 14, once again very capably organized by **Joan Sichel**. Over 250 people attended and all were moved by guest speaker **Philip Riteman's** account of his experiences as a child during the Holocaust.

A few days later, we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, and were treated to a fantastic performance of Hebrew songs by the Toronto based group Bais Groove. Our thanks to the AJC for providing this wonderful entertainment. The evening ended with a light snack of delicious Israeli food.

The UJA recently conducted an emergency campaign appeal. **Dov Harris** visited Moncton and spoke on the current grave situation in Israel. He also showed a video depicting in graphic detail the horrific aftermath of the homicide bombings, and the plight of the survivors.

During Shavuot there was an excellent turnout for our annual study session between Mincha and Ma'ariv. Several members led discussions on Shavuot, and this proved to be a fun and interesting learning experience.

Yaron and Revital Fuks organized a Lag B'Omer picnic for the Hebrew school children and their families which took place at the cottage of **Sharon** and **Sheldon Rubin**. Despite the cool weather, everyone had a great time and particularly enjoyed the traditional bonfire on the beach.

This brave couple also organized a Shabbaton for children ages 6 to 12. A large group of enthusiastic children arrived at the shul with sleeping bags and other gear to spend the night and all of the next day. With Shabbat ending quite late it was a long day, but the children all enjoyed themselves, and nobody cried to go home in the middle of the night.

Sharon and Sheldon Rubin had agreed to host the Hebrew school's closing party in June, but this time rain forced the party to be held at the synagogue. Once again, Yaron and Revital kept the kids entertained with lots of games.

Our community was recently saddened by the passing on the same day of two beloved senior members, **Sarah Rubin** and **Reva Lipton**. They will be remembered for the many acts of kindness and charity they performed for others. Mrs. Rubin devoted untold hours to Hadassah and Sisterhood, helping out in many ways, including the chairing of several rummage sales. After moving to Moncton several years ago, Mrs. Lipton

wasted little time before getting involved in community affairs, and she too helped out with various events. Both mothers were proud of the accomplishments of their children, who are all esteemed professionals in their fields.

Mazel tov to **Ashley Coppel**, daughter of **Joel** and **Colleen Coppel**, who celebrated her bat mitzvah on June 22. Ashley's beautiful reading of the "Book of Ruth" during Minhah made her family and friends very proud.

A hearty mazel tov is also extended to the graduates in our community. **Leigh Lampert**, son of **Audrey** and **Irwin Lampert**, has graduated from Dalhousie University with a combined LLB/MBA and **Jordan Lampert** who graduated from St. Mary's University. **Aaron Bates**, son of **Steve** and **Judy Bates** has obtained his MA from University of Toronto, while Aaron's brother Joshua received his BA from Kings College in Halifax. **Robie Boghen**, son of **Andy** and **Marilyn Boghen** received his MBA from the University of Moncton. **Benjy Sichel**, son of **Joan** and **John Sichel** has received his BA from Dalhousie. **Yona Attis**, daughter of **David** and **Margie Attis** has graduated with her BSc in Nursing and has accepted a position at the Moncton Hospital. **Tobi Carnet**, son of **Barrie** and **Evy Carnat** graduated with a MD from Dalhousie University Medical School. Tobi is now doing a residency in urology in Ottawa. High school graduates are **Aviva Attis**, daughter of **David** and **Margie Attis**, **Leah Attis**, daughter of **Kathy Attis**, and **Jessica Cook**, daughter of **Sarah Moskovits** and **Frank Cook**.





פארק ישראל

לחגיגות הולדתה מחדש של
מדינת ישראל ב 1948,
העיר מונקטון נאה
להקדיש פארק זה, לחברי
הקהילה היהודית במונקטון
בעבר ובהווה, עתידם
וממשיכים לדורם.
למען איכות הדיים בעיר.
פארק ישראל ממוקם באזור
בו בנה המהגר היהודי הראשון
במונקטון אח ביתו
וקבעו כמעט, וכן
לכבודו של
השופט איוואן ס. ראנד
ממשפטיה המהוללים של מונקטון
שכהן בועדת האומות המאוחדות
לחלוקת פלשתיין והיה גורם חיוני
ביותר להולדתה מחדש של
מדינת ישראל.

בריאן פ.פ. מארפי
ראש עיריית מונקטון
נוסח התושב, יוני 2002

ISRAEL PARK

On the occasion of the 50th birthday
since the rebirth of the State of Israel,
the City of Moncton is very proud
to dedicate this park to
Moncton's Jewish community,
past and present,
which have contributed and
continue to contribute much to the fabric
and quality of life in the City of Moncton.
Israel Park is located in the area of Moncton
where the first Jewish immigrants settled
to make Moncton their home.
And to also honour one of
Moncton's most illustrious jurists,
Justice Ivan C. Rand,
who sat on the
United Nations Palestine
Partition Committee, and was so very
instrumental in the rebirth of the
State of Israel.

Brian F.P. Murphy, Mayor
CITY OF **MONCTON**
June 2002

PARC ISRAËL

À l'occasion du 50^e anniversaire
de la renaissance de l'État d'Israël,
la Ville de Moncton est très fière
d'inaugurer ce parc à la mémoire de la
collectivité juive de Moncton,
passée et présente,
qui a contribué et continue de
contribuer au tissu social et à la qualité
de vie de la Ville de Moncton.
Le **parc Israël** est situé dans le secteur
de Moncton où les premiers immigrants
juifs se sont établis.
Le parc célèbre également l'un des
plus éminents juristes de Moncton,
le Juge Ivan C. Rand,
qui a siégé au
Comité de partage de la Palestine des
Nations Unies et a joué un
rôle essentiel dans la renaissance
de l'État d'Israël.

Brian F.P. Murphy, maire
VILLE DE **MONCTON**
juin 2002

— *Save These Dates* —

AJC 13th Biennial Convention Moncton, New Brunswick November 15-17

*An outstanding array of guest speakers,
seminars, sumptuous meals and
wonderful entertainment.*

Further information to be mailed in September.

Reflections from The Rock

by Claire Salama,

AJC Executive Member-at-Large

Ah... the sweet smell of the sea air, the lovely mid-20's temperatures and the regular arrival of kosher chicken for the barbecue at Sobey's – what else does one need to spend a perfect summer?

Since today is uncharacteristically cloudy (O.K., compared to the last two weeks), I have decided to chain myself to the computer and write the quarterly column.

Jewish life on the rock has been eventful and productive during the last few months.

Our synagogue, newly decorated on the inside, is now being used constantly for Hebrew School classes, Hadassah events, school and church visits, and as a fitness centre.

Yes, fellow fitness lovers of the Atlantic provinces, thanks to the determination and devotion of our new member, **Tanya Shulkin**, the Newfoundland branch of the « Young » Men's and Women's Hebrew Association has unofficially begun its operation in the social hall of our new and comfortable building.

Members of the Shul come out to listen to Tanya's interesting collection of aerobic rhythms while performing Pilates, yoga and weight-lifting and becoming more able to withstand the rigors of the High Holidays looming ahead.

The past holidays celebrated began with a Tu Bi'shvat Seder.

An excellent Purim party followed, including the Megillah reading by **Ernie Mauskopf** and a Purim spiel written by **Tali Milstein**, and performed by the Hebrew school children.

A supper, including locally baked Hamantaschen, was enjoyed by all.

Pesah was observed in many homes and Seders took place in St. John's, Mt. Pearl, Paradise, Manuel's, Beachy Cove, Clarenville and other places on the island.

Both Manna Bakery and Dominion were kind enough to bring in Passover products, and we were well served by both stores.

The Holocaust Memorial took place at Prince of Wales Collegiate, attracting over 250 guests.

The guest speaker was **Dr. Stephen Wolinetz**, Professor

of Political Science at Memorial University.

He shared his thoughts regarding the Holocaust both as a scholar of European history and as a student growing up in post-war New York surrounded by emigré scholars.

Dr. Elliott Leyton, Professor of Anthropology and internationally renowned author, performed admirably the duties of M.C. and **Professor Thomas Loewenheim** played several beautiful and moving selections from **Ernest Bloch** on his cello.

The candle lighting ceremony included a candle which was lit by **Mr. Jerry Vink** of the Association for Human Rights in memory of the non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

After the programme, guests had time to talk to the members of the Community over coffee and to look at the excellent collection of posters that the AJC obtained for us from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Yom Ha-Atzmaut followed with an excellent musical performance by **Joanna Mirsky** and **Ezra Wexler**.

Their rousing sing-a-long programme of the « golden Hebrew oldies » put everyone into a good mood, and we all agreed that we would love to have this lovely young couple visit us again.

May was very busy and exciting.

The St. John's Hadassah chapter, which has been rejuvenated by **Rachel Kimor Paine** and **Bibi Richards**, organized a women's health session for members and guests on that most timely of subjects for female baby boomers - menopause.

Guest speakers included **Dr. Elias Bartellas**, a gynecologist and obstetrician who was born in Cyprus, but who studied at and graduated from Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Offering a different dimension was **Molly Graham**, a nurse and homeopath.

The moderator was **Dr. Barbara Grandy**, G.P. and member of our community.

Shortly after this programme, we were thrilled to attend the Bar Mitzvah of **Jimmy Klein**, son of **Ken** and **Ann Klein**.



Hadassah programme on women's health held at the synagogue.



Guest Speaker, **Dr. Elias Bartellas**, gynecologist and obstetrician in St. John's, and graduate of Hadassah Hospital Medical School in Jerusalem. At his right is the moderator, **Dr. Barbara Grandy**.

He did a great job reading his very long Haftarah, thereby giving Nachas to his parents, grandparents, aunt and **Tali Milshtein**, his devoted teacher.

Jimmy's grandfather came all the way from Ashdod, Israel for this great occasion.

Our last official event of the season was the synagogue/Hebrew school year-end barbecue, held again this year at the lovely country home of **David and June Mercer** in Holyrood.

Thanks to Sobey's, we had juicy Kosher hamburgers expertly barbecued by **David and Messod Salama**.

The weather was lovely, the black flies plentiful and the salads and desserts scrumptious.

All in all, this has been a very fine and productive season. Our synagogue is warm, dry and comfortable and our



kitchen brand new.

For this reason it is used almost every second day for services, lessons, celebrations, meetings, and even, aerobics.

We are truly enjoying our synagogue as a community centre, and look forward to the painting of the outside this month.

Our last step will be landscaping.

If anyone has any interesting ideas, please let us know. In the meantime, it will be Tisha Be'Av in three days, and as our President, **Michael Paul**, reminds us, this means that Rosh Hashanah and Yom

Kippur will soon be upon us.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year from our physically and spiritually rejuvenated community to all readers in the Atlantic region, and those in the rest of Canada who still pine for these Eastern shores.

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Reunion of The Shaarei Zedek Eli Boyaner Judean Cub Pack on the Occasion of Kume Ahaim 1984

Saint John, New Brunswick



From Left to Right:

Standing: Jerry Kunitzky, Michael Smith, Lee Cohen, Stephen Meltzer, Norman Holtzman, Michael Freedman, Frederick Davis, Richard Meltzer, Ralph Sheperd, Robert Silver, Herzl Kashetsky.

Seated: Michael April, "Akela" Gar Meltzer, Norman Hamburg, James Karrel, Ivan Silver, Andrew Koven.

Kneeling: Phillip Davis, Martin Grosweiner, Leonard Rosen, Mark Rosen, David Silver.

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Scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of study, travel, community service, or other suitable means.

For more information please contact

**Jon Goldberg, 422-7491 Ext. 22 ~ e-mail jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca
or Marie Herschorn 422-7491, Ext 24 ~ e-mail mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca**

Communications and Community Relations Committee Report

by Dr. Israel Unger

The CRC Committee reports regularly to the Executive of AJC, we thought that some of our recent activities might be of interest to the readers of Shalom.

The AJC web site <www.theajc.ns.ca> is reviewed and updated frequently.

We strive particularly to provide the latest news of events from Israel, petitions relevant to Israel and the world wide Jewish community, historical material on the ongoing conflict and sources of current news.

The site celebrates Jewish festivals, holidays and other important events as they occur along with an important link to the Jewish Net Ring which contains website connections to a vast array of websites dealing with music to movies and beyond.

We have received many complimentary comments about the AJC web site from Jews and gentiles from all across Canada, the US, Israel and even from Poland and China.

Unfortunately, the crisis in the Middle East has demonstrated that anti-Semitism is alive and well around the globe and our region is not immune from that scourge.

Editorial and letter to the editor writers have felt that they can attack Israel under the guise of standing for justice for the Palestinians.

A good deal of our attention has therefore been focused on responding to such attacks.

The AJC has created a Local Israel Action Team, LIAT, chaired by **Jim Spatz**, whose mandate is specifically to deal with Israel issues.

LIAT and CRC coordinate their activities.

CRC has met with the French Consul in Moncton to express our concern with the rise in anti-Semitic acts in that country and with the government's feeble response.

A similar meeting with the Norwegian Consul in Halifax is planned. Members of the committee have contacted local members of Parliament to seek their support for the government of Canada to be objective and fair in its foreign policy with respect to the Middle East and its position on such matters as the Durban conference.

The committee has had numerous contacts with Christian clergy, at the local and regional level, particularly the Anglican, United Church and Catholic representatives concerning matters of common interest.

Most recently we were advised that a dog kennel in Annapolis Royal had adopted the name Buchenwald.

Jon Goldberg advised the owners of the kennel and the Canadian Kennel Club that this name was associated with one of the most notorious Nazi death camps and therefore deeply offensive to Jews.

The owners have since had the name changed.

We welcome your suggestions and comments.

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Yom Hashoah Commemorations in the Region

by Marlene Unger, Chair Holocaust Education Committee

The Yom Hashoah memorial service was held in Sydney on April 14th at the Temple Sons of Israel. The service featured **David Korn** as guest speaker and the Colby-St. Joseph Elementary School choir.

An audience of over 300 people from all over the island paid close attention to David Korn's message on how Jewish children were saved from the camps by being "adopted" by Christian families. David, also, spoke at several schools.

Philip Riteman was in PEI for Yom Hashoah. While on the Island Philip made three speaking engagements. A Public Memorial service was held on April 8th where the audience included the Premier of PEI, Birchwood Intermediate School and Charlottetown Rural High School. Philip Riteman proved to be a very direct and rivetting speaker, letting each audience guide the sessions through questions. In this way he reached each audience at its own level.

Mr. Riteman was welcomed by the PEI Legislature as they recognized April 9th as Holocaust Memorial Day. Moncton held its 19th Yom Hashoah memorial service on April 14th, with Mr. Philip Riteman as guest speaker. Over 250 people were in attendance.

Dr. Steven Wolinetz, a member of the Jewish community, was guest speaker at the Holocaust Memorial service in St. John's, Newfoundland. His speech, *A Personal Reflection*, was well received by an audience which included the Mayor of St. John's, several members of the House of Assembly and City Councillors. The attendance was approximately 300. The event had substantial media coverage.

Holocaust survivor **Judy Cohen** of Toronto was guest speaker at the Fredericton community non-denominational Holocaust Observance on April 7th. Mrs. Cohen described

women's experiences during the Holocaust.

Rabbi Y. Samuels and several members of the Fredericton Jewish community also participated in the commemoration services.

On April 9th, Holocaust survivors **Israel Unger** and Judy Cohen were given a standing ovation by the members of the NB Legislative Assembly when they were on the floor of the House as April 9th the 27th of Nissan was recognized as a solemn day of remembrance.

Saint John held its Commemoration service on April 9th at Shaarei Zedek synagogue. Judy Cohen was the key-note speaker. The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum partnered with the School District 8 Enrichment Centre participated in a Jewish Holocaust Study Group with twenty-five high school students. The original essays, poetry, drama and art was displayed during the reception held after the Memorial service.

Three of the memorial candles during the service were lit by participants in this program. The other three were lit by Mrs. Cohen, President of the Synagogue and the Mayor of Saint John.

The Halifax Commemoration was held at Shaar Shalom synagogue on April 8th. The key note speakers were **Sollange Umwalli** and **Juliet Choco Karugahe**, two young women from Rawanda.

This year's theme for the Yom Hashoah commemoration, as determined by Yad Vashem, was "Their Last Voice: Letters and Testaments from Jews in the Holocaust". The program was conducted by the youth of the Jewish community. Partial funding for these commemoration services were received from a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc.



Juliet Choco Karugahe and Sollange Umwalli speak in Halifax for Yom Hashoah.



Philip Riteman stresses a point in his survival of Holocaust. PEI Premier Pat Binns listens. April 8, 2002.



Philip Riteman, adult survivor of the Holocaust, shows Marty Smith, a Charlottetown Rural High School student, his tattoo from the concentration camps April 10, 2002.



Rosalie Simeone and Menara Simeone – The lighting of the six candles for the six million who were killed – Yom Hashoah.

Yom Hashoah – 2002

by Joel Jacobson, C/JN Correspondent

'I'm still alive. I don't know if I will be tomorrow'

– the thoughts of a Warsaw Ghetto resident, shortly before his death, and discovered years later.

Their Last Voice, the theme of Yom Hashoah 2002, was expressed in many Atlantic Canada communities in the last 10 days. In Fredericton, N.B., more than 250 people at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue heard **Judy Weissenberg Cohen** of Toronto, a survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen camps, speak of the extra horrors women faced as they entered the extermination camps. She told the audience, more than 80 per cent non-Jewish, according to event chair and survivor **Israel Unger**, younger women with babies were immediately and surreptitiously told by camp inmates to give their children to their grandmothers.

"Women under 14 and over 45 were being sent immediately to the gas chambers, while those between were spared," said Mrs. Cohen. "If the young mother had a child, they too went to the chambers. A woman without children might be given extra time to live. But most mothers couldn't give up their children."

Mr. Unger, a Fredericton resident since 1966 and Dean Emeritus in science at University of New Brunswick, is also co-chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Holocaust commemoration committee. "We usually attract a large number of gentiles to this event through the intercity clergy council and information sent to legions and other community groups," he said. "We also had the lieutenant governor, mayor and federal and provincial legislators in attendance." Members of the Jewish community, a legionnaire and **Canon Philip Ward**, an Anglican cleric, lit commemorative candles. "I've been at most services in Atlantic Canada through the years and am proud of the response we get from the community," he added. "We reach out to them because Jews were alone during the Holocaust and we have to keep reminding them they have a stand in the issues, and we expect them to stand with us."

In Halifax, two young women now living in Toronto, who suffered through genocide in Rwanda, spoke to about 200 people at Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

In a service guided primarily by Jewish high school and university students, last writings of Holocaust victims were read. And every name uttered during the traditional candle-lighting ceremony was of a young person under the age of 18, a graphic reminder of what was lost to humanity.

Juliet Choco Karigahe and **Sollange Umwalli** pleaded for the phrase "never again" to really mean never again. Both women, in their early 20s, were born in Kenya as Rwandan refugees. Their Tutsi families had been expelled from Rwanda and they left large families there. In the 1994 Rwandan genocide, about one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered by extremist Hutus in 100 days. Large numbers of their families perished.

Ms. Umwalli returned to Rwanda in 1995 but the scenes of chaos made her realize she had no future there. She entered Canada in 1998 and has applied to study at York University. "I was angry at myself and the world for not being there for the

Rwandan people," she told a hushed audience in impeccable English. "I tried to understand how these things start, with dehumanizing racist remarks followed by people not looking at others as human. And I asked myself how humans could do what they do to other human beings."

Ms. Karugahe, 22, a student at University of Toronto, said the Holocaust is not a Jewish issue. Rwanda is not a Rwandan issue. "They are universal issues. One million were killed in 100 days because the international community was silent. Small minorities can accomplish this because of the silence.

"I hope I'm not too idealistic but each of us can make a difference, in our own way, by making sure never again is never again."

Holocaust survivor **Philip Riteman**, Halifax, spoke to 75 people in Charlottetown, including P.E.I. Premier **Pat Binns**. He also visited a junior high and high school and the P.E.I. legislature for a brief memorial ceremony during his two-day visit.

In Saint John, N.B., Mrs. Cohen spoke to a large audience at Sharrei Zedek Synagogue. In addition, prizes were presented to high school students from the general community who participated in an essay contest on The Holocaust and the Creation of Israel.

Other ceremonies were held in Moncton, N.B., St. John's, Nfld., and Sydney, N.S.

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION —

We Must Never Forget, Op-Ed Piece

The Lessons of the Holocaust

by Mayann Francis, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

This week, the world pauses to remember one of the most heinous chapters of human history – the Holocaust. More than six million Jews lost their lives in the Nazi death camps of World War II in a deliberate attempt to exterminate an entire culture. Mothers, fathers, children – no matter their age, were marked for death. It is a degree of killing which still stuns us, even in this age of live carnage on the all-news channels.

Here in Halifax, the Jewish community and its friends have been pausing to remember the millions who lost their lives in the Holocaust. On Monday night, April 8, I joined a ceremony for the second time at the Shaar Shalom congregation, which lit candles of remembrance for the many Jews who went to their deaths at the hands of the Nazis. It was a moving ceremony, no less emotional for me because it was my second year attending. The names and ages of many of the victims were read aloud to signify that they have not been forgotten. We must never forget.

The Shaar Shalom congregation opened its doors to the community on that night. They wanted to share their grief from the death of so many innocents, but also to let the world know that this should never be allowed to happen again. But sadly, the hate that led to the Holocaust is still with us and still leads to violence and death. Shaar Shalom welcomed two guest speakers at the ceremony who are well aware that this is true. They were witness to a modern-day genocide. Their stories, though chilling, were stirring for listeners because these young women remain hopeful.

Juliet Choco Karugahe and **Sollange Umwalli** have witnessed many things which I am sure they would like to forget. They have made their way to relative safety in Canada after being born and spending many years in the refugee camps of Kenya. Their families had been expelled from Rwanda before they were born, victims of hatred that led to brutal mass murders in the country during 1994.

While they build lives for themselves here in Canada, the thoughts and memories of the horrors in Rwanda are never far away. But someday they hope to return to their country to help it rebuild.

Has the world really learned nothing since Hitler's final solution was conceived? Half a century apart, yet so closely related, the horrors of the Holocaust and the genocide in

Rwanda stand as a visible warning to all of us that hate can still lead to terrible things. Juliet and Sollange, knowing this too well, were eager to urge those gathered at Shaar Shalom to work to stop the mistakes of the past from being repeated. They talked about joining a group of young Jewish Canadians who travelled to the ruins of the concentration camps in Europe.

Who among us can imagine what this experience must have been like? Walking through the gates of the camps left an indelible impression on Juliet and Sollange. Being there with young Jewish people gave them the opportunity to share their feelings and ask the simplest of questions: Why?

That is a question we must ask ourselves: Why? Why do expressions of hate continue to sully our communities? After the shocking attacks on the cities of New York and Washington on Sept. 11, I spoke out to urge calm among Nova Scotians hoping that they would ask this same question of themselves.

We often have an image of Canada as a country that openly accepts its multi-cultural mosaic. Reality does not always match the image, however. A burning cross on a lawn in Moncton; vandalism of a mosque in Halifax after the events of Sept. 11; and now, the fire bombing last weekend of a synagogue in Saskatoon. These are all very visible expressions of hatred and intolerance and they have all happened in Canada in the past year.

We are inundated with images of war and death on a daily basis, so much so that it may lose its ability to shock us. But Juliet and Sollange wanted the audience at Shaar Shalom to know that genocide – whether in World War II Europe or Rwanda – can happen only if the rest of the world appears to condone violence. We all know that violence happens every day on television, in the movies or on the world stage. Juliet and Sollange emphasized that the world stayed quiet when genocide was gripping Rwanda in 1994. It also happened when Jews were being exterminated in World War II.

Let's not forget the impact of hatred, discrimination and intolerance on our world. As remembrances of those killed during the Holocaust continue, I have one wish for our world – Shalom. Peace.

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year. We ask you to sponsor as many students as possible.
Remember the future of the State of Israel depends on
educated people, our only natural resource.*

**Stephen Victor
National President**

April, 2002

Mr. Stephen Victor
CFHM National President

Dear Stephen:

My name is Eli Novershtern. I am 26 years old and was born and raised in Jerusalem. I'm presently a third-year student enrolled in a combined Philosophy, Political Science and Economics major. I also participate in Amrit, IDF's honors program, and work part-time at the Bank of Israel. It's a hectic schedule but I really enjoy my courses, my job in the financial sector, and my extracurricular activities: I chair HM's Debating Society. We are scheduled to attend a major debating meet in two weeks, which is provoking great excitement. However, I am an officer in the IDF and the meet coincides with my call to active duty.

Frankly, it can be psychologically hard to delay life plans—some students have to put their academic and professional careers on hold; others sacrifice their part-time jobs, and some postpone getting married. Still, we're all proud that IDF student reservists are so heavily responsible for Israel's security. A number of my friends at the University have been drafted, and it really pleases us that Hebrew University is creating a stipend for students being called up. As far as I know, our University is the first and only educational institution to offer an allowance which will enable many of us to graduate on time, or near our desired graduation date. The Hebrew University is a pioneer in many ways. To me, it's the flagship of the Zionist movement. There aren't many institutions with the ability to help the Jewish people and to promote education, culture and religion in the modern sense. Hebrew University fulfills what Israel and the Jewish people need.

I have just learned that the Canadian Friends are assisting the University in providing these stipends. Please accept my thanks for all your efforts. The money will help us with photocopying, textbooks and catering. It's also a morale boosting type of support. I believe that Israel will overcome the conflict, and we students in the IDF are proud to be serving. It means a great deal to know that you are also proud of us.

Sincerely,

Eli Novershtern

May 3, 2002

Mr. Stephen Victor
CFHM National President

Dear Stephen,

I am pursuing a Master's degree in History at Hebrew University, where I received my undergraduate degree in Journalism and History. In Israel, the expected level of education is very high and therefore combined degrees are so important. Hebrew University offers academically serious and prestigious programs in my field, and offers me the best opportunity for success. I am taking three classes this semester and also work full-time as a journalist for a news site on the web. But when I get a 9:00 a.m. call, "Salomo, come to the army base now," I'm there by 10:30. On duty I'm surrounded by thousands of soldiers, many from Hebrew University.

I must admit that going from sleeping in a tent to sitting in a classroom challenges our concentration. Sometimes when we return to school we feel out of orbit because we've missed many classes and course material. When the University set aside funds for those of us in the IDF, it gave us a good feeling. The action demonstrated the University's willingness to help and created a spirit of togetherness. It's also a financial necessity. Many of us struggle tremendously to afford our educations.

When contributions are made by the Canadian Friends, the gesture is special in ways I find difficult to describe. Having Jews from around the world reach out to us is an action of solidarity that has great meaning.

My career objective is to remain actively involved in current events and the media. Visitors to our web site are mainly people outside of Israel, and communicating the news and Israel's point of view gives me a sense of mission. I thank Hebrew University and our diaspora friends for supporting my goals.

Sincerely,
Salomo Bliss

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Who Knew the Murderers

by Ursula Duba

where are you from
the Auschwitz survivor
who has given a lecture
on the importance
of hearing stories of survivors
asks me
after I tell her
how moved I was
by her words

Germany
I tell her
Germany
she asks
how did you survive?
I am not Jewish
I answer

the Auschwitz survivor
looks me straight in the eyes
and asks
what did your father do
during the Hitler regime
my father wasn't a member of the Nazi
party
and managed to avoid the draft
I answer
what about your uncles
she wants to know
they weren't Nazis either
I reply
what did they say about it
after the war
she wants to know
they didn't know about it
I tell her

it's interesting
she says
I've never met a German
whose father, uncle, neighbor,
colleague,
superior
was involved in the killing
or even knew about it
how was it done
she asks
looking at me intently
tell me
how do you kill six million people
with only a handful of participants
and hardly anybody knowing
you need lots of people
she says
to kill six million
lots of people

she repeats
it wasn't done
with just a handful of thugs
it took thousands of people
what am I saying
hundreds of thousands of people
to do the killing
think about it
six million
that's a lot of people to kill
even with the technology
and efficiency
the Germans mastered

ever since
I've been wondering
what my father and uncles knew
about friends, neighbors and
colleagues
who of my teachers participated or
knew
who printed the new laws
declaring that non-Aryans
were no longer allowed
to live in their homes
own their own businesses
practice medicine
teach
hold any kind of job
who printed the laws
forbidding Jews
to be outside of their homes
after eight in the evening
use the telephone
go to the theater or the movies
eat in restaurants
own pets
purchase flowers
smoke
use a type writer
own fur coats
who distributed the laws and
regulations
all over Germany
from the largest cities to the smallest
hamlets
who translated them into different
languages
who shipped them to the many different
countries in Eastern Europe

who manufactured the signs
for beaches and parks
declaring
dogs and Jews not allowed

who took over
the homes
businesses
medical practices
teaching positions
and jobs
of the millions of non-Aryans
who wrote the long, meticulous lists
as to who was a Gypsy, a
homosexual
a quarter Jew, a half Jew, a full
Jew
who knew what the long lists were used
for
who wrote the arrest orders
to be carried out in the middle of
the night
who worked out the complicated train
schedules
of so many trains
going east
day and night
converging at the same
destinations
who sewed the prison uniforms for the
millions
who did research
about the most efficient methods
of mass extermination
who collected the data from this
research
made comparisons
who made the decisions
what methods to employ
who were the scientists
who devised unimaginable
experiments on
human beings
who evaluated the experiments
who wrote the reports
who signed them
who filed them
who wrote the purchase orders
for the implements of mass murder
who manufactured the chemicals
used for the killing
who manufactured the gas chambers
who shipped them east
who did the billing to the government

what did my parents know
who of my aunts and uncles
teachers and neighbors knew
who knew

Survivor Decries Nazi Efficiency Engineering skills used to evil ends: speaker

by Chris, Cape Breton Post Monday, April 15, 2002

The engineers who designed Nazi Germany's horrendously effective crematoriums disgraced their profession, says Holocaust survivor **David Korn**. "It's a shame for the engineering society in Germany that they didn't realize that a factory for killing is not part of engineering," Korn, a retired engineer who helped restore the Fortress of Louisbourg and Citadel Hill in Halifax, told a Holocaust Memorial service Sunday in Sydney. About 300 people gathered at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue to mark Yom Hashoah, which is Hebrew for Day of the Holocaust.

Chased from their home in Czechoslovakia, Korn and his brother **Jakub** were hidden in an orphanage for three years as the German army rampaged through Europe. At the time, engineering firms in Berlin were competing to blueprint the gas chambers and crematoriums that would kill some six million Jews, including Korn's parents and grandmother. Another five million undesirable gentiles – gypsies, the

handicapped and Communists, were also targeted in **Hitler's** ethnic cleansing. Korn, 65, was five years old when he and his brother were taken to the Evangelical Lutheran Orphanage in Mikulas, Slovakia where **Pastor Vladimir Kuna** rescued them from the Nazis. From October 1942 to July, 1945, the Korn brothers and 24 other Jewish children were hidden at the orphanage.

"I should believe in miracles because so many times I was supposed to die," Korn said.

When the war ended Korn learned his parents had been captured in Hungary and taken to Auschwitz, the notorious death camp designed by **Adolf Eichmann**, who introduced conveyor belts and Cyclon-B showers to the Nazi killing machine. Korn and his brother eventually settled in Israel with an uncle who managed to elude the Germans. Korn later graduated from the Technion (Haifa) and did his graduate studies in Canada.

An expert in restoration conservation, he worked on the restoration of Louisbourg and was later placed in charge of the restoration of Citadel Hill in Halifax. He also supervised the design and implementation of emergency repair work on the Centre Block – Parliament Building, Ottawa.

Mrs. Barbara Costelo

Cabot Junior/Senior High School

Dear Mr. Korn,

Thank you very much for your presentation on the Holocaust for our school.

It was very touching and educational.

The staff and the students appreciated your sharing of such a personal experience.

It has made the Holocaust seem so much more real to us having heard your story of survival and how it affected your family.

Once again, thank you for including our school in your efforts to educate our children on the Holocaust.

Yours in education,
Mrs. Barbara Costelo
Vice-Principal

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Beth Israel Breakfast Club with Bill and Gerry Styles

by Joel Jacobson, CJN Correspondent

A Pentecostal lay minister in Halifax recently blasted CNN and other news media for 'keeping the pot boiling by spreading Palestinian lies'.

Speaking to members of the Beth Israel Synagogue at a breakfast meeting in Halifax, **Bill Styles**, with wife **Gerry**, Maritime representatives of the Christian organization Bridges For Peace, said "The media keeps bringing forth these lies. They should be more responsible in reporting. Many Christian believers have the same conclusion. We can't listen to the news or we'll be bound to the lie."

Styles is a teacher of academic upgrading and water chemistry at Nova Scotia Community College, and heads chemistry and microbiology labs at Saint Mary's University. But he is a staunch supporter of Israel, as is Bridges for Peace, founded in 1979 by the late **Dr. Douglas Young**, a bible scholar and evangelical pastor in the United States. "Gerry and I lived in Israel from 1980 to 1986 where I studied the physical and historical geography of Israel with the American Institute of Holy Land Studies (now Jerusalem University College)," said Styles. "We worked on the itineraries of Christian tour groups, with Israeli guides, then became sales reps for a tourism company."

He said Bridges For Peace started when Young became deeply hurt by discovering Anti-Semitism came from early church leaders. He wanted the Jewish people to know there were many Christians who didn't, and don't, believe that. Bridges For Peace raises charitable dollars to operate the first, and largest, food bank in Israel. Forty tonnes of food per month are distributed to a clientele ranging from Holocaust survivors to disadvantaged individuals. The organization also

distributes bibles, blankets, welcome baskets and school starter kits for young students and operates Project Rescue to assist Russian Jews wishing to immigrate to Israel but having difficulty affording the cost of visas, passports, transportation and lodging.

Bill and Gerry are British Columbia natives. They are children, Bill said, of non-religious people but started going to church in 1967, met a Jewish couple in B.C. and decided to visit Israel in 1974 to see the roots of all religions. He decided to move his family there in 1980.

His daughter **Lori**, now 27, lived in Israel in her elementary school years. Returning to Canada in 1986 at age 12, she returned on a solidarity mission last February. "I was there to show Christians the Israelis in their struggles. I went as a tourist this time, but when I arrived in Jerusalem, it felt like I was home," she told the Beth Israel audience. Bill Styles ranted about **Yassar Arafat**. "Israel has done a great deal, given money to the Palestinians, but Arafat has done nothing with it. There are still refugee camps. He has done nothing." Styles continued, "The Israelis have had so much bad press. It's unbelievable. We must ask G-d to put His hand on the army just as He did with King David's army."

"We owe Israel a tremendous debt because of the rat's nest they uncovered in the West Bank and because of uncovering other blocs of terrorism (in 1982). I want to encourage you all. It's a blessing for us to be part of you and to see what has taken place in Israel." Gerry Styles concluded, "We just wanted to encourage you today that Israel has friends in the Christian faith."

UIA Federations Canada, Israel

July 2002

Dear Friends in Atlantic Canada,

We thank you sincerely for your generous donation to the Israel Emergency Campaign. As you know, Israel has been suffering tremendously since the outbreak of Palestinian violence 22 months ago. Hundreds of innocent people have been murdered through acts of terrorism, thousands injured. Many suffer psychological damage. Our lives here in Israel are under constant threat and attack.

New Immigrants undergo particular difficulties. Many do not know the language, the culture, the way of life here in Israel; some don't have the support of family or friends.

On 18 June 2002, a Palestinian terrorist detonated a huge bomb on the 32A bus from the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo, killing 19 people and injuring more than 70. Many olim live in Gilo, and the toll of immigrant victims was heavy; five were murdered, including an 11-year-old Ethiopian girl, and many immigrants were wounded.

SELAH, the Israel Crisis Management Centre for new immigrants hit by tragedy, immediately went into action. Volunteers rushed to the morgue to be with new immigrants who had the gruesome task of trying to identify their loved ones, killed by Palestinian hatred. Others attended funerals, visited families and helped them through the shiva mourning period, providing food where needed, and emotional support. Selah volunteers visited wounded in hospitals, extending help

in countless ways. Selah also provides immediate financial aid during emergency, in times when bureaucratic procedures are too difficult and time-consuming. Some families cannot afford to pay for a funeral, or items of medical equipment not covered by National Insurance.

Selah is among the many organisations that desperately need funding from the Israel Emergency Campaign. Others include the NATAL Trauma Centre for Victims of Terror, which provides a psychological hot-line and support services; emergency funds for victims of terror and their families; the Civil Guard and Home Front, responsible for security of public institutions and neighbourhoods, through security guards, fencing, and alarm installations; Magen David Adom; Trauma Units that treat physical injuries, and Units that provide therapy for psychological damage, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Dear Friends - your Israel Emergency Campaign donation enables these organisations to carry out their vital work, offering the people of Israel a lifeline in their time of desperate need. We are extremely grateful to you for your generosity, concern, and support. May you be blessed for your good deeds.

Yours sincerely,
Howard M. Weisband,
Director-General

CJN — Yom Ha'atzmaut in Atlantic Canada

by Joel Jacobson, Atlantic Correspondent

From a somewhat subdued beginning, tinged with concern with the current situation in Israel to an upbeat conclusion highlighted by an enthusiastic performance by Toronto Jewish rock band Bais Groove, Halifax Jews celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut.

The venue at Beth Israel Synagogue attracted more than 120 men, women and children to an evening of Israeli deli and delicacies, a 54th birthday cake for Israel, speeches by local Atlantic Jewish Council officials, a plaque presentation to AJC from the City of Halifax, and a speaker-phone call from two Haligonians in Israel.

The mood of the quiet crowd gained positive momentum as AJC board member **Kathy Zilbert** and past president **Victor Goldberg** expressed joy at being in Israel during a small communities solidarity mission to Israel.

"Israelis are a strong and courageous people," said Zilbert. "Our tour guide left us to go home to celebrate his first Yom Hazikaron (Remembrance Day) with his family since he lost his son (in the current conflict) two months ago. But he was back the next day to continue working with us. His strength to carry on was inspirational. And he stressed how a great place this is to live."

She said they spoke with teens in Haifa who have a different kind of life than Canadian teens but they told us they're not going to stop their lives. Their parents, they said, tell them not to use public buses or visit malls or clubs but they are not letting the situation take over their lives.

Goldberg said the people have told the mission members they cannot understand why there is not more emotional support from Jews abroad.

"They tell us they are alone here," he said. "But we are proud and honoured to be here."

Mark Rosen, vice-president of AJC, speaking in Halifax, announced a North American campaign of \$300 million and asked Atlantic Canadians to be generous when approached in the next few weeks.

"The economy is in tatters, the tourism industry is non-existent, and construction has almost ceased.

Our help is needed."

The mood brightened when four members of the eight-piece Toronto band took the stage.

Singing a variety of Hebrew and Yiddish contemporary songs from Israel, the band, which played Moncton the evening before, strung together several upbeat melodies, concluding with Salaam-Shalom, a rousing plea for peace sung in Arabic and Hebrew.

The group started last September when **Michael Soberman**, director of Regional Jewish Communities in Ontario, asked several friends to put together a group to perform at several small community launches.

We never expected to go further, said vocalist **Stacey Wintre**, a York University graduate who works for a corporate training firm in Toronto.

But word of mouth has meant about four gigs a month for bar mitzvahs, weddings, other community events to which we can bring Jewish content in a youthful contemporary way.

Bais Groove (website www.baisgroove.com) is comprised of university graduates and professionals, ages 23 to 28, which includes vocalists Wintre and **Rachel Mitchell**, keyboard player and arranger **Robbie Grunwald**, guitarist and composer **Mark Weinstock**, and on drums **Ben Gaum**, bass **Eldan Cohen**, percussion **Dave Bloom**, and lead guitar **Jeremy Otto**.

The Toronto band has been booked to play at Skydome May 20 when the UJA fundraiser, Walk For Israel, takes place.

The day after the Moncton performance, the quartet appeared on a Christian radio talk show, discussing the situation in Israel and attitudes of people toward Jews.

Two of the four, Grunwald and Weinstock, are sons of Holocaust survivors.

Wintre and Mitchell have spent considerable time visiting, living, and studying in Israel.

YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY

Your commitment to our community is evident in everything you do ... the responsibility you take, the care you give, the values you teach. Now you can extend your commitment. You can inspire the next generation and generations after that. You can make a connection to the future.

Because you share a vision of the Atlantic Jewish Community that knows neither geographic boundaries nor boundaries of the heart, please consider leaving a bequest in your will or trust to our community. By doing so you will sustain services, provide the resources to innovate in response to change, and prepare our community to act in the face of emergencies.

We urge you to consider naming the Atlantic Jewish Foundation as a beneficiary in your will.

Our professionals, together with your legal or tax counsel, are here to help you ensure the future of our Atlantic Jewish community. For further information, please contact Dov Harris, UIAFC Regional Director FRD at 416-636-7655 (Ext. 226) or Marie Herschorn, Administrator, Atlantic Jewish Foundation at 902-422-7491 (Ext. 24) or e-mail: mherchorn@theajc.ns.ca.

Middle East Basics

by Dr. Israel Unger, Chair CRC

Unger@unb.ca phone office 506 447 3091 phone home 506 455 9787 fax 506 455 9787

With the rejection of the peace proposals by Yasser Arafat at Camp David in the Summer of 2000 and the start of the new Intifada, the century old Israeli – Palestinian or more correctly the Israeli – Arab conflict has received massive media coverage.

The Arab side has been masterful in getting their point of view across, massaging, spinning and distorting history.

Frequently they base their claims on UN resolutions, and in doing so, misquote, change or partially quote these.

Invariably Arabs call for Israel to implement a UN resolution, quote one sentence or a phrase of that resolution, and omit other relevant parts. This results in giving the false impression that the whole resolution is present.

They conveniently leave out the parts they have flaunted or are unfavourable to their position.

Anyone who has not followed the conflict in detail and is not a Middle East historian or political scientist may be bewildered, particularly when they hear an Arab or Palestinian and Israeli spokesperson calling for the other side to adhere to UN resolution 242 or 238 or some other resolution. In the interest of helping the readers of Shalom to separate fact from lie, we bring to you this column on Middle East Basics.

First and foremost in any discussion on the Middle East is that the basic partition resolution, dividing the former Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1947 was accepted by the Jews and unanimously rejected by all 13 Arab states in existence at the time.

Furthermore the Arab states vowed to destroy Israel, a member nation of the UN and sent five Arab armies to do so.

This action was a violation of the UN charter and brings up the *sine qua non* principle of all these arguments, UN resolutions are not a buffet table. You cannot choose which one you like and ask every one to accept it and reject the ones that you find unappetizing.

You cannot accept one phrase or paragraph of a resolution and ignore the rest.

The UN resolutions most frequently quoted are 242, 338 and 194.

Below resolutions 242 and 338 are reproduced in their entirety, resolution 194 is 4 pages long and most of it deals with setting up a commission.

Resolution 194, adopted in December 1948, deals, in part, with the refugee problem.

Clause 5: Calls upon the Governments and authorities concerned to extend the scope of the negotiations

provided for in the Security Council's resolution of 16 November 1948 and to seek agreement by negotiations conducted either with the Conciliation Commission or directly, with a view to the final settlement of all questions outstanding between them.

Clause 7: Resolves that the Holy Places – including Nazareth – religious buildings and sites in Palestine should be protected and free access to them assured, in accordance with existing rights and historical practice; that arrangements to this end should be under effective United Nations supervision; that the United Nations Conciliation Commission, in presenting to the fourth regular session of the General Assembly its detailed proposals for a permanent international regime for the territory of Jerusalem, should include recommendations concerning the Holy Places in that territory, that which regard to the Holy Places in the rest of Palestine the Commission should call upon the political authorities of the areas concerned to give appropriate formal guarantees as to the protection of the Holy Places and access to them, and that these undertakings should be presented to the General Assembly for approval.

Clause 9: Resolves that, pending agreement on more detailed arrangements among the Governments and authorities concerned, the freest possible access to Jerusalem by road, rail or air should be accorded to all inhabitants of Palestine.

Clause 10: Instructs the Conciliation Commission to seek arrangements among the Governments and authorities concerned which will facilitate the economic development of the area, including arrangements for access to ports and airfields and the use of transportation and communication facilities.

Clause 11: Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible.

Disregarding clause 5, the Arab states refused to talk to the Israelis and refused to negotiate peace.

In defiance of clause 7, Trans Jordan not only refused to allow Jews access to their holy places, they desecrated Jewish holy sites.

The Arab states refused to have any kind of links with and refused to recognize the State of Israel thus disregarding clause 10.

Clause 11 speaks to the refugee problem and is the clause that Arabs and Palestinians are fond of quoting and insisting that Israel must act on.

However, as mentioned above, it is one clause out of 15, it is ridiculous to defy and ignore clauses that you do not like, then insist that others fully implement the one that interests you.

Security Council Resolution 242, adopted November 1967.

This is the famous and often quoted resolution that was meant to establish a permanent peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Resolution 242: The Security Council, Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East, Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security, Emphasizing further that all Member States in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter,

1. *Affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:*
 - (i) *Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;*
 - (ii) *Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;*
2. *Affirms further the necessity*
 - (a) *For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;*
 - (b) *For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;*
 - (c) *For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every State in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;*

3. *Requests the Secretary-General to designate a Special Representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;*
4. *Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the Special Representative as soon as possible.*

Once again Arabs, Palestinians, and recently, many Europeans have been demanding that Israel act on this resolution which they quote or misquote Paragraph 1 clause (i), while totally neglecting the clause requiring a just and lasting peace, termination of states of belligerency, respect for territorial integrity, and the right for all states in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from the threats or acts of force.

Security Council Resolution 338, adopted October 22, 1973.

This resolution came after the Yom Kippur war and once again was meant to establish a permanent peace between Israel and her neighbours.

Resolution 338: The Security Council,

1. *Calls upon all parties to present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately, no later than 12 hours after the moment of the adoption of this decision, in the positions they now occupy;*
2. *Calls upon all parties concerned to start immediately after the cease-fire the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts;*
3. *Decides that, immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire, negotiations start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.*

Resolution 338 asks that the parties implement resolution 242 which most Arab states and the Palestinians have refused to honour. Paragraph 3 requires the parties to negotiate a just and durable peace.

Syria, for one, has refused to meet with Israel.

*A full copy of resolution 194 is available from the AJC office on request.

Subject: Open Letter to the World.

There is so much history that is "forgotten" by many but explains why today Jews believe Israel must stand up for itself and not be run over.

Jews also believe that this is not just an Israel issue but the rise once again of the antisemitism that has been sitting there, kept in check for many years, but has always been there, throughout the world.

Open Letter to the World

*A timely and powerful letter to the world by
Ariel Ben Attar, an Israeli*

Dear World,

I understand that you are upset by us, here in Israel.

Indeed, it appears that you are quite upset, even angry.

(Outraged?) Indeed, every few years you seem to become upset by us. Today, it is the "brutal repression of the Palestinians"; yesterday it was Lebanon; before that it was the bombing of the nuclear reactor in Baghdad and the Yom Kippur War and the Sinai campaign.

It appears that Jews who triumph and who, therefore, live, upset you most extraordinarily.

Of course, dear world, long before there was an Israel, we – the Jewish people – upset you.

We upset a German people who elected **Hitler** and upset an Austrian people who cheered his entry into Vienna and we upset a whole slew of Slavic nations – Poles, Slovaks, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Russians, Hungarians, and Romanians.

And we go back a long, long way in the history of world upset.

We upset the Cossacks of Chmielnicki who massacred tens of thousands of us in 1648-49; we upset the Crusaders who, on their way to liberate the Holy Land, were so upset at Jews that they slaughtered untold numbers of us.

For centuries, we upset a Roman Catholic Church that did its best to define our relationship through inquisitions, and we upset the arch-enemy of the church, **Martin Luther**, who, in his call to burn the synagogues and the Jews within them, showed an admirable Christian ecumenical spirit.

And it is because we became so upset over upsetting you, dear world, that we decided to leave you – in a manner of speaking – and establish a Jewish state.

The reasoning was that living in close contact with you, as resident-strangers in the various countries that comprise you, we upset you, irritate you and disturb you.

What better notion, then, than to leave you, and thus love you – and have you love us? And so we decided to come home to the same homeland from which we were driven out 1,900 years earlier by a Roman world that, apparently, we also upset.

Alas, dear world, it appears that you are hard to please.

Having left you and your pogroms and inquisitions and crusades and holocausts, having taken our leave of the general world to live alone in our own little state, we continue to upset you.

You are upset that we repress the poor Palestinians.

You are deeply angered over the fact that we do not give up the lands of 1967, which are clearly the obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Moscow is upset and Washington is upset.

The "radical" Arabs are upset and the gentle Egyptian moderates are upset.

Well, dear world, consider the reaction of a normal Jew from Israel.

In 1920 and 1921 and 1929, there were no territories of 1967 to impede peace between Jews and Arabs.

Indeed, there was no Jewish state to upset anybody. Nevertheless, the same oppressed and repressed Palestinians slaughtered tens of thousands of Jews in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Safed and Hebron.

Indeed, 67 Jews were slaughtered one day in Hebron in 1929.

Dear world, why did the Arabs – the Palestinians – massacre 67 Jews in one day in 1929?

Could it have been their anger over Israeli aggression in 1967?

And why were 510 Jewish men, women and children slaughtered in Arab riots between 1936-39?

Was it because Arabs were upset over 1967?

And when you, world, proposed a UN Partition Plan in 1947 that would have created a "Palestinian State" alongside a tiny Israel and the Arabs cried "no" and went to war and killed 6,000 Jews – was that "upset" caused by the aggression of 1967?

And, by the way, dear world, why did we not hear your cry of "upset" then?

The poor Palestinians who today kill Jews with explosives and firebombs and stones are part of the same people who – when they had all the territories they now demand be given to them for their state – attempted to drive the Jewish state in the sea.

The same twisted faces, the same hate, the same cry of "itbach-al-yahud" (Massacre the Jew!) that we hear and see today, were seen and heard then.

The same people, the same dream – destroy Israel.

What they failed to do yesterday, they dream of today, but we should not "repress" them.

Dear world, you stood by during the Holocaust and you stood by in 1948 as seven states launched a war that the Arab League proudly compared to the Mongol massacres.

You stood by in 1967 as Nasser, wildly cheered by wild mobs in every Arab capital in the world, vowed to drive the Jews into the sea.

And you would stand by tomorrow if Israel were facing extinction.

And since we know that the Arabs-Palestinians dream daily of that extinction, we will do everything possible to remain alive in our own land.

If that bothers you, dear world, well – think of how many times in the past you bothered us.

In any event, dear world, if you are bothered by us, here is one Jew in Israel who could not care less.

From Egypt to Edenbridge

by Hedda Medjuck

I recently returned from fulfilling a lifelong dream to visit my Imatriarchal roots in Edenbridge, Saskatchewan, a Jewish farming community where my grandparents **Alex** and **Rose Abramsky** and mother **Dorothy Mark** were pioneers. The goal of this trip was to visit what remains of Edenbridge: my family homestead as well as a cemetery and shul, which are now maintained by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

The success of this mission was largely due to my travelling companion, cousin **Carol (Abramsky) Kravetsky** – who was born and lived for a time on the farm, and knew to look in the Melfort phone directory for possible former Edenbridgers. A highlight of the trip was meeting three men in Melfort. The first was **Harry Broudie**, mid 40's, son of **Albert**, pioneer. Harry had a wealth of knowledge. He knew all of the family names and whereabouts of the descendents, which were familiar to me. He was reading from the local Western "Shalom" magazine, which enabled me to reconnect with forty years of my personal Canadian Jewish experience.

The ultimate gift of the trip was in meeting and spending time with two remaining **Vickar** brothers – **Charlie**, 91, and **Little** (less known as Norman, aged 88).

Both were charming and blessed with their mental faculties.

Charlie could be a Standup Comic, or perhaps at this stage, a "sit-down" comic.

When we entered the Vickars' apartment, my parentage came full circle. I noticed a Menorah exactly like the one that enjoyed in our home in Moncton NB which came from Dorbian, Lithuania, with my paternal Grandmother, **Hoda Marks**. When I asked Charlie where he got his he said it came from Lithuania. Both his and mine were "cashevokeh," (bent), sort of on the bias! Dorbian meets Edenbridge. I knew I was on the right track.

Charlie is the custodian of the key to the shul at the cemetery and he wanted to accompany us on our expedition. "Little" was off to do volunteer work at the Senior's Center.

While directing the route to our destination, Charlie provided informative, insightful commentary. The only homestead remaining on miles and miles of green farmland is that built by my grandfather. The present owner is the son of the man who purchased it from my family in the 1940's (but has covered the farmhouse in blue siding).

The original water pump, where Carol performed her daily chores, still exists.

We crossed the restored "bridge," over the Carrot River – the very bridge for which Edenbridge was named. It was small, as was that section of the river.

The approach to the shul and cemetery was down a long road through woodlands. In winter, Charlie recalled for funerals, having to chop through four feet of ice with an axe.

The first tombstone I saw was the namesake of Harry, whom I'd met earlier.

My grandfather, Alex and Uncle **Phil** (Carol's Dad) are buried there.

I attempted a rough pencil rubbing of Alex's stone.

The shul was small with a center Bimah, upstairs ladies's section and warm wood.

In 1976, I was not able to attend the last major celebration. My mother and her friends signed the guest books, which I viewed. I also found the signatures of the **Rinzler** family – formerly of Edenbridge and now of Moncton – Notably **Roxy** and **Harold**, their twin boys and **Maya**, the next generation.

Charlie's tales brought the Edenbridge experience to life for me. He babysat my mother on occasion, and Carol regularly.

Originally, travel between Melfort and Edinbridge took four days and was planned a year in advance. The journey only took us 30 minutes...but 52 years of preparation.

With gratitude and respect,
L'hitraot.



Edenbridge, Sask., July 4, 2002 – Hedda (Abramsky, Mark) Medjuck with Charlie Vicar, aged 91, childhood friend of Hedda's mother, Dorothy Mark and grandparents Alec & Rose Abramsky, still a local resident.

Need a gift card?

Halifax Hadassah-WIZO has cards for all occasions.

Call Renee Dankner at 443-3816

Multicultural Festival – Halifax, 2002

by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director, AJC

On Friday, June 21st, the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia opened its 18th annual NS Multicultural Festival in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia without the participation of the Atlantic Jewish Council's booth on Judaism. Since 1995 the Atlantic Jewish Council had been participating using both volunteers from our community and staff.

I believe that historically the Synagogues in Halifax had initially participated some years before, but for many reasons the participation became an AJC program. Over the years we had endeavored to display various Judaic artifacts dealing with our religion and culture.

Pamphlets were given out with a short description of the basic elements of Judaism and we displayed a number of artifacts pertaining to our religion such as menorahs, Shabbat candles, talismans, etc. It was an opportunity to outreach to the general community and there seemed to be a fair amount of interest every year. The media was alerted on Friday, June 21st that we were not participating. I received calls from both Halifax newspapers and their articles were printed the following day. The story also seems to have made national radio and was carried throughout the country.

The reaction of our own community and the non Jewish community has been such that I feel it important to outline the reason behind the decision that was made based on my recommendation to the Management Committee not to participate. I must say at the outset that I received a number of calls from non Jewish people, all who were disappointed that we would not be there and who hoped we would return in the future. I received a number of e-mails and calls from the Jewish community of Halifax and throughout the region who, based on the newspaper stories, were quite upset and I feel that these people are owed an explanation in some detail. What I will lay out for you are 3 self-explanatory documents and interspersed will be a time frame of what happened in my own words.

Document 1: Letter from **Lysa Magder** directed "To Whom It May Concern".

"June 28th, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to formally inform you about a few occurrences that took place at our booth during the course of this year's Multicultural Festival.

These situations were very disturbing to me and were completely inappropriate at this type of event.

I am sure that you are aware of the fact that the Atlantic Jewish Council has been a long-time supporter of the Multicultural Festival.

We have always thoroughly enjoyed having a pavilion at this venue and have appreciated the opportunity to share our religion and culture with your patrons.

The role that the Festival plays in promoting tolerance and appreciation of diversity is very important and we greatly respect the efforts that the Multicultural Association puts towards this endeavor.

Given that the objective of the Festival is the appreciation of diversity, I feel the activities that occurred at our booth by members of the Canadian-Palestinian Social Organization were inappropriate and unacceptable.

I would like to outline some of the occurrences for you.

To begin, at approximately 6:15 p.m. on Friday, June the 22nd, I was alone at our booth when I was approached by a large group of Palestinian members who began waving and placing the Palestinian flag over our table.

Two young gentlemen then stepped forward and stood aggressively in my personal space in a very intimidating way.

One of them asked me if "I was proud to be a Jew killing his people in Palestine".

I responded by saying that my role at the Festival was to promote information on the Jewish religion and culture and that this was not a political forum.

They continued to assault me with questions and shouted out what they considered to be the facts surrounding the Middle East Crisis while surrounding my table and making it uncomfortable and inaccessible to patrons passing by.

I was told that as a Jew, I am considered a murderer of Palestinian children and for the rest of the evening, (until I left at 7:30 p.m.), several members of the Palestinian group continued to pass by my table in pairs or groups of three leering and staring at me.

On Sunday, June the 24th, members of the Palestinian organization continued to pass by our table, leering at us in an intimidating way.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., a group of Palestinians came by the table and held up the Palestinian flag while another member took pictures of us behind our table without our permission.

For the remainder of the day, many of the members would follow us around the grounds as we went to the food tent etc... In fact, when I left the Festival on Sunday evening, three of the Palestinian members, (who accosted me on Friday), followed me to the security gate while I loaded up my trunk and took down my license plate number and the make and model of my car.

Security, Mike Smajda and Prem Dhir were notified about most of these occurrences.

I must also add that during the course of the Festival, very little, if any information at the Palestinian table had to do with culture.

The Arabs of course are a cultural people as are the Moslems but the Palestinians are strictly a political group of people, displaced from several middle eastern countries and of different religions trying to claim a geo-political land as their own.

Much of the information that they had at their table was anti-Israel propaganda and some was even anti-Jewish bordering on anti-Semitic.

On their TV, they showed a few minutes of Palestinian dancers and the rest of the videotape was a loop of news coverage containing anti-Israel segments.

We, in turn, would never entertain the thought of showing the lynching of the three Israeli soldiers, or the phone calls that the terrorists made to their wives describing how they were killing their husbands, or the shooting of the ten month old Israeli baby by a Palestinian sniper, or the fact that behind the Palestinian children throwing stones are teenagers and men with machine guns.

There is no room for propaganda at a multicultural event in Canada.

So my question is, how was this allowed by your organization?

Many of the patrons that passed by our table commented on the fact that the Palestinian table was an anomaly at the Festival.

They commented that all of the tables contained artifacts, symbols and information celebrating cultures and that the Palestinian table was devoid of artifacts and contained information on terrorism, hatred and bloodshed.

In my opinion, having a booth representing this cannot be good for the comfort of patrons at the Multicultural Festival.

Furthermore, I feel that the behaviour demonstrated by the members of the Palestinian booth to us was indicative of terrorist motives rooted in intimidation and used to create fear.

As we continue to be supporters of the Multicultural Festival and multiculturalism in Nova Scotia in general, I hope that these occurrences will be addressed and effectively dealt with by the appropriate members of your organization.

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation in dealing with this matter.

*Sincerely,
Lysa Magder
The Atlantic Jewish Council"*

Lysa Magder, who at the time was AJC Program Director and was the staff person in charge of our display in 2001 prepared this report for me.

The readers should also know that I was also in attendance periodically during the weekend.

Following receipt of Ms. Magder's report, I made a decision to keep this on a confidential basis so as not to cause undue fears in our own community and not to embarrass the organizers of the Festival. Early in July of 2001 I contacted the Executive Director of MANS, Ms. **Barbara Campbell** and requested a meeting to discuss Ms. Magder's report which I mailed to her. She suggested the President of the Association, Mr. Prem Dhir of Truro, who was then on vacation, and the Festival Coordinator, Mike Smajda were also concerned and would like to meet with me sometime in the fall. We met in October and they indicated their distress and concern with what went on at the Festival of 2001. They promised that it would not happen again and that there would be changes made to the Code of Conduct. They appreciated the fact that we did not go public with the problem and based on their assurances, I said the AJC would continue participating again next year (2002).

As the fall turned into winter and then into spring of 2002 we followed the organization of this year's festival as past participants. We were on the mailing list and in April of this year, knowing that registration was close at hand, I had asked **Aviva Rubin**, who was AJC Programmer at the time to contact the organization for the material and registration forms. What I received was the same Code of Conduct that existed in 2001 with no changes. I then called Mr. Smajda and he assured me there was a new Code of Conduct and security would be tighter than last year. At a Management Committee meeting in early May, I brought the committee up to date on the matter, told them that I had sent in a cheque for \$150 as a registration fee and I was still not pleased with the answers re security that we had received from Mr. Smajda nor had I seen the updated Code of Conduct. The Management Committee directed me to contact CJC National office and inform them of the situation and ask them for some direction and ideas. I spoke with **Jack Silverstone**, and based on my discussions with him, I wrote a letter to the Festival Chairmen, Mr. Tomar and Mr. Smajda dated May 15, 2002. Document 2

"May 15, 2002

Mr. Mukhtyar Tomar
Festival Chairman
NS Multicultural Festival
1113 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS
B3H 4P7

– and –

Mr. Mike Smajda
Festival Coordinator
Halifax, NS

Gentlemen,

Re: Atlantic Jewish Council Participation in
NS Multicultural Festival

As you know, last year we had some difficulty at our Atlantic Jewish Council booth with Palestinian youth who harassed our staff and also the fact that the information at the Palestinian booth was political in nature including anti-Israel propaganda on their video display. I wish I could say internationally the situation has gotten better since last June but I'm sure you're aware, the situation has deteriorated in the Middle East.

As Executive Director of this organization, I'm pleased to say that through my leadership we have taken an active participation in your festival. It was only after serious thought and deliberation that we sent our cheque in for this year. Over the last week I have discussed our participation in this kind of event with our national Jewish organizations explaining the problems we had last year and the proximity of your Muslim (Palestinian) booth. A number of weeks ago I spoke with Mike about security and I'm afraid after considering Mike's description of the arrangements he's making this year, they are not fully satisfactory.

We have always participated in the Festival on the basis of Judaism. Our exhibits are religious and cultural in nature and we have enjoyed the opportunity to explain our religion to the public at large. Unfortunately over the past few years, in many cases the Muslim booth has turned into a political forum for the Palestinians and this, I believe has led to confusion and the type of conflict we had last year. This is contrary to the purpose of the Festival. Therefore, I'm forced to request the following:

1. That you provide guaranteed security at or behind our booth during the hours, which we'll be open. That is Friday afternoon and Sunday.
2. That there will be no political material, brochures or videos relating to the Middle East conflict, in particular anti-Israel propaganda, on display or available at the festival.
3. That you agree to numbers 1 and 2 in writing.

Should this request be acceptable to you I will immediately begin to finalize our preparations. Otherwise, please let me know as soon as possible and return our cheque, as we will not be participating.

Enclosed you will find the original Festival Code of Conduct. We have yet to receive a revised one. I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Jon M. Goldberg
Executive Director"

I then asked Aviva to contact MANS and ask about the updated Code of Conduct which I received on May 29 and was apparently circulated to all the participants although not in the registration package.

Some weeks went by and I received no response until just a few weeks before the opening when a letter came from Ms. Campbell dated June 5. It was obvious upon receipt of Ms. Campbell's letter they couldn't or wouldn't meet our requirements for security. Document 3

"June 5, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

I am replying to your recent letter re: your concerns with your group's participation in our Multicultural Festival.

As you know we expressed our regret to you for the incident at your booth and promised to take steps to prevent similar events in the future.

Indeed, we vigorously stressed the importance of inspecting all materials on display, including videos, prior to the festival and prepared an addendum to the code of conduct for each participant.

We are sad to note that you will not be taking part in this year's festival and please be assured that we have enjoyed your group's participation.

Please find enclosed the cheque you have submitted to us.

With kind regards.
Barbara Campbell
Executive Director

While many from our community have written or e-mailed me about ulterior motives of the organizers, I feel basically that they didn't or couldn't appreciate the necessity of a Jewish organization to be secure in such an environment.

On Sunday of this year's festival I personally went to the cultural display area and I must say, the Palestinian booth was cleaned up as far as most of our complaints from the year before. Aside from a few Arafat buttons it seemed purely cultural and religious. This augers well for our possible future participation and I will be requesting permission from the Management Committee to resume discussions with the organization in the hopes that they will provide proper security so that we may again participate in Festival 2003.

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From its rugged, mountainous north to its peaceful, placid south, the people of Israel need to see us this New Year more than ever before. The value of visiting Israel has never been greater and the positive impact of your trip on Israel's struggling economy will never be stronger. Your visit will make such a tremendous difference to so many Israelis facing hardship during this tourism crisis.

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And joining an organized tour, featuring secure, chartered buses and frequent contact with security officials, is the safest way to experience Israel's endless beauty.

Contact your travel agent or the Israel Government Tourist Office. But most importantly, make a commitment this Rosh Hashana to visit Israel at a time of urgent need.

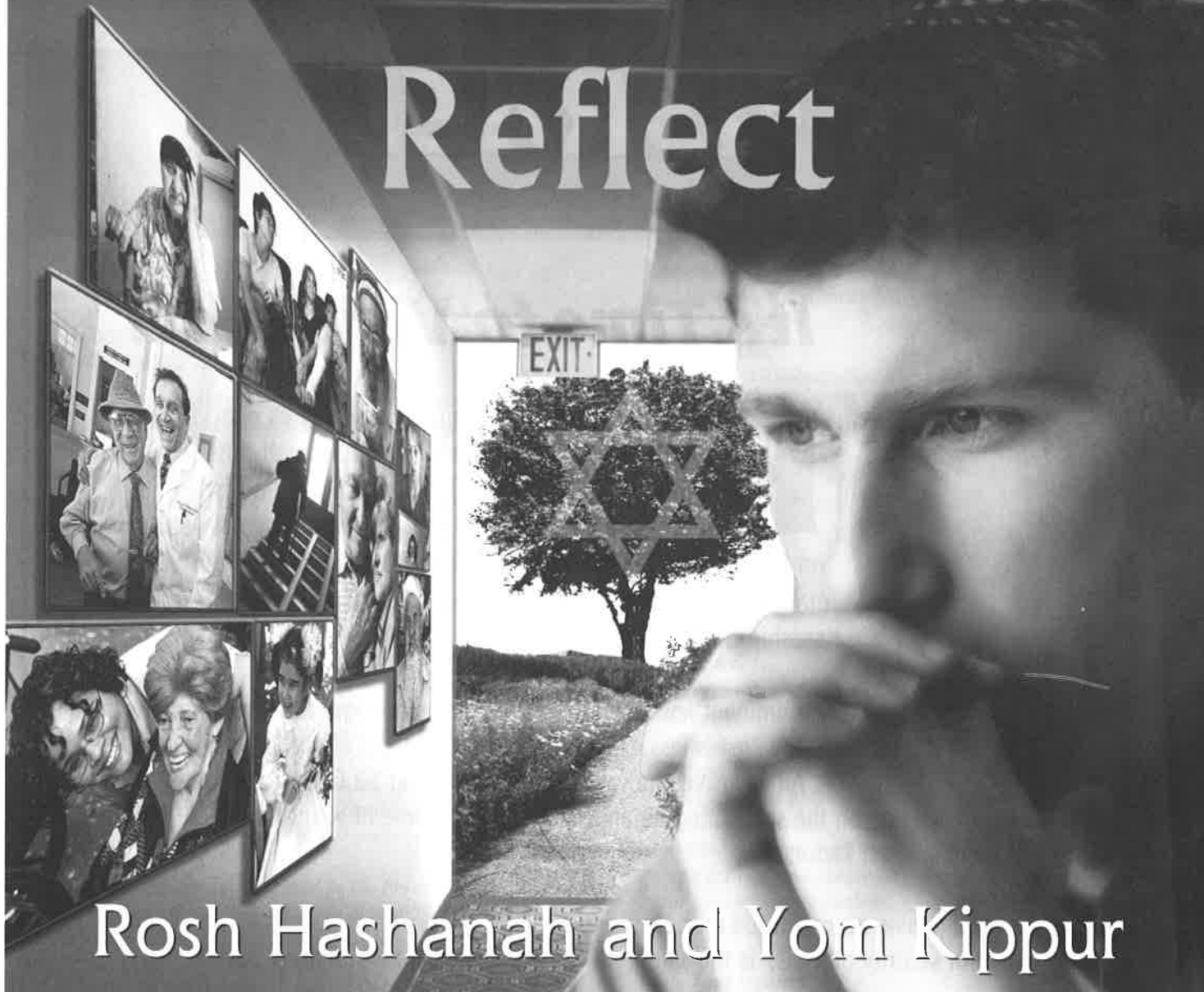
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Reflect



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

A time of reflection ... when we think about what we've done over the last year and how we can be better next year.

A time to reflect on what we've done to help those less fortunate than ourselves and whether we can do more.

- There are Jewish people in our own communities who need our support
- There are Jewish people in countries around the world who need our support
- There are Jewish people in Israel who need our support

Your gift to the United Jewish Appeal Campaign not only provides support for those in need but reaches far beyond to countries where, through no fault of their own, Jewish people

have no future. And your support helps our brothers and sisters in Israel. There are the children who must be accompanied by guards to school, the families of victims of terror whose lives have been forever altered, and the most vulnerable, those living on the fringe of Israeli society.

Your UJA gift changes lives!
Please consider a generous gift this year!

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