

Shalom!

Summer 2003 Vol. 28, No. 2

KAYITZ 5763

שלום!



Lots of News from the Communities
Some Fond Farewells

שְׁלוֹם

President's Message

President: Mark Rosen

by Mark Rosen



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At the time of my last report we were anxiously awaiting the US response to Iraq's intransigence on the WMD issue. Israel was preparing for yet another Gulf War, Israelis lining up for their gas masks anticipating the worst. Terrorist attacks against Israelis were unrelenting, affecting not only the mental state of the country and its people, but leading to a collapse of many aspects of a once thriving economy. We could only sit helplessly waiting for events to unfold upon which we had little control.

As I write to you now we are celebrating the holiday of Shavuot, the time when we as a people received the Torah and with it the laws upon which to govern ourselves. The war in Iraq is over resulting in Saddam's departure from the world stage except as a fugitive, much to the relief of Israel and the Jewish people – perhaps even to the French and Russians! The US remains steadfast in its pursuit of terrorist groups and regimes that harbour them, and we note with some satisfaction the refocusing of their tank turrets to Damascus. The summit in Aqaba has just ended and, despite misgivings and trepidation surrounding the "roadmap" and its ultimate effect on Israel, we are hopeful that a corner has been turned and that a peaceful solution to the Mideast crisis will ultimately prevail. Cynics that we are and history being what it is, we will remain skeptical until peace (however warm or cold) is truly at hand. As supporters of Israel we know that tough decisions will have to be made over the next few months and years. We also know that Israel's leadership will not compromise its security for a piece of paper and non-committal words of peace. The proof as they say will be in the pudding and Jews around the world must be steadfast in our support of Israel and our people in these very difficult days. It is interesting that Prime Minister Sharon, in discussing the roadmap and the prospects of peace, spoke of Israel as a

land governed by the rule of law – perhaps with a view to the upcoming holiday of Shavuot and its meaning to our people.

At the time of my last report we had just completed our Biennial Conference and were looking ahead to a new year of programming from the AJC. Since January we have had a number of speakers come to the Maritimes to discuss a variety of issues. Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut programs have been held throughout the region and I thank those who have been involved in organizing these events. Campus and youth programming continue and the AJC remains active in both promoting and undertaking community based events in our continuing efforts to promote and instill "Yiddishkeit" into our regular regime.

In order to remain relevant to our constituency, the AJC is presently undertaking a strategic review to determine what we can provide to the region in a productive manner, noting our small funding base and our geographic issues. The needs of our communities are many. We must address what is relevant and work together to provide programming cognizant of our financial and productive constraints.

We have had many successes these past few months. With the leadership of **Joanna Grossman** (JSA President) and **Michael Argand** we have been able to secure funding from the Latner Foundation which led to the purchase of a bayit for our students. Located on Walnut Street near the Dalhousie campus, the bayit will become a focal point for campus programming. Kol ha kovod to Joanna and Michael in their continuous efforts to make the project successful. With the departure of **Yael Goodman**, following her short but successful tour as our regional campus professional, the AJC is presently interviewing prospective

candidates for this position. The successful applicant will not only work with our students throughout the region, but will be involved in serving as a coordinator for our young adults.

Our UJA campaign experienced one of its most successful years, as once again Maritimers have answered the call to support Israel at its time of need. Close to \$1ML was raised through the special and regular UJA campaigns and through donations to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, our bequest and endowment fund. Many thanks to all donors and special thanks to our dedicated canvassers. Not to be outdone, our new Regional UJA chair, **Howard Conter**, in concert with the Halifax co-chairs – **Joanne Nozick**, **Kathy Zilbert** and **Michael Argand** – are already working diligently on this year's campaign. Meetings have been held with Halifax canvassers to roll out the new campaign, with a view to turning the regional campaign from a fall based campaign to a yearly campaign with monthly gifts being solicited through the use of VISA and/or monthly cheques.

As we approach the summer I would be remiss if I did not mention our second home, Camp Kadimah. Plans are more than well underway for the coming season which should prove to be one of our best – as they all are! Our enrollment has never been higher, however the unfortunate twist is that most of our campers hail from outside the Atlantic region. While we strive to bring any eligible Maritime camper to Kadimah, our numbers are simply not there. Kadimah will continue to serve as a beacon for Jewish education in the region and we will not depart from our desire to enlarge our local enrollment. **Victor Goldberg** and **Jim Spatz** – Kadimah's co-chairs- work extremely hard on our behalf and are to be congratulated for their efforts. Kadimah will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this summer with a special program scheduled for the Visiting Day weekend. Of specific note is a Saturday evening party at the Lord Nelson and the dedication of the Chairman's Park at Kadimah on Visiting Day.

So, we remain active in the region. There are many people who work tirelessly on our behalf, not only on the Board of Directors, but on national committees of UIAFC, CJC, CIC, JIAS and Partnership 2000. I thank you for your dedication and continued work on our behalf. I apologize for not naming you individually, however space will not permit. Your efforts are well appreciated. One person who we should thank publicly, and who has recently departed the AJC office, is **Ann Enman**. Ann worked diligently on our behalf for a number of years before deciding to depart to start up a business. We will miss Ann's dedication to the AJC and our community and wish her all the very best.

I sense the hook. On that note I wish everyone a pleasant summer and continued success. I'm certain our paths will continue to cross – Howard tells me my term is not up yet!



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MAKE A PLAN. FOLLOW THE PLAN. PROSPER.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

by Jon M. Goldberg

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our summer edition of Shalom. Looking out on Spring Garden Road on another cool, overcast late spring day, I hope that the warm weather will get here sooner rather than later. As I look back on the spring of 2003 I cannot help but reflect on how one can never really keep up with the events that take place in our world today. As much as we, at the AJC, try to be proactive and in some areas we certainly succeed, with such programs as Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, I find that a large part of my time is spent in a reactive mode which makes medium and long term planning somewhat difficult. Just in the last few months we've seen the Iraq War and the "roadmap for the Middle East". Those events, combined with the continued efforts to combat anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activities both in Canada and throughout the world tend to take more and more time here in the office.

Just today, at the request of Canadian Jewish Congress, I have spoken to our local cable provider and indicated to them that we would be quite concerned if they were to pick up Al Jazeera – Arab t.v. network – when and if the CRTC approves the license. I know Congress is lobbying CRTC not to license this network as it is anti-Semitic in nature. Things like this are almost a daily occurrence in our office.

I'm pleased to say that our Jewish Students Association had an excellent spring – programming wise and with a new bayit in place in Halifax for September, we look forward to a terrific year with many more Jewish students now that grade 13 has been eliminated in Ontario.

Camp Kadimah once again is full and this year they look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary on visitors' day.

Plans are well in hand for this year's UJA campaign. We've had a number of planning meetings. The Shaliachs from Israel

are in place and I know that each and every one of you will do your utmost to support Israel and the Jewish world in this year of crisis.

As Jews living in Atlantic Canada I know we often think – "what will tomorrow hold if we don't act today" – for our own communities and for the Jewish people around the world. Acting today means many things – giving of your time, giving of your resources, giving of your heart. Too few of us do all of the above. Some can't but do the best they can. Others can and don't.

On the back cover of this issue you will find information about a National Mission to Israel taking place in November 2003. This is a unique opportunity to visit Israel and to attend the General Assembly in Jerusalem with your fellow Jews from around the world and hear from the greatest Jewish minds in existence today. Over the past few years I've spoken to many of you about visiting Israel. Not only is the price right but the time is right. For over 50 years many of us in the Maritimes have supported Israel with our money and our thoughts. Now when Israel stands alone we must show our solidarity. I know that many of you, especially those who have never been, will find this a life enhancing experience. To experience Israel with our fellow Jews from Atlantic Canada, to meet and make friends with Canadians from every Province, to share the bond of a mission and to walk the land of **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**, to breathe the air of **Ben Gurion, Golda Meir** and all the heroes and heroines of our 5763 years of recorded Jewish history – it can't help but make a difference in your life as a Jew when you return home.

So, my friends, here's an opportunity. Email, call or write but don't miss this trip.

I wish you all a happy and safe summer.

ATLANTIC JEWISH FOUNDATION is pleased to announce the following recipients of the Miasnik-Rein Trust Scholarships:

*Jo-Anne Lambert
Jenny Farbstein*

*Hyde Jochelman
Joanna Grossman*



Good-bye Halifax

by Yael Goodman, Campus Coordinator

Editor's Note: Yael returned to her life in Israel in April.

The past eight months have passed by extremely rapidly. I can remember **Jon Goldberg** picking me up at the Halifax

International Airport as if it were yesterday. I guess time flies when you're having fun. And I did. I had fun working at the AJC, and I had fun working with the students. In my recent article published in *SHALOM* magazine I wrote about how building a student community takes time, and happens with baby steps. However, those baby steps turned out to be giant leaps. The number, the quality and the continuity of programs is proof for the community, and for myself, that the students are interested, passionate and want to experience Jewish life in their college years. This by itself is amazing to me as an Israeli, since being "Jewishly" involved when your 18 – 19 is not something I see in Israel. This connection to Jewish identity that exists here is something that we all in Israel must be inspired by.

One of our goals at the JSA this year was to demonstrate Jewish Pride on Campus. For some reason the Jewish voice, the cultural side of Judaism was not heard on Campus. My feeling is that the universities have such a small Jewish population that some students don't feel comfortable being affiliated with Israel and its politics by blatantly displaying their Judaism. As a result, under the initiative of our social action committee we organized a **bake sale** in the Dalhousie SUB selling Challa and Hammentaschen, and showcasing the story of Purim as one of many historically and culturally rich aspects of our heritage. The money raised was donated to "The United Way." The students around Campus were interested and impressed with the humanitarian side of Judaism – "Tikun Olam."

At the same time as promoting the Cultural aspects of Judaism, we worked hard to combat "Israel Bashing" on Campus. The JSA has an "Israel Affairs Team" composed of students who are passionate about Israel and are tired of hearing the lies that are spread around Campus. They monitor local news, and they write pro-Israel articles in a pro-active way – meaning, they don't wait to respond to an anti-Israel article, they initiate pro-Israel articles. The Israel Affairs Team and I have attended Palestinian gatherings where we listened and voiced our opinions, showing them that there is an active Jewish student body here in Halifax. I must say that sitting through what was called: "The symposium on Palestine" was difficult to bear. The things that they say – and actually call facts – are so far fetched from the historical texts that I have studied. However, it was an eye opener for us and it helped us "retaliate" in a more constructive way since it taught us what the other side is "up to." We are now in the process of a poster campaign that will continue next year. The posters have sentences written out on them quoting great historical figures such as Martin Luther King. We must get out there and not be

afraid of what others may think of us. One of the main ideologies we hold is that we support Israel as a home country, and as a home for the Jewish people. Whether or not we support Israeli policy, or the Israeli government, is another story. Hopefully, next year the Israel Affairs team will work hand in hand with the Pro-Active Israel committees from the Maritime community, which should serve to bring everyone together.

Our last Shabbat dinner took place on the last weekend of March. We combined several Jewish student and communal needs and called the weekend program "Just one Shabbos." This long weekend started on Thursday when Mr. **David Olesker** arrived in Halifax to run a JSA workshop about Israel advocacy at the student's Bayit. Both students and members of the community attended, hopefully learned, and left with fundamental tools on advocating for Israel in an effective way. After the workshop Mr. Olesker spoke at Dalhousie University where he addressed the general public about "Why the Media got it wrong about the Middle East."

On Friday night we held a final Shabbat dinner sponsored by Young Judea on Campus at the student's Bayit. And finally, on Shabbat we promoted the idea of students going to Shul, even if its just once, to form a relationship among members of the Halifax community and the students who come here from other cities. The students participated in services at both conservative and orthodox synagogues. The students were pleased to see that in a Jewish community, there is always a home away from home. We hope to see this relationship strengthen with the years to come.

In addition to our committees and special events, the Bayit was an essential meeting place and a physical home for the students to meet, plan and hang out. We held meetings, Hebrew classes and study sessions every week. None of this would have been possible without "a student home". We are truly thankful to the AJC, and the Halifax Jewish community for supporting the bayit.

I could continue this article and list all the wonderful programs the students initiated and planned, but the underlying and most important message to convey is that there is an active, passionate and serious Jewish Student body on Campus here in Eastern Canada. And furthermore, these students represent the Jewish people with dignity and pride. We should all be proud of them, learn from them, and be thankful to them for their voice on campus since they are doing a really great job. I know that I have learned a lot in the 8-month period that I have been here. I could say with certainty that I am a better Zionist than I was when I first came here. Witnessing what this Jewish community does for Israel, and what the students are doing for Israel, is an inspiration for me and for all Israelis who may have lost their own sense of Zionism.

I am thankful for this experience and I would do it again without blinking an eye.. Thank you! SHALOM!

The Youth Corner

by Mike Anthony, Youth Programmer



Oh wow, so much to tell....so little space to tell it in....

Let's start with the big updates!

The 2003 Winter Shabbaton: The Shabbat of Song, Story, and Ski

took place over the weekend of February 28th to March 2nd. A group of youth from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia got together to enjoy that Shabbat. **Jane Lewis** from Ontario led the youth in a wonderful session on Jewish storytelling and Moncton's Rabbi **Stiefel** led a spirited song session. A very special thank you to Rabbi and **Aida Stiefel** for their support, input and assistance. I would also like to thank the chaperones: **Angelica Feigin, Sarah Brodbar-Nemzer, Jared Goldlust** and **Naomi Goloff**. All of you brought tremendous spirit to the Shabbaton!

In March, the Young Judaea Floor Hockey League officially began. The league consists of 4 teams playing 10 games each as they compete for the YJFHL Championship. For schedule, stats and updates please visit our website at www.theajc.ns.ca/youth.html. and hit the "yjfh" link.

The youth website has had another major addition! A monitored and password protected chat room has been created so that Jewish youth from around the Atlantic Provinces can chat with one another. We will also be holding online discussion groups to discuss and debate important issues and ideas (and some that are not so serious).

I have been very fortunate to work with **Aviva Rubin** and the youth participants in the Asper Foundation Program on Holocaust and Human Rights. The effort that has been put into this program by the organizers has been absolutely amazing! I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication that each participant gave to the program. Our time in Washington was an excellent and influential experience!

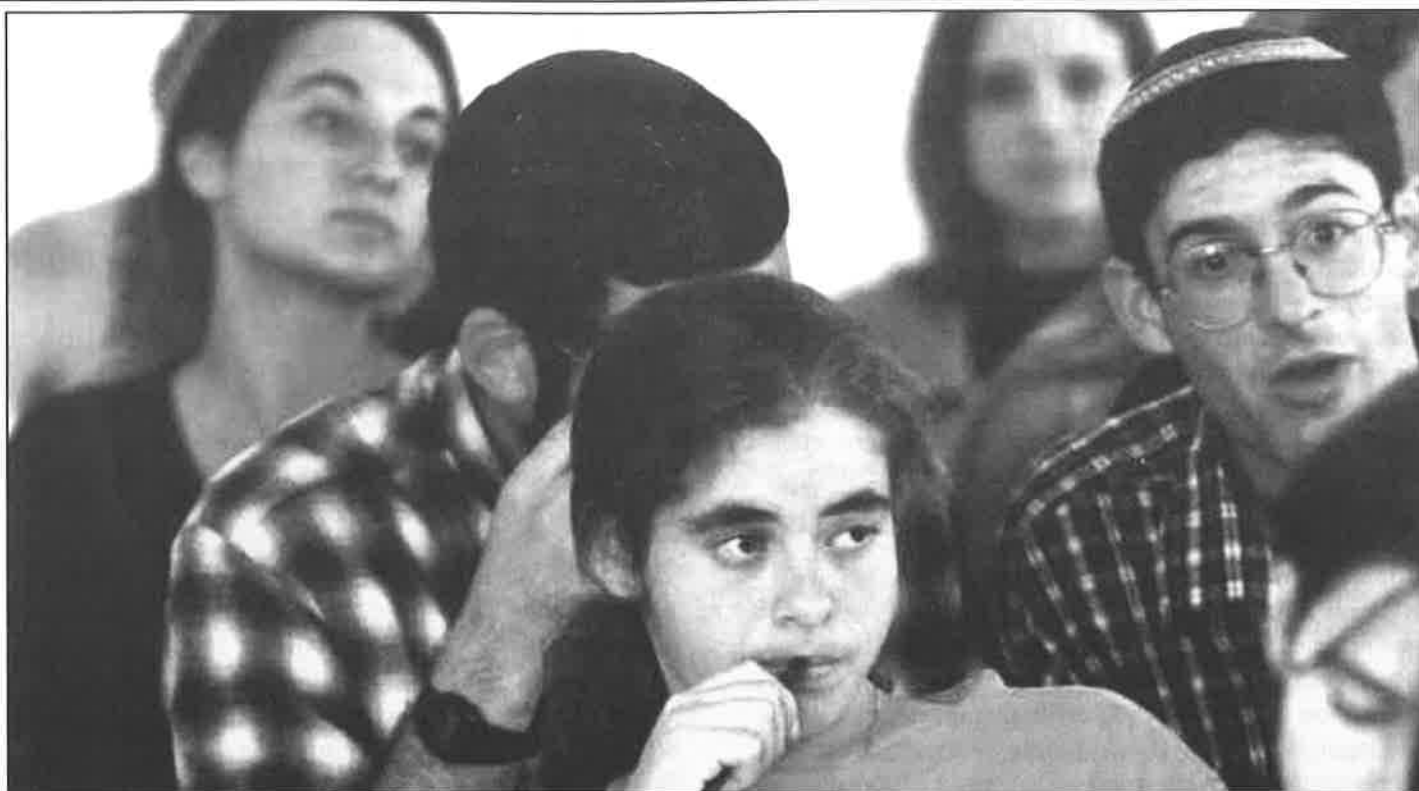
As always there have been many diverse youth programs in Halifax. The youth have participated in the 2nd Young Judaea Day Camp, A Birthday Party (with a clown and everything!!), The Young Family Skate, The Post Purim Party, Curling, A Charity Food Drive, The Murder Mystery Shabbat Dinner, and a Yom HaShoah Reading of the Names. All of these events were really well attended and everyone had a good time. I've been told that some participants even learned something or experienced something new along the way.

I would again like to thank all of the volunteers and chaperones whom I have had the privilege of working with this academic year! You are all tremendous individuals who are always willing to give your time. A big "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you" goes out to all of you!

I am looking forward to the rest of this academic school year and to this coming summer at Camp Kadimah!!

Until we meet again.....This has been a message from The Youth Corner!





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We now face increased demands with fewer resources, and must rely on your financial support to maintain our scholarship and graduate programs.



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Why CJC Opposes Al Jazeera Licence Application

And will not tolerate 'words of mass destruction'

by Keith M. Landy, President CJC

Canadian cable companies have applied to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for a licence to broadcast Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based, Arabic-language TV network. Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) strongly opposes these applications, not because we don't happen to like their point of view on the geo-political issues of the day. It is because Al Jazeera offers programming that is virulently anti-Semitic and racist. No group would or should accept broadcasts that describe them as "sons of pigs and apes" (a common description of Jews on Al-Jazeera). We know that evil words are often followed by evil deeds and we as Canadians will not tolerate "words of mass destruction."

CJC can only speculate that the license applicants either do not know of the network's very troubling underside or are ignoring it. But let's be clear: Al Jazeera's programming characterizes Jews in repugnant and gutter-like language, threatens Jewish rights and physical security, affirms Holocaust denial and supports and glorifies suicide bombings.

Al Jazeera, **Osama Bin Laden's** bullhorn to the world, has served as virtually the exclusive source for his statements, including expressions of abhorrence for Jews and Judaism. His umbrella terrorist group is the "International Islamic Front to confront Jews and crusaders (1998 interview); American reaction to 9-11 is a "new Jewish crusade;" (on-air letter, September 23, 2001); US government officials are "agents of the Jews" (audio-tape, October 2002), who are "murderers of the prophets ... violators of agreements ... usurers and whoremongers...." (sermon carried March 2003).

"The Opposite Direction," a two-hour weekly show moderated by Al Jazeera's **Faisal Al-Qassam**, on January 22, 2002 wondered whether Bin Laden was good or bad for Islam. A Saudi cleric, arguing in the affirmative, described Jews as "the most despicable people...worms...all evil," blaming them for 9-11 and calling on the U.S. to "get rid" of them.

Al-Qassam himself, on July 10, 2001 asked: "Who hurt Israel and achieved the first victory in modern Arab history, if not the Islamic Jihad movement? The heroic Hezbollah in southern Lebanon is a popular movement. 'Hezbollah' is a beautiful, mighty name, and as many have said, it succeeded in expelling the Zionists from southern [Lebanon] like dogs – my apologies to the dogs ..."

An episode on May 15, 2001 asked "Is Zionism worse than Nazism?" An e-mail read on-air noted that "...God...will not be deterred unless there is a true holocaust that will

exterminate all of them [the Jews] at once..." while the infamous French Holocaust denier **Robert Faurisson**, who twice testified in Canada on behalf of **Ernst Zundel**, participated via telephone. Not incidentally, another Al Jazeera show, "Without Borders," in November 2002 interviewed the notorious American white supremacist **David Duke**.

Sheikh Yousif Al-Karadawi, host of the weekly programme "Sharia and Life," is the suicide bombers' champion. A close disciple and some-time stand-in denied that the Sheikh "incites" young people to suicide terrorism. Rather, he stated, the Sheikh "motivates them" to perpetrate these acts (CBC's "Disclosure," April 1, 2003).

In Canada, individuals identified by such characteristics as race, religion and ethnic origin are protected by Section 8(1)(b) of the Broadcasting Distribution Regulations, from "any abusive comment ... that tends to or is likely to expose" them to "hatred or contempt" and by Section 319(2) of the Criminal Code from any communication that "wilfully promotes hatred".

The Criminal Code's Section 318(1), which prohibits the advocacy of genocide, also is relevant in this case. In fact, provisions of the recent Anti-terrorism Act might well be contravened by Al Jazeera coverage (when news reporting and analysis give way to support and unfiltered messaging) of Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad – all organizations that the Government of Canada has placed on its list of banned terrorist entities. Allowing Al Jazeera on Canadian airwaves will ensure regular breaches of these statutes.

Canadians are defined by a set of core values, among them, the inherent dignity and security of the person, pluralism, social harmony and cohesion and civility in public discourse. Al Jazeera programming runs afoul of precisely these values and the body of jurisprudence that Canada has developed to safeguard them.

As a long-standing policy, CJC has supported the promotion of ethnic television stations that, in their own languages, serve our country's various communities and reflect Canada's commitment to multicultural diversity. Our opposition to Al Jazeera, therefore, has nothing to do with conflicting points of view or "undesirable" material. It has everything to do with opposing anti-Semitic hatred, affirming Canadian values, respecting Canadian law and upholding the Canadian public interest.

**Keith M. Landy is National President of Canadian Jewish Congress.*

Around the Region

by Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain



Although we had a rather brutal winter (which makes one wonder if there is global warming or not-?), we are now in the spring holidays and commemoration of Israel's and Jerusalem's independence. And yet the winter did not keep down the communities. We got services together several times in Sydney and Saint John, despite the odds.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of my winter travels was to Glace Bay in March, *Parashah P'kudei*. There we gathered a solid minyan together to hear Mr. Phil Simon recite his maftir for the 83rd time, loud and clear. **Phil** and his wife **Aida** are stalwart members of the community. Phil is always in his seat at the back in shul. Aida always brings one of her special cakes to the kiddush. They lived for many years on Catherine St., in the same home complex as **Toby** and **Isaac Ein**. But when the Eins sold the home, they moved to a new apartment. Everyone wishes them continued health and blessings.

My most recent trip took me on a triangle through New Brunswick – the bus going from Moncton to Saint John for the last days of Passover, afterwards on a jaunt on the backroads to Newcastle, then back to Moncton en route to Halifax. Always interesting stories to hear and tell along the way.

Update on the Internet

You recall I mentioned a while back that I had only of late gotten involved with the Internet. Well, it is a fairly routine thing now. At first, everything was new. As you look at it all, many things become predictable.

One web site which, I find, always has in-depth and thought-provoking material is that of the Brookings Institution in Washington <http://www.brookings.edu>. Its scholars are regularly cited in U.S. Congressional testimony, policy sessions and the media. They deal with a wide range of economic, political, and foreign policy issues.

Brookings sponsors the Saban Center, specializing in Middle East studies. Its director, **Martin Indyk**, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, wrote a seminal article recently, proposing the possibility of a Palestinian protectorate, under international supervision, as was done in Kosovo, East Timor and other places. His arguments present new ideas which go

beyond the usual impasses characteristic of proposals for Middle East peace. I urge everyone to read this article on the web site, as I expect Ambassador Indyk's suggestions will eventually receive serious consideration.

Incidentally, I have a new e-mail of late, one which is more easily remembered and appropriate than my other one: rovingrav@canada.com. Keep in touch.

EVERYONE'S GABBAI: IN FOND MEMORY OF MR. BEN SMITH

It was another of those unpredicted bits of bad news. My children and I were sitting for a meal during Chol HaMoed on Passover with Mr. **Howard Polar**, being delighted to his melodies of the season. Then that sudden call. Ben Smith had passed away in Saint John. I was heading up there anyway for the last days of Passover, but now I would be there for the funeral as well.

Ben Smith was simply one of the finest persons whom anybody would ever know. He was born and raised in Moncton and had lived in Ontario for some years, before returning to Saint John. After his retirement, he busied himself with his dedication to the synagogue and its members.

He was not just a regular attendee at Shaarei Zedek synagogue in Saint John; one had a sense that Ben himself was the synagogue. In my half a dozen years of visiting the community, there was never a time when he was not the first one in the synagogue. The others who came afterwards had usually been called by Ben to make the minyan.

Ben also participated in the welcoming party who met the incoming tourist ships in the Saint John harbour. The community recognized his contributions by the Saint John Jewish Museum presenting him with an award last year.

If anyone needed a ride somewhere, some assistance in something, or just a good word, Ben was always there. I never heard anyone speak but with admiration for him. Likewise, he himself never said a bad word to others.

So there was inevitably a strange feeling entering the shul on the last days of Passover and not seeing Ben there.

Ben will always be remembered by those who come to the shul in Saint John. Though he will not call them on the phone again, his memory is a call for all of us to enhance our commitments to the heritage and tradition.

Ben is survived by his wife **Joan** and their children, **Debbie Pitt** of Fredericton, **Jeffrey Smith** of Calgary, **Patricia Schekler**, also of Calgary, **Peggy Frankel** of Toronto, and Dr. **Mark Smith** of Ottawa, and by his sister, Mrs. **Goldie Johnston** of Port Elgin. If there was any consolation for me during those days, it was in getting to meet his fine family, of which I had only heard of in word and story previously. May all of you know that the Saint John community and all who knew Ben, share in your loss. May you all be comforted among the mourners for Zion and Jerusalem.

Rabbi Saul Aranov's Valedictory Beth Israel Synagogue

We Bid You Farewell as We Pray for Your Welfare

Editor's Note: Rabbi Aranov served the Beth Israel Synagogue for over seven years and was a consistent contributor to Shalom Magazine. We will miss his insight and wit. Shalom Magazine wishes him and his wife, Dina, good luck in their future endeavours.

Seven years ago I arrived with my wife, **Dina** to serve as a spiritual leader of Baron De Hirsch Congregation – Beth Israel in Halifax. Previously I served in the Canadian communities of Edmonton, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario. My first position in Canada was at a Beth Israel and my last Congregation is at a Beth Israel.

Dina's expertise in the field of Hebrew education, after many years of experience in Israel, South Africa, England, Canada and Texas, together with her dedication, Beth Israel's Religious School, we both put much effort into establishing Jewish Religious education here on a firm foundation. The students benefited from a measure of stability, as they were not subjected to a revolving door of teachers who came and went year after year. Rather they had continuity.

The challenge we confront by living in a smaller Jewish community is to be seen in the struggle to maintain a daily minyan. Beth Israel, which is in existence for one hundred and thirteen years, has received the reputation of being the only Synagogue east of Montreal that maintains daily services. We have reached the point where the minyan has become a co-operative effort as members of Shaar Shalom help to compose the members who make up the daily minca minyan. It is vital that the younger and middling generations in the community help make the minyan a viable institution in years to come. Do not wait for a call to Jewry service, come forward and volunteer your time to this effort, which causes the Divine Presence to dwell in the midst of the community.

At a time when the Jewish leadership in all Diaspora communities accentuates the importance of quality Jewish education to stem the tide of creeping assimilation, which imperils the future of Jewry especially in North America, the Jewish community of Greater Halifax must strive to increase rather than to decrease the hours allotted to Jewish education for all age levels of the community and most especially for the young. Another weakness is the area of youth work on an ongoing basis. That means that teenagers and juniors should be exposed to an organized movement, which holds weekly meetings and programs in informal Jewish education. When a peer group of youngsters meet regularly together they establish a bond of camaraderie, which energized everyone. This program requires expenditures to send the youngsters to youth seminars and to bring outstanding youth leaders to run youth seminars locally.

I was invited to Kadimah to give addresses on Zionism. Camp Kadimah has made a major contribution in bringing

Jewish youth together during the summer for over half a century. Three generations of adults and their offspring have been the beneficiaries. Presently many more campers come from outside the Maritime Provinces. There may be a dividend as those teenagers may be drawn to attend local colleges and Dalhousie in the future. We hear that a great influx of Jewish students is expected to attend the University this year and if even a small percentage of them can become active participants in the life of the community, it could be a boon to Halifax. One does not often find congregational synagogues located on the grounds of a university campus. The students need guidance on how to deal with confrontations on campus and the Jewish community needs their numbers.

Mikveh improvement should be on the agenda for Halifax as this vital institution fulfills the needs of local community members as well as of many tourists that make use of the Mikveh during summer session. It is also needed for the immersion of new vessels for home and synagogue use. Brides also use it before their marriage. Men immerse themselves before the High Holy Days and festival occasions. A fifty-year-old Mikveh needs more than a facelift. Even though about eight years ago the Mikveh was upgraded.

The Centrality of Jewish Home Life

The great Posek, authority of Jewish law in the twentieth century, the late **Rabbi Moses Feinstein** of blessed memory, commented on the following verse, "My Sabbaths you shall observe and My Sanctuary you shall revere" (Leviticus 26:2). The heathen would place the focus of their worship and faith entirely in their temples and their home life and their behavior in the public sphere had no association with their religious rites.

Judaism in contradistinction taught that although the Temple ought to be revered it is the home life that must let G-d in. The Sabbath, which enthrones G-d, is of more importance than the Temple. We should recall that for almost two thousand years the Jews existed without a Temple by virtue of their observance of Jewish sanctified values such as Sabbath observance and Kashrut in their own homes, which was imbibed by their children. The prophet **Hosea** aptly taught this by stating, "Israel forgot his Maker and built Temples" (Hosea 8:14. If we would live as Jews we ought to live and teach our children accordingly by our own behavior

then assimilation would be held at bay and Judaism will thrive in the future.

The Halifax Jewish community has been growing and diminishing in size simultaneously. The growth comes from unaffiliated academicians and people who live in periphery of Greater Halifax. They also hide from association with the Jewish community. Therefore as the committed Jewish families who do affiliate pass from the scene to other places, the community demographic decline.

One solution to this problem is to bring families from places of economic distress or persecution such as Jews from Argentina and Eastern Europe to augment the Jewish population locally. Grants will be available as Canada needs people and the Jewish community must make an investment of manpower and money to bring such a program to fruition.

One of the successful programs sponsored by the A.J.C. was bringing **Rabbi David Ellis** to serve as Chaplain to the Maritime communities as they can no longer afford resident rabbis. Rabbi Ellis has also been active in interdenominational clergy programs. Whereas in previous years the A.J.C. had little or no involvement in the religious sphere, changing times require a more tolerant approach by working together with the rabbis in the community in planning communal events, as is the case in all other Jewish communities.

When I first arrived in Halifax, Jewish clergy were not involved in Veteran's Day (Armistice Day) memorial

programs. I had the good fortune to represent the Jewish faith by addressing the assemblage at the Cenotaph on those occasions. I also was able to participate in the memorial occasion for the Halifax Explosion. I also addressed the national meeting of the Canadian Legion that was held in Halifax.

Seek and You Shall Find

A final thought, though there is more to say. From my many years of worldwide experience I offer you this bit of advice. A significant change for the improvement of Jewish life locally can only come when a charismatic personality will turn you on to becoming more observant Jews or if a professional outreach organization will be invited to Halifax through weekend seminars to inspire you to deepen your understanding and commitment to Torah Judaism.

There is no question that this requires a monetary commitment on your part to get the initiative rolling. The sins of the past, when Haligonian Jews were afraid to be identified by their Jewishness and consciously opened the doors to social assimilation, has not benefited this community. It is time to re-examine your roots and to return to the rich heritage of Judaism.

Wherever we will go we will pray for the welfare of the gracious people of Haligonian.

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Our trip to Washington

by Allen April

Editor's Note: The AJC is pleased to have participated in the Asper Foundation Holocaust Education program for a third year and we congratulate all participants and their families.

During the middle of May, I was one of 15 teenagers from Atlantic Canada who had the experience of a lifetime. We went on a four day trip to Washington DC sponsored by the Asper Foundation. The main purpose of the trip (and the lessons before the trip) was to learn about the Holocaust and visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Asper Foundation participants in Washington, D.C.

The Museum was amazing. Although it had some disturbing images, it really was a great learning experience. One of the coolest features was that the whole Museum was built with settings that looked like images of the Holocaust. The elevator was built to resemble a cattle car. Probably the thing that hit me the hardest was the huge bin full of shoes from the victims of the Concentration Camps. There were little booths where you could watch movies about the Nazi uprising and downfall. There was a huge wall that went up 3 storeys of the museum that had thousands of pictures of Holocaust victims. There was also an exhibit for children based on the book "Daniel's Story" (which we had to read before the trip). That exhibit was cool because you walked through Daniel's house as well as where he stayed in the Ghetto, as you read his diary and saw his photos. I also was very intrigued with the Hall of Remembrance, which is a huge circular room that has a lot of candles that visitors light to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

I made some new friends from the other Atlantic provinces as well as Montreal, Windsor, Saskatoon, Vancouver and other places across Canada. I definitely encourage other teenagers to take part in this important and fun program in the future. We had to do a lot of work but it was worth it. My trip to Washington was a great experience and I will never forget it.

Washington Essay

by Shira LeVine

The Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights trip to Washington D.C was an extremely memorable learning experience. Although the trip was only a few days long we accomplished a lot. I really enjoyed meeting other students from across Canada who were also involved in this program.

Visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was an intense experience, there was so much to see, and it is

definitely a place I would want to return to. During my visit in the museum we all received a different identification card that contained a picture and information about a person who lived during the Holocaust. My identification card was of **Nadine**, a 12-year-old girl from France who was deported to Auschwitz and was gassed shortly after arriving. When I was in the Hall of

Remembrance, which is a room where you can light candles in memory of the victims, I thought of Nadine and lit a candle in memory of all the victims.

Washington D.C was an exciting city to visit filled with lots of historical monuments. The most fascinating monument was the one of Lincoln; it was huge and had a reflecting lake in front of it. We also got to visit the Smithsonian, where there were many interesting exhibits including an incredible jewelry collection.

The days were filled with so many activities that each day seemed longer than it really was. I feel very fortunate that I had this opportunity to increase my awareness of the Holocaust and how it still effects us today.

I went to Washington

by Sandra Rappaport

I always thought that this trip would be fun. I didn't realize that it would be amazing. You do so much and meet so many people in the short time that you are there that the trip feels longer than the four days. By the end of the trip it was like everyone had known each other forever. Everyone was so nice and wanted to be your friend. Random people would come up to you and start talking to you and it was almost like an instant bond. On Monday morning we went on our first visit to the Holocaust Museum. It was the most incredible thing that I have ever seen. When you go through Daniel's Story you feel like you're actually there and it really makes you understand how suddenly you can have things taken away from you and not to take what we have for granted. We went to the Smithsonian and to the Washington Monument. We saw the FDR and the Jefferson Memorials. If there was one thing wrong with this trip I'd have to say that it was too short!

Reflections on Washington, D.C.

by Joshua David

As many of you know, the Asper Foundation funds a Human Rights and Holocaust Studies trip to Washington, D.C. for kids 14-16 years old. These kids are from all across Canada. This year, I was fortunate to attend this trip with 16 other kids from the Maritimes and 250 kids from Canada. When I first found out about this trip, I was really excited about the opportunity.

To prepare for this trip, we were required to complete 16 hours of classes where we learned about human rights and the holocaust. These classes, led by **Aviva Rubin**, were a great help in preparing us. We learned a lot of information to prepare us for the Holocaust Museum, which was the main purpose of our trip. We also had to complete some volunteer work before going on the trip. After these few months of preparation, it was time to embark on the trip of a lifetime.

Fighting back yawns at the airport, we said goodbye to our families and posed for some group pictures. On the plane heading to Washington, I was really excited, thinking about everything that I would see over the next few days and the people that I would meet from across Canada.

The first thing we did in Washington was to visit the Lincoln, Vietnam, and Korean monuments. These monuments were all very important and I enjoyed seeing them because they all had unique qualities. They each really captured their purpose. We also went to see the outside of the White House. It was cool to be standing in front of the house where the President of the United States lives. After that, we visited the Jefferson monument. I liked this monument the best- I liked the design of it and it was a really nice sight being right on the water.

After our sightseeing, we headed to the Jewish Community Center (JCC) for dinner. Being in the JCC gave me a feeling of unity because I was there with so many other Jewish kids my age. We were all tired after our busy day, so when we arrived at the hotel, we watched a movie and went to bed.

The next day we went to the Holocaust Museum. I wasn't sure what to expect but as I walked in, I knew I would leave with a lasting impression. We went to so many fascinating and eye opening exhibits. They made you feel like you were actually there reliving what it was like back then. One exhibit gave us a sense of a ghetto. It felt like the people were still there with us as we went through. There was also one of an actual cattle car that was used to deport Jews to death camps. This had a big effect on me because you could still smell and feel what it was like from when it was used. The exhibit that hit me the most was the display of the collection of all kinds of shoes which had been gathered from the death camps. I had never seen that many shoes before. I couldn't imagine how they once belonged to a person just like me and now I was seeing all that was left of them. Later in the day, we spent some time reflecting on what we saw at the Holocaust Museum, followed by a visit to the Natural History Museum.

Throughout the rest of the trip, we did a lot of other sightseeing. We went to the Smithsonian museums which were very interesting. I especially enjoyed the Air and Space

museum and was fascinated by some of the displays. We also visited the Canadian Embassy and Capitol Hill, where we were met by Senator **Tom Lantos** and his wife **Annette**. They gave an inspiring talk to us about surviving the holocaust and coming to America with nothing. We went back to the Holocaust museum to hear a survivor's story. She told us a lot and some of it was unbelievable. It was hard to imagine what some people went through to live and tell about it. We did have some time to go shopping at the mall and to socialize both at meals and at a dance.

Before we knew it, it was time to return home. Looking back on the trip now, I realize what a great learning experience it was and how lucky I was to be able to take part in it. I really enjoyed the trip and had a great time on it. I would go again but I am not allowed. I would encourage the younger kids to go on this trip when they are of age.

Editor's Note: At this year's Yom Hashoah program in Halifax, Aviva Silbert recited "The House".



The House

A Poem by: Aviva Silbert

Just think of the home you have lived in all of your life. Think of all of the memories that rush to your mind like a wave. Fond and foul memories of childhood and adolescence rest in the bricks laid into the frame of that home, like a picture album. There are snapshots of memories to look back on forever and ever.

This is YOUR home, it is... but not to them, they don't seem to agree with you. They have stripped it from you, as they have stripped away that part of your life that holds a fond place in your heart. Along with all of your rights and pleasures, they have stripped off all of the delicate ornaments of your adobe. All of those little things in life that you cherish are gone now.

These people have taken your esteem and shattered it, like they have shattered the windows. They have torn down the laws of society and common sense along with your front door. What happened to their conscience? You ponder; do they know that what they are doing is wrong and inhumane? All of their morals have crumbled, like the inner walls of your residence. They have publicly humiliated you and taken away all you have loved. This humiliation burns inside of you like your house is burned to the ground. You feel a tear running down your cheek for the loss, but tears cannot quench a burning hatred they seem to have towards you. The only way this could be stopped, is if someone lends you a helping, comforting hand, but nobody will help. As you reach out your arm in desperation, it is swept away by a wave of flames as the ravishing fire burns higher.

Ashes fill the air, scattering in the wind, carrying this burning hate with it. It will spread like madness unless it is stopped by others, standing up against it. Again, none will help.

Club Massada News

by Shirley Burnstein, Halifax

Massada brought its season to a close at a well presented dinner at Dofsky's, on Sunday, May 25th. A record number of 90 members and friends attended and enjoyed the friendships, speeches and prizes.

Massada's membership grew to 107 members this season. Needless to say, it's this growth in our membership that gives us the incentive to work, program and meet. So we thank all members and new members for your support and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Northwood Foundation (**Lloyd Newman** and **Sheldon Lipkus**), the Atlantic Jewish Council (**Jon Goldberg** and Executive) and Massada's Executive, **Ralph Garson**, President, **Edith Schneiderman**, **Barbara** and **Philip Alberstat**, **Mindy** and **Boris Jacobson**, **Marianne** and **Lawrence Ferguson**, **Naomi Judah** and **Barbara Yablon**. Your contribution makes it all happen.

Our programs were well received. Music, health lectures, skits, a tour of Northwood's newly renovated suites, and an outstanding presentation given by **Gertrude Shane** informing us of our Maritime Jewish Heritage, filled our meetings with enjoyment and participation. Thanks to all who partook.

Transportation is still an area that needs work. **Lawrence Green** was a great help in getting members to and from gatherings. Thanks Lawrence. We will work on improving the transportation and parking problem.

Your Executive will meet over the summer months and bring forth plans for the upcoming season. Your suggestions and input are important and welcomed – so if you would like to join us please call **Ralph Garson** or **Shirley Burnstein**.

Enjoy the lazy days of summer!



Club Massada

by Barb Alberstat

Most organizations are active from September to May but not Club Massada. Our members were well entertained on June 13th at the **Rebecca Cohn Auditorium** with the music of **Jerome Kern**, **Irving Berlin**, **Cole Porter** and **George Gershwin** and **The Rhapsody Quintet**. Everyone enjoyed the familiar music from the musical masters and the outstanding playing of the Quintet.

Our next wonderful outing was the delicious dinner at Dofsky's Restaurant on June 23rd where approximately 60 members enjoyed the Closing Dinner.

September, 2002 saw the beginning of another busy year for 106 members of Club Massada. We opened with a luncheon meeting at Northwood with the introduction of new AJC employees. A very interesting guest speaker from "Safety for Senior Drivers" explained the free seminar given to seniors to help improve their driving skills and to reinforce some forgotten rules of the road. Many members signed up for the seminar and found it most useful.

A wonderful full Shabbat Dinner was held in the Penthouse of Northwood on October 25th with 55 members in

attendance. November, of course, was our annual Chanukah luncheon when our wonderful Yiddish cooks produced mounds of delicious latkes and Northwood supplied the rest of the luncheon. AJC gave us dreidles to play with and candy coins for a nash. Chanukah lamps were lit on each table. We had invited guests from the AJC, Northwood, and from City Hall. A box of chocolate mints were given to every attendee as a Chanukah gift. Our March luncheon meeting guest speaker was **Gertrude Shane** who enthralled us with her knowledge and stories of the beginning of the Halifax Jewish people. Mrs. Shane has spoken to several non-Jewish groups telling them of our past history. She hopes to some day put all this into a book, and would appreciate hearing more stories of the Jewish past. On May 25th, we again will return for a delicious dinner at Dofsky's to round out our busy year.

Many thanks for the continuing support of the AJC. Thanks also to **Ralph Garson**, our President, and to all the people on the Board and committees who have made this year such a success. **Shirley Burnstein**, Program Co-ordinator, maintains a steady stream of appropriate and enjoyable programs.

Shaar Anniversary

by Joel Jacobson

A stirring concert by the **Shaar Shalom Synagogue** choir kicked off six months of 50th anniversary activities for the conservative congregation of Halifax. The celebration will culminate in November when a gala dinner will honour the founding members. Other programs planned include a kosher wine tasting, a Jewish Film Festival arranged jointly with the Atlantic Jewish Council, several shabbat activities, and a November concert, coinciding with *Kristallnacht*, of music by composers lost in the Holocaust. "Our goal is to celebrate 50 years of Shaar Shalom as a prelude to the future rather than a tribute to the past," said congregation president **Darrell Pink**. Anniversary co-coordinator **Peggy Walt** added, "By running special shabbat services, we're trying to bring people to the synagogue for events other than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur or special occasions."

The congregation formed in 1953, when a group of Jewish families, who had been members of the orthodox Baron de Hirsch Synagogue, the only shul in Halifax at the time, decided a new approach to prayer was needed. **Stanley Kessler**, with conservative training but rabbi at the Baron de Hirsch, suggested to some members they seek something different, that "there were things going on elsewhere that we hadn't taken hold of," recalls founding member **Peter Herschorn**.

Rabbi Kessler's ideas that men and women could sit

together and that more of the service could be conducted in English caught on with this group of about 30 families. The first services were held in church basements. Hebrew school was conducted in private homes until a synagogue building was completed in 1955. "It was a tremendously enthusiastic congregation," says **Florrie Fineberg**, who moved from Montreal after marrying congregant **Leonard Fineberg**. She taught music to the Hebrew school children for eight years and led the senior choir. "Every month, a fund raising project, a dance, tea, or sale was going on. We had a men's club, a women's league and the congregation grew. Today we have about 150 family and single members." She admits the synagogue has been the focal point of her life. "I'm not religious but Judaism is in my heart. The Shaar has been like a family to me. Many Haligonians had mates who came from away. We were able to meet and become good friends with people from Montreal, Toronto and the west who I would never have met otherwise."

Other anniversary projects include a cook book of all recipes prepared in the shul kitchen, compiled by **Marianne Ferguson**, a display of all *kippot* from bar and bat mitzvot and weddings held in the synagogue, and a musical archives, including a catalogue of all the music performed by the synagogue choir in 50 years, recordings of some services and videos of shul musicals.

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Tracey Sher and Morris Glazman made a grand homecoming in front of 250 enthusiastic music-lovers March 1.

by Joel Jacobson

The two Nova Scotians, Sher from Voglers Cove and Glazman from Halifax – both cantorial students at Hebrew Union College in New York, performed a varied concert of liturgical, Yiddish, theatrical and Israeli music in their first appearance before the home folks at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax.

I feel like it's my Bar Mitzvah again, said Glazman as he looked out on the audience of many family members and friends. It's the same people, just a different configuration (at Shaar Shalom Synagogues sanctuary/concert hall.).

Glazman, 26, is in his third year of a five-year program. her, 34, a mother of a two-year-old son, with a daughter expected in two months, will graduate this spring.

After combining with Glazman on a duet of Shabbat morning liturgy *Uvyom HaShabbat*, Sher told the audience her experience at Camp Kadimah (in Nova Scotia) and her bat mitzvah at Shaar Shalom, gave her the Hebraic and musical background that inspired her.



I studied music at Acadia University, then opera in the Baltimore area. I sang in a choir at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City and was encouraged by the cantor to follow my passion (to become a cantor). The rigorous training has been worth it – to do what I love so much.

She sang *Shma Koleinu* from the High Holy Day Liturgy, Glazman performed the Shabbat services *Hashkivenu* and the concert rolled with more liturgical songs, Yiddish melodies from Holocaust writers, a Yiddish comic song and a rousing Sephardic medley duet by the two long-time friends and co-students.

Glazman spent several years in Montreal, studying science at McGill and singing in Shaar Hashomayim mens ensemble under **Stephen Glass**. He sang with several Toronto congregations including Holy Blossom Temple and Beth Emmett Synagogue choirs.

Accompanist **Joyce Rosenzweig**, artist-in-residence and teacher at Hebrew Union College, an accomplished pianist who has soloed with philharmonic and symphony orchestras world-wide, said working with talent like Tracey and Moe is a rare gift.

As the concert ended with a long standing ovation, Glazman quipped "They didn't do that after my Bar Mitzvah."

Later he said, "It was ecstatic to be able to give back to so many people (in Halifax) who gave me so much as a student and a teenager."

Tracey suggested it should not be hard for her, as a woman and as a cantor to find a job. There are not enough of us to fill all the synagogues. And (Reform-backed) Hebrew Union grads can work in any synagogue, not just Reform.

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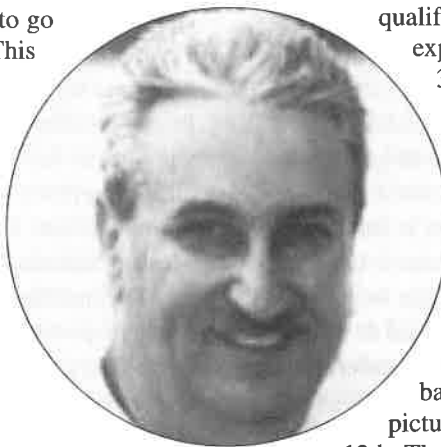
Camp Kadimah Director's Report

60th Anniversary Year

by Marty Zatzman, Camp Director

Well there is just a short amount of time to go until the 60th season of camp begins. This summer we will see several new changes to both program and facilities. Our program is undergoing enhancement in two particular areas. Firstly with our new Chairman's field we will be expanding our land sports programs. As well our tripping and scouting program is undergoing a change that will see a return to Keji with smaller groups of campers and staff. Our Judaic content will thread the theme of One Family-Mispucha Achad throughout all programs at camp.

Our current compliment of 110 senior and general staff are preparing for a great summer. Mark Hecht and Joanna Mirsky will act as my assistant directors. They are both highly



qualified individuals with years of Kadimah experience. It looks like we will open with about 300 campers this summer-our largest enrolment in our 60 year history.

Our 60th anniversary weekend will showcase our new facilities with the official opening of the Chairman's Athletic Park. As well we hope to see many of you at the Lord Nelson hotel on Saturday night July 26th for a social gathering.

Our Kadimah website-campkadimah.com has information on travel, baggage, program and staff. It will also have pictures uploaded daily from July 1st until August 12th. The best way to contact campers is by email. (although they will be only able to send regular mail in return). We look forward to seeing you all on Visitor's Day-July 27th.

Camp at sixty...

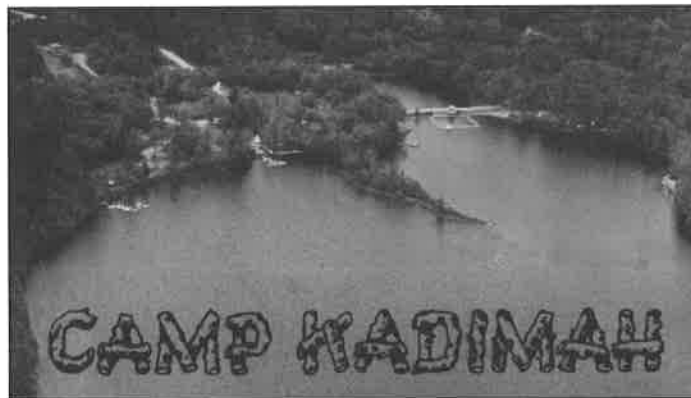
by Joel Jacobson

Could be six decades or a blink of an eye to some Kadimah alumni? To campers and staff of more recent vintage, time refuses to stand still during those all-too-quick six-week summers they have spent at this camp that continues to grow and prosper with new and refurbished facilities, an excitement generated by youthful enthusiasm, and the joy of being with life-long friends.

Camp Kadimah has meant so much to so many through its 60-year history. To Atlantic Canadian Jewish children, it has meant six glorious weeks each summer in the sun of Barss Corner, in the cool waters of Lake William, and in the company of Jewish children from around the region with whom lasting friendships have been made.

To Atlantic Canadian Jewish parents, it has meant a safe haven for six weeks each summer, in the company of children who could, and would, have an impact on their own kids' lives. Those were fun times — Hityashvut and Hitamlut, Sicha and Shira, Bama, Mel Yad, land sports, water sports – we had it all. As many campers aged into staff and head staff members, then alumni, they looked far afield for education and career opportunities. Atlantic communities became smaller, Migration to Upper Canada, into the United States and beyond meant future campers were coming from afar.

It meant Kadimah alumni never forgot their roots, the good times they had at camp, which convinced them to send



their children to the East Coast for a great camping experience. Their children's friends discovered the jewel we call Kadimah. Today, more than 75 percent of Kadimah's population comes from outside Atlantic Canada. That is a good thing. It enables us to tell the positive story of the good life in this region, to bring children to their roots, to bring their parents back, and to generate growth in the physical plant we have grown to love. Yes, six decades have passed and there will be many more "six decades". We continue to look forward to Jewish children enjoying a summer in the sun of Barss Corner, in the cool waters of Lake William, and carrying on the rich traditions of friendship and heritage.

60th REUNION PARTY

Saturday, July 26th – 8:30 pm – The Lord Nelson Hotel
Come and join friends old and new to celebrate Camp Kadimah's 60th Anniversary with memories, music, cocktails and light fare.

VISITOR'S DAY

Sunday, July 27th – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Visitor's Day 2003 will be highlighted with tributes & festivities for camp's 60th Anniversary, including a special presentation for the new Chairman's Park.

Shalom from the Rock – May 2003

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Even as we get ready to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut in our isolated little community, events remind us that the day-to-day reality of the State of Israel is fraught with danger. This morning two homicide bombers tried to wreak destruction upon the citizens of Jerusalem. One was successful and blew up yet another bus, killing and maiming simple working people on their way into the city at six in the morning. These attacks coincided with another attempt to bring about peace in the region. Obviously the terrorists believe that it is better to destroy the land of milk and honey and its inhabitants than negotiate a viable compromise. One of the popular songs of the early days of our beloved state was a song called *Machar* (tomorrow). It is full of wishes and promises of a peaceful future when ordinary people can do ordinary things like sit on their balconies (and ride buses) without fear. The song ends with the line, *...and if not tomorrow, well then, the day after tomorrow*. We are still waiting.

The Jewish Community in St. John's has been busy, as per usual, despite an overabundance of precipitation (some five and a half metres of snow) and the subsequent lack of *cheshek* to

shovel yet again and go out. We had a great party for *Tu Bi'Shvat*, with food, games, a *Seder* involving the new fruits and nuts of Eretz Israel and even prizes. Again we must thank **Freda**, our tireless Areiva and event organizer for all her hard work and her great ideas. This was followed by a joyous Purim, combining **Ernie Mauskopf's** reading of the Megillah with a meal (of course), a Purim spiel and games. I am pleased to report that the winner of the first annual Beth-El Purim Costume Contest was none other than my husband, **Messod Salama**, who davened clad as a dashing Zorro.

The merriment of Purim is always followed closely by the heavy responsibilities of Pesach. Although our supplies arrived only the day before the first Seder, the holiday was celebrated in our homes and at the synagogue. We then proceeded to finalize our plans for the Yom HaShoah Memorial which took place on May 4th at Prince of Wales Collegiate. Some 200 people listened to an excellent and relevant speech by **Jack Silverstone**, Counsel to the CJC. **Thomas Loewenheim** played a moving piece that had been composed especially for him on his cello entitled



In this picture you can find (L-R) Sharon Koubi, Thomas Loewenheim and Daniel Salama "processing" our Israeli sandwiches at our Yom HaAtzmaut party.



In this picture you will see our Israeli Folkdance group, composed of Ruth Noel, Tanya Shulkin, Inbal Bahar, Freda Surki and Claire Frankel-Salama, performing at Yom Ha Atzmaut.



In this picture you see the Leonid Shulkin playing "Jerusalem of Gold" on his guitar at the Yom HaAtzmaut party in St. John's.



Jack Silverstone speaking at our Yom HaShoah programme.

« Lamentations », and **Terry Rielly**, a local singer, sang a song that he had composed after speaking to the M.C., **Rachel Paine**. Finally, a presentation was made of a glass sculpture of the doomed ship St. Louis by **Pastor MacGowan** of the Worship Centre, to Dr. **Michael Paul**, president of our community. The next evening **Shari** and **Rob Ritter** held a reception for the community in honour of Jack Silverstone's visit at their lovely new home.

The most recent event we celebrated was the 55th birthday of the State of Israel. Again our Areiva was busy designing a totally new set of activities. After a moving ceremony to commemorate the fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism, **Freda** organized a « do-it-yourself » Israeli sandwich preparation. After stuffing bread with tomatoes, feta, olives, garlic and parsley, we added olive oil, packed them in Saran wrap and placed our creations, now bearing our names, on a table. Another table was placed on top, and three of our burliest members sat on the table to « process » the sandwiches. After an outstanding performance of Israeli folkdancing by our aerobics group and a fine rendition of « Halleluyah » by Dr. **Barbara Grandy** accompanied by Freda, our sandwiches were ready. Just like Israelis picnicking at the seashore, we hungrily unwrapped our culinary creations

and enjoyed the taste of the Mediterranean. The evening ended with **Leonid Shulkin** playing his guitar and singing in Hebrew, Russian and English.

Our local news includes some fine achievements of our younger members. **Elliott Noel**, son of **Ruth** and **John Noel**, has graduated from Waterloo University with a Bachelor's degree in Math and Computer Science. **Michael Wolinetz** has completed his B.Sc. in Chemistry at Queen's, and Sharon Koubi is beginning his Master's degree in Computer Science. On a very happy note we are pleased to hear that **Sharon Koubi** and **Inbal Bahar** will be getting married in Israel in August before returning to St. John's and Memorial University. Our more « mature » members are also busy achieving. **Bonnie Leyton** has opened the Leyton Gallery of Fine Art in downtown St. John's and is representing many fine local artists. **Rachel Paine** just returned from Israel from where she wrote a series of columns that were published on the editorial page of the Telegram.

While she was there, things were rather « quiet », and as she wrote, life went on with people working, celebrating, mourning, singing, sitting on balconies, riding on buses and waiting for a better tomorrow. Let us hope that *Mochrotayim* (the day after tomorrow) is not too far off.

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SCENES FROM

Around the Region...



The honourable Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, **Myra Freeman**, in uniform as an honorary captain in the RCN.



Recent visitors to Israel talk about their experiences at an AJC Breakfast Club in Halifax. Right to left: **Stephen Budovitch**, **Naomi Honey**, **Hedda Medjuck**, **Yael Goodman** and students from Birthright.



Mike Anthony and friends at the AJC Skating program, winter, 2003.



Perry Romberg, Director, Planning and Community Services, UJA Federations Canada shown here at the meeting held in Halifax in March, acting as consultant to the AJC in a review of its systems and operations.



Judith Cohen, Holocaust Survivor, speaking at Yom Hashoah events in Cape Breton and Halifax.



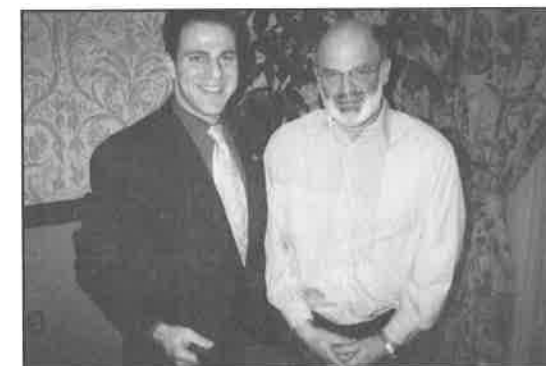
"The Sons"
AJC Father/Son Basketball, March, 2003.



Gil Troy, Montreal Professor/Author updated the Management Committee on the Anti-Israel situation on Canadian Campuses while in Halifax to speak at Dalhousie, spring, 2003.



Purim Carnival, Halifax.



UJA Halifax Chair, **Michael Argand**, shown here making a presentation to Mr. **Yossi Tanuri**, Israel Shaliach, following his speech at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax at a special UJA information meeting, April, 2003.



Bobby Kleinman, Director of Financial Resource Development for Federation CJA and Executive VP of the JCF, Montreal, speaks to a group about "planned giving" in Halifax, May, 2003.



"Two Fathers" catching a breath at the Father/Son Basketball game.



Rabbi Stiefel gets skiing pointers from his lovely wife, **Aida** during the youth Shabbaton, February, 2003.



Yael Goodman shown here with Israel at Heart participants prior to their speaking at Dalhousie University, April, 2003.



Previous year's participants in Asper Foundation trip to Washington receiving their Certificates of Community service at Yom Hashoah Program in Halifax, 2003.

Fredericton Sisterhood Activity Report

by Ruth Chippin

Sisterhood has been busy since our last newsletter. On February 23, in spite of severe weather conditions, 22 people flew away on Sgoolai Israel Airlines (SIA) Flight 013 non stop service to nowhere. Those of you that remember the weather conditions will be aware that SIA was the only airline flying that day. And what a flight we had. Kosher In-Flight Catering was provided by **Carol Airst**, **Carol Samuels** and myself, and the check in counter was staffed by **Bella Rose**. Shortly after take off Thomas Reed (**Daniel Chippin**) was murdered. Among the murder suspects were Thomas' wife Misty Reed (**Jennifer Pick**), Thomas' bodyguard Ricardo Durante (**Rabbi Samuels**), Lawrence Hendrix II (**Warren Cohen**), Lawrence's sister Carla Hendrix (**Ida Orenbach**), Actor George Mulligan (**Dr. Peter Leighton**), Charity Organizer Victor Swanson (**David Aranoff**), Victor's wife, Lynda Swanson (**Doris Rauch**) and Flight Attendant Constance Edward (**Marilyn Kaufman**). Suspects and all economy class passengers had a fun time uncovering the clues and trying to identify the murderer while munching on airline peanuts. When the plane finally landed Detective Haines (Ruth Chippin) revealed all. Mazel Tov to Economy Class Passenger Matthew Chippin who was the first to identify the murderer. For those of you who were unable to attend the outstanding performance, you'll have to check with one of our talented cast of characters to find out who the murderer was.

On Sunday, March 23rd, just prior to Purim, **Moir Carol Samuels** led a workshop on how to make Hamentashen. Thanks to the efforts of the hamentashen chefs, those that attended the Purim services were treated to moin, prune, apricot and blueberry hamentashen.....and a few who were unable to attend received home delivery samples.



Purim Hamentashen Co-ordinators, March, 2003
Carol Samuels and Shelley Stephens

A round of applause goes to all those who helped with the Shabbat kiddishes in February and March. As always, thank you to **Shelly Stephens**, **Ellen Lupu** and the **Samuels** for their help.

Murder Mystery...



Hadassah-WIZO & Sisterhood Fredericton May Activity Report

by Ruth Chippin, President Fredericton Sisterhood & Hadassah-Wizo

On Sunday, May 4, the **Lillian Frieman** Fredericton Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO held our annual Youth Aliyah Fundraiser. The co-convenors were **Marilyn Kaufman** and myself (Ruth Chippin). Attendees were treated to a very tasty Salmon Brunch. Our guest speaker was Marion Mayman, the immediate past national president of Hadassah-WIZO Canada. Marion had recently returned from Israel and gave a very moving speech on how the current wave of violence has negatively impacted the Israeli economy. She spoke at length about how terror and fear have resulted in many children experiencing severe family and social problems, learning difficulties and problematic behavior. She outlined the role that Youth Aliyah provides in terms of support, encouragement, education and housing, giving new immigrants and Israeli-born disadvantaged children the skills needed to compete in today's world. The event was very successful.



Marilyn Kaufman, Marion Mayman, Ruth Chippin

On Tuesday evening, May 20, Hadassah-WIZO sponsored a Public Affairs Event. Marilyn Kaufman chaired the event. Our guest speaker was **Andy Scott**, the Fredericton Liberal Member of Parliament in Ottawa. Andy is a member of the Canada-Israel Committee and as such has been to Israel several times. A lively discussion ensued with Andy outlining his views on the Middle East peace initiative – does the UN have a future role to play and does Canada have a leadership role to play in the Middle East or the United Nations. The evening concluded with Andy encouraging everyone to contact his office at any time with any concerns, issues or frustrations related to the position of the Canadian government on foreign policy. Andy also promised to let us know the next time **Carolyn Bennett**, was in Fredericton so that we could set up a discussion with her. Carolyn (Liberal MP for St. Pauls) is the chairperson of the Canada-Israel Committee.



Marilyn Kaufman and Andy Scott

On Saturday, May 31st and Sunday, June 1st, the Fredericton community bid a fond farewell to **Rabbi Yochanan** and **Morah Carol Samuels**. Almost the entire Jewish community turned out for their farewell Shabbat Kiddish. In addition, on Sunday many of the Samuels' Jewish and Non-Jewish friends stopped in for a beverage and dessert farewell reception. We extend our best wishes to the Samuels and wish them a safe journey back to the States.



Ruth Chippin, Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Trenholme – Counsel, Rabbi & Mrs. Samuels



*Carol Samuels, Brad Green
Minister of Justice for NB, Harry & Sarah Lang,
Rabbi Samuels*

Pictures from Farewell Reception for Rabbi Yochanan & Morah Carol Samuels.

Yom Hashoah – Fredericton

by Sydelle Grobe

Holocaust survivor **Philip Riteman** was guest speaker at the Annual *Yom Hashoah* Holocaust Memorial Observance Service at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton. The resident of Bedford, Nova Scotia says he doesn't enjoy talking about the war, but he feels compelled to share the horrors he witnessed during the nearly five years he was held in concentration camps in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Dachau.

"I speak for the millions who cannot speak," he told the large inter-faith audience.

Riteman was only 13 years old when Nazi soldiers invaded his hometown, Szerezow, on the Polish-Russian border. Now in his seventies and a frequent speaker at schools and community events, the Holocaust is still a painful subject for him.

He and his family were removed to the Pruzhany ghetto. In the winter of 1942 the family was transported to Auschwitz. He was packed into a cattle car with other Jews for a weeklong journey without food or water.

When the train arrived at the concentration camp, Riteman saw soldiers take babies from their mothers' arms and throw them down on the concrete platform. The babies were then bludgeoned to death with rifle butts. Hysterical mothers were attacked with bayonets. The elderly and infirm were sent directly to gas chambers. Thousands of others were gassed, including Riteman's parents, five brothers and two sisters.

Riteman was spared after he told his captors he was 18 years old and fit for hard labour. He was held in a half-dozen camps and work farms. The prisoners built crematoriums and carried burned bodies in wheelbarrows to mass graves. He was finally liberated by the US Seventh Army on May 2, 1945.

In 1946 he immigrated to Newfoundland, the only country that would accept him. In St. John's without any English-speaking skills, he went from house to house selling goods from a pack he carried on his back. Through hard work, he built a successful import trading company and, subsequently, moved to Halifax. Riteman and his wife, Dorothy have two sons.

Guests of Honour at the service included Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak MLA **Eric MacKenzie**, sponsor of the *Act to Commemorate the Holocaust Yom Hashoah in New Brunswick* that came into force in 2000 and members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Ruth Chippin, President of the Sisterhood of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue as well as the **Lilian Freeman** Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO, read a selection from the Book of Joel which praises the virtue of bearing witness. "Hear this ye old man, and give ear.

All ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell ye your children of it, and let your children, and their children another generation."

Helen Morag McKinnon, retired Oromocto social studies teacher, read aloud the 23rd Psalm. Afterward, Rabbi **Yochanan Samuels** recited the Mourner's Kaddish, a Jewish prayer in praise of G-d.

Seven memorial candles were kindled. Six candles honoured victims of the Holocaust and members of the armed forces who lost their lives in World War II. Holocaust survivors, Philip Riteman and Dr. **Israel Unger** kindled memorial candles in memory of their families who had perished. **Rabbi Samuels** lit the third candle in memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. **Tom Doherty**, President of the Royal Canadian Legion lit the next candle on behalf of Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in the war.

Eric MacKenzie kindled the fifth candle. **Marlene Unger**, Chair, Atlantic Jewish Council Holocaust Education Committee, lit the sixth candle. A seventh candle, in hope of a bright future for all young people, was kindled by **Philip Soicher**, a Grade 5 student at Ecole Saint-Anne and a member of the Fredericton Jewish community.

Rabbi Samuels sang the haunting hymn *Ani Ma'amin*, "I believe," an affirmation of faith which death camp victims sang on their way to the gas chambers. The Rabbi closed the service with *Kael Molai Rachamim*, a traditional memorial prayer. "Exhalted, Compassionate G-d, grant perfect peace in your sheltering presence among the Holy and the Pure to the souls of all our brethren; men, women and children of the House of Israel, who were slaughtered and burned."

Following the service, a reception was held in the social hall of the Synagogue.

Dr. Israel Unger, Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Observance Planning Committee, summed up the significance of the afternoon service by quoting a remark by **Simon Wiesenthal**.

Wiesenthal, who retired this past week at age 95, was asked why he devoted his life to tracking down Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust. He said, "When I get to the next world and meet the millions who were murdered by the Nazis and they ask me, 'What did you do after the war?' I will reply, 'I did not forget you'. We must not forget the victims of the Holocaust not only for their sake, but for the sake of the furtherance of tolerance, acceptance and human rights for all of humanity said Unger.

Fredericton News

by Marlene Unger

Mazel Tov to **Natasha Fransblow**, daughter of **Rhoda** and **Steve Fransblow**. Natasha was the recipient of the Royal Conservatory Award for the highest mark in Atlantic Canada in Grade 8 piano. The Award was accepted by Natasha in a ceremony at Dalhousie University in Halifax where he was invited to perform one of the pieces she had played as part of

her Grade 8 exam. Natasha currently studies piano at the Grade 9 level with Mrs. **Barbara Marks** in Fredericton. She also plays the French Horn in the F.H.S. senior band and has several piano students who enjoy taking lessons from her.

Mazel Tov to **Israel** and **Marlene Unger** upon the birth of a second granddaughter.

Fredericton Hadassah-WIZO Events

by Ruth Chippin, President Fredericton Sisterhood and Hadassah-WIZO

On Thursday, March 29th Hadassah-WIZO held a social event where we learned about homeopathic remedies. The event was chaired by **Ruth Chippin**. Our hostess, Rose Chippin welcomed everyone into her home and treated everyone to some healthy and not so healthy snacks. Our guest speaker, Lea Dumbrava, gave a very interested talk on alternative live styles through alternative medicine and homeopathy.

A brunch was held on Sunday, May 4th to kick off our annual Youth Aliyah fundraiser.



Lea Dumbrava, Ruth Chippin and Rose Chippin

Shavuot – The Soul Connection

by Rabbi Yochanan Samuels

Editor's Note: Rabbi Samuels has served the Fredericton community for five years. He has been a consistent contributor to Shalom. He and Mrs. Samuels are moving at the end of June and we wish them much happiness and good health.

Behind the customs and laws of Shavuot lies a very important lesson. This lesson is a major foundation of the Jewish religion. In fact, it is the basis for virtually EVERY halachah, and it is one of the most important concepts of Judaism. This idea is a major part of our lives, and a major reason why the Torah was given to us.

What, exactly, distinguishes the Jewish people from the rest of the world, and makes us the "Chosen People"? Obviously, the difference is not physical. Rather, the difference between the Jew and the rest of the world is a spiritual difference. The Jew has a unique NESHAMAH [SOUL], that has been passed down through the generations. This NESHAMAH has been passed down just as genetic information has been passed down. The NESHAMAH, therefore, is what makes the Jews the "Chosen People." Let's look at this phenomenon of the NESHAMAH a little closer. The soul is a spiritual force which is placed in something physical, the body, to create the most wondrous being in the universe, MAN. It is this fusion of holiness [the soul] and non-holiness [the body], which gives purpose to man's existence. Throughout his life, man must strive to control his physical desires and act in accordance with his soul. He must learn to use BOTH, TOGETHER. This was part of G-D's purpose when He created man. Because of the NESHAMAH that the Jew has, the Jew is able to combine holiness and non-holiness. Even the least observant Jew has this special trait. The non-Jew, on the other hand, does not have the ability to combine physicality with holiness. He cannot have both.

For example, let's take a look at a leader of non-Jews and the leader of the Jews. The leader of a large number of the non-Jews of the world is the Pope. What is the one requirement that the Pope must fulfill in order to be the Pope? What is the single pre-requisite he must meet? The Pope, no matter how holy, how G-Dly, no matter how many beams of light shine from his face, CANNOT MARRY. Marrying and having relations is the most physical and non-holy thing that can be done. Because of this fact, the spiritual

leader of millions of non-Jews MAY NOT MARRY. He must remain "HOLY". Here we see that the non-Jew cannot have both holiness and physicality. He can have one or the other, but not BOTH.

The leader of the Jewish people is the Kohen Gadol, the High Priest. The Mishnah in Yoma teaches that the Kohen Gadol, no matter how holy, how G-Dly, no matter how many beams of light radiate from his face, MUST BE MARRIED. In fact, he is forbidden from performing the holiest service of the holiest day in the holiest place [the Yom Kippur service in the Holy of Holies] if he is not married. It is such a terrible thing for the Kohen Gadol not to be married that halachah required that another woman be prepared on Yom Kippur for the Kohen Gadol, JUST IN CASE his wife dies right before he performs the Yom Kippur service.

To the Jewish leader, marriage and marital relations are a MUST, for being married and permeating the physical relationship with holiness is part of G-D's purpose in creation. To raise the lowest, most instinctual physical act of intercourse to the greatest, highest realms of spirituality and holiness is a REQUIREMENT for the Jew. G-D gave man physicality to use in holy ways. On Shavuot, the Torah was given to the Jewish people, thereby making them not only the "Choosing People", but the "Chosen People." The Torah is the guidebook which teaches the Jew how to live in this world. It instructs the Jew how to take the physical and infuse it with the spiritual.

This is a basic theme of Shavuot, and a major foundation of Judaism. It is the purpose behind virtually every halachah [e.g. Kiddush on Shabbat and Yomim Tovim, when we take a physical thing, wine, which can be used and abused in very bad ways, and we uplift it and permeate it with holiness by sanctifying the Shabbat or Festival with it. May this Shavuot strengthen our recognition of our special ability and OBLIGATION AS JEWS – to take and use the physical pleasures that G-D has granted us, but to use them with holiness and infuse them with a higher meaning.

Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen

The Moncton community celebrated Purim in style this year with three different parties. A lively Megillah reading was followed by a wine tasting party organized by **Rabbi** and **Aida Stiefel**. Several different wines were served accompanied by cheese and crackers, fruit, and of course, lots of hamantashen. For the children, there was a carnival held on the Sunday before Purim. A party atmosphere was created with lots of funky decorations, including a disco ball. The kids enjoyed games and a costume parade. A third Purim party was held at the Rabbi's house, where the Megillah was read once again.

Shortly before Pesach many members of our community attended a lovely party given by the Stiefels to celebrate their son **Issie's Upsheren** (first haircut). After reciting the *alef bet*, little Issie stood patiently while guests took turns snipping his long blond curls. I think his mom probably shed a few tears seeing those curls fall to the floor, but Issie seemed to take it all in stride.

A community Seder was held at the synagogue on the first night of Pesach. About thirty people joined the Rabbi and his family, and enjoyed a beautiful seder and lots of delicious food.

Joan Sichel once again organized a very moving Yom Hashoah service. The guest speaker was **Israel Unger** of Fredericton, a Holocaust survivor. Several young people took part in the service with readings given by **Aviva Cohen, Daniel Cohen, Hyde Jochelman, Preston Rodd** and **Joshua Alpern**. **Theo Karpowicz** played the theme song from Schindler's list on his violin. **Evie Carnat** played the piano and sang two songs.

As I write this report, my son **Daniel** is in Washington as part of the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program. Daniel joined 16 Jewish students from the Maritimes, as well as other students from across

Canada for the trip to Washington to visit the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Condolences go out to **Goldie Johnston** and family on the passing of her brother **Ben Smith** of Saint John. Condolences as well to the family of **Adi Rich** of Miramichi who passed away at age 102.

There is also lots of good news to report. Mazel tov to: **Riva Coleman**, daughter of **Linda** and **Harry Coleman** on earning her B.Ed from St. Francis Xavier University, **Mindy Lampert**, daughter of **Irwin** and **Audrey Lampert**, who received her BA from Mount Allison University, and **Ariella Attis**, daughter of **Sandy** and **Roz Attis**, who will be graduating from high school.

Congratulations to **Reuben Cohen** who received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Mount Allison University and was the guest speaker at convocation.

Mazel tov to **Alina Boghen**, daughter of **Andrew** and **Marilyn Boghen**, who graduated from Dalhousie University with a Masters degree in Human Communication Disorders.

Mazel tov to **Nicole Druckman**, daughter of **Isaac** and **Betty Druckman**, and **Jack Haller**, son of **Dara Haller** of Toronto and the late **Michael Haller**, on their recent engagement. Mazel tov to **Uri Carnat**, son of **Evie** and **Barrie Carnat**, on his engagement to **Kelly Cook**. The wedding will take place in Calgary on August 24.

I am happy to report that **David Attis**, who recently underwent a kidney transplant, is recovering well. We wish him many more years of good health.

Two new families have recently joined our community. A warm welcome to **Mark** and **Leah Alpern** and their children **Josh** and **Hannah**, and to **Frédéric Potok, Marie-France Lebouc** and their daughter **Eva**.

Best wishes to all for a safe, happy and relaxing summer.



Anne Weil, Shlomo Machat and Sarah Gorber



The Attis (Margie, David and Minnie), Joan Sichel and John Flanagan



The President (me) and the kids (Yossie, Issie Stiefel and Juan-Pol Mahcat)

Two Well Known Maritimers Honoured by the University of The College of Cape Breton at the May Convocation

Two outstanding Cape Bretoners, Jack Yazer of Sydney and Irwin Simon, a Glace Bay native, now living in New York City received Honorary Degrees.

JACK YAZER

To catch Jack Yazer's attention, tell him children should be seen and not heard. Because Jack Yazer knows what it is like to be young and not heard. This might explain why Jack, even as he built a successful career in business, pursued an equally successful career as a volunteer championing Cape Breton's youth.

Born in Poland in 1914, Jack Yazer came to Canada when he was 14 years old equipped with two English words, "can't speak". Soon, he was travelling through rural Cape Breton selling clothes from his backpack, learning English, even a little of the Gaelic from his Scottish customers. And even today, he still recalls the excited children; not much younger than he was then, who thronged his cart, hoping for a ride.

Jack and his brother **Mendle** were partners in a clothing store in Sydney Mines from 1934-1940, when Jack joined the Canadian Armed Forces. After his service in the Second World War, Jack returned to Cape Breton and managed the second Yazer Bros. Clothing Store in Sydney until it was sold in 1976.

In 1965, moved by the loss of a close friend's only child, Jack originated what became known as the "Yazer Graduated License 2-Point Merit Plan" for young drivers to decrease the number of avoidable highway deaths. The plan found support with parents, educators, insurance companies, police chiefs and even the young drivers themselves – everyone it seemed except the government. After thirty years of effort from Jack and other supporters of the plan, Nova Scotia became the first province with a graduated license program. Now other provinces are working to adopt the same concept.

At present, Jack is the campaign of the innovative "Youth Speakers Up" program aimed at grade six students. The students themselves created the program motto, "I can say no to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence, racism and peer pressure". With Jack's help, that message has been spread into schools all around Cape Breton Island.

Jack has worked tirelessly as a volunteer in numerous positions with the Cape Breton Children's Aid Society, opening in Sydney the first two group homes in our province. As Founding Chairman of the Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation he helped improve health care on our island.

For these accomplishments and many, many more, Jack has been honored for his public service. By both business men and union leaders, with medals, awards, membership in the Order of Canada, with letters of gratitude from proud parents and those young people whose lives he has empowered and enriched.

Jack Yazer's commitment to Cape Breton has spanned generations, but as those whose lives he has touched are quick to advise him, "Jack, you're too young to quit now." Mr. Chancellor, it is truly an honor to present to you for the degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, the ever-young Jack Yazer.

IRWIN SIMON

As a young boy growing up in Glace Bay, Irwin Simon worked beside his father in the family store, Simon's Dairy. This was the young entrepreneur's first encounter with brand names such as Campbell's Soup and Heinz Ketchup. As the founder, chairman, president and CEO of the Hain Celestial Group, a leading purveyor of quality brand name food products, Mr. Simon has built on the lessons he learned growing up in Glace Bay. The smile his father, Nate had for each customer, the respect he had for his community and the safety and security that the community provided for the young Irwin.

The Hain Celestial Group, based in Melville, New York, is a natural specialty and snack food company with annual sales nearing \$600 million. As leader of 13 of the top 15 natural food categories, it has such well-known brand names as Celestial Seasonings Tea, Terra Chips, Earth's Best Baby Food and Hain's Pure Foods, among many others.

After graduating from Morrison High School in Glace Bay, Mr. Simon attended St. Mary's University in Halifax and graduated in 1979 with Bachelor of Commerce degree. Over the next decade and a half, he learned the specialty food business from the inside working in the United States for gourmet ice cream maker Haagen-Dazs and later joining the Slim-Fast Foods Company to become their Vice President of Marketing.

In the early 1990's, Mr. Simon saw an opportunity to bring together several small natural food businesses, all of which, were losing money except for a company selling frozen kosher foods. Through Mr. Simon's bold management, within months his new company was turning a profit. As his company grew by merging with other natural and health food companies, Mr. Simon stayed true to his original strategy, of building on the unique quality of each of his brands as he introduced them to more and more satisfied customers. Now in the ranks of executives from the same companies whose labels once lined the shelves of his family's store, he has remained true to his Cape Breton roots and endeavored to run, in his words, "a good clean honest company" treating customers and employees with respect.

Mr. Simon was the winner of the 1997 Ernst and Young Long Island Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and the next year was recognized as one of the "Top Entrepreneurs" by Business Week Magazine. In public service, one question Mr. Simon continually asks is, "How do I give more to kids?" which has led him to support cancer treatment centers for children in the US, where he also campaigns to bring healthier eating habits to school age children.

Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Simon has shown that the lessons learned in a small family Cape Breton business can be translated and expanded into an entrepreneurial success story of international proportions. I present to you for the degree, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, Mr. Irwin Simon.

News from Cape Breton

by Garson Lecker

The Cape Breton Jewish community recently marked Yom Hashoah with two events, one planned and one by happenstance.

The First was the memorial service held in the Temple Sons of Israel synagogue in Sydney, which featured Judy Cohen of Toronto as guest speaker. There were some 100 plus people in attendance. Mrs. Cohen is a survivor of the Concentration camp at Aushwitz and addressed her audience on her horrendous ordeal there. It was an effort that caused her unease to recall and to those who heard her presentation. However, as she said "it is a story that must be told frequently to remind the world of the horrors of the Holocaust".

The second event was the return to Cape Breton of a former resident of Glace Bay named **George Scott** now living in Toronto. Born in Hungary he survived the concentration camps (four in number) and after the war, eventually ended up in Glace Bay living with the **Begin** and **Shore** families. He left Glace Bay just prior to graduating from high school and

despite continuing his education in night school, etc (he now speaks 20 languages and dialects), he never received a high school diploma. The principal of the high school in Glace Bay heard his story and on May 8th, awarded Scott an honorary diploma.

On May 3rd, two Cape Bretoners from our community were awarded honorary doctorates at the University College of Cape Breton convocation ceremonies. **Jack Yazer** of Sydney and **Irwin Simon**, formerly of Glace Bay, were the honourees. It is noteworthy that both had been so honoured in the past...Jack Yazer by St. Francis Xavier University, and Irwin Simon by St. Mary's University. We in Cape Breton are indeed proud that these two have been so honoured and congratulate them on their achievements.

It has been an interesting spring and now on to summer(?).

Condolences to **Toby Ein** and family on the passing of their beloved **Isaac Ein**.

Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo

The report of the 35th Annual Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar

by Evelyn Davis

The 35th Annual Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar was held at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue on May 7th. The writeup and publicity in the Cape Breton Post, presented by **Ethel Webber** was so exciting, the public responded and we were overwhelmed with the crowds of people who attended. Although our membership has declined, those who participate have friends and volunteers in the local community who came forth to help us because they know this is the only public fundraiser the Jewish community holds each year.

Chairs of the Bazaar this year were **Betty Shore** and **Shirley Chernin**. A unique feature at this year's bazaar was artwork of students from the Cape Breton and Victoria Regional School Boards and were displayed the day of the Bazaar.

This year's charitable donation was given to "Crossroads" – a local non-profit group whose centre is dedicated to helping people with mental health problems. The students who attend, acquire training and life skills to prepare them for work.



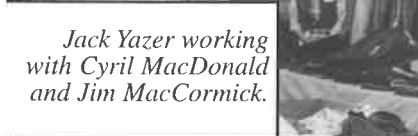
Waiting to get in.



Our customers.



Fanny Nathanson from Halifax.



Jack Yazer working with Cyril MacDonald and Jim MacCormick.



Roz Goldberg, Edith Lecker and Nettie Simon (from Toronto).



Jerry Shore and David Ein.

Yom Hashoah 2003 – Cape Breton

by Evelyn Davis

The Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue was the location of the Holocaust Memorial Observance on April 27th.

This year's guest speaker, **Judy Cohen**, a Holocaust survivor moved the audience to tears when she related reminiscences of her childhood. She was introduced by **Jennifer Morrison** and thanking by **Fran Hinton**.

The Chair, **Sylvia Allen**, invited the audience to participate in responsive readings. A candlelighting ceremony was held. **Leah Ostry** represented Jewish youth; **Betty Dean** represented Christian Women's Group; **Lynn Crawford** represented The Black United Front; **Margie Gillis** represented the Catholic Women's League; **Ada Callaghan** represented I.O.D.E.; **Ranjana Choksi**, represented Moslem Women, and **Shirley Dubinsky** represented Hadassah-Wizo.

Rosalind MacDonald sang "Kadosh" (holy), unaccompanied and the entire group recited the Kaddish.

Committee members were **Sylvia Allen**, **Shirley Chernin**, **Evy Druker**, **Shirley Dubinsky** and **Fran Morrison**.

Refreshments were served.



Judy Cohen and Sylvia Allen.

News item:

by Raymond MacDonald



Seen in the photo are (L-R:) **Shirley Chernin**, **Rosalind (Goldman) MacDonald**, **Evelyn Davis**, **The Honourable Myra A. Freeman**, **Sylvia Allen** and **Hal Davis**.

St. George's hall in Sydney was the scene of a special event which occurred on April 11. Members of the Jewish and Christian communities participated in the Nova Scotia Leadership Prayer Breakfast. In attendance were the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia: **The Honourable Myra A. Freeman** who read eloquently from Psalms, as well as guest speaker **Bruce Havill**, B.com who delivered a stirring message on the importance relationships.

Hal Davis gave a heartfelt prayer in both Hebrew and English for our nation. The mornings events were aptly concluded with beautiful song by **Rosalind (Goldman) MacDonald**.

The event was hosted by Island Business Ministries.



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Salesmanship Central to Sammy's Life

by Ken MacLeod, Cape Breton Post

Have You Heard the story about how Sammy Mendleson got his first bicycle?

"Harry Hirsch had a bicycle," says Mendleson, "and of all the boys, he was the only who couldn't dance. I was only ten or twelve and I offered to teach him to dance if he would sell me his bicycle.

"I got him up to the house, moved the furniture back and rolled up the rugs – I even drew diagrams on the floor where his feet should go.

"I was going to charge him \$2 a lesson, but after 3 lessons, he said 'Sammy, keep the bike!'

"He had two left feet and no rhythm – and he can't dance to this day!"

Dancing is one thing that Mendleson knows something about. The retired Sydney businessman admits it was his renowned dancing skills – and considerable powers of persuasion – that convinced his late wife, Doris, to marry him.

"I was a 30-year-old bachelor and my sister set up the date with a friend in Moncton," he says, explaining he was on vacation at the time and taking a car trip through the Maritimes. "We had a good time and kept up correspondence. She had her visa ready to go to New York, but I talked her out of it and we had 45 wonderful years together."

Resourcefulness was also a part of Mendleson's life as a businessman. If the reader has any doubts, here's how a young businessman put a fast one over on a greedy landlord:

"My first business was a little connivence store on Esplanade (in Sydney). The landlord lived in the rear of the shop and had a Kosher meat market. Every month he was raising my rent – he must have heard the cash register ringing in 5 cents every sale.

"I was just 18 or 19 and had my two sisters working in the store while I worked (another job) as a salesman, so I told them to keep the nickels on top of the register until they had a dollar before ringing them in.

"I fooled him – it wasn't long before he was coming in and asking why business had slowed down!"

Born on Fletcher Street, Glace Bay, Dec 29, 1916, as a young boy Mendleson moved with his family to the thriving Jewish community that was once an integral part of the culturally diverse Whitney Pier area of Sydney.

"It was like the League of Nations back then," he recalls. "There were people of every denomination, colour and creed and no one held anything against each other.

It was a fantastic place to grow up in; everybody was one big, happy family and no one had anything more than any one else. There were no 'big shots.' Everyone worked hard just to survive."

No one worked harder than Mendleson's parents, Abe and Dora, who raised seven children, Sammy and his twin sister, Sarah, as well as sisters Bessie, Lena and Sophie and brothers Jake and Louie, on Abe's work with his team of horses.

"While growing up there was no such thing as asking for an allowance. My first money was earned chopping kindling wood and selling it to the people living in 'Nathanson's

shacks" which were one room shacks in a semi-circle for steel plant workers built by Mr. Nathanson, the father of late Nate Nathanson who built the first radio station in Cape Breton."

From there Mendleson followed in the footsteps of many Cape Breton youngsters and became a Post carrier. The organizational skills that would serve him well in a long and distinguished business career help him make the best of a challenging situation.

"I had the biggest paper route in Whitney Pier – 144 papers a day – and I had to do it at noon hour, after school and during my supper hour to make it work.

"I was a good student but I had to play basket ball and keep up with my studies as well."

The only way Mendleson could make it all work was to follow a strict schedule. At noon he would get on his bike and pick up his newspapers, go home and have lunch, deliver a few more papers and then get back to school. After school there was a time to deliver a few more papers before basketball practice, then it was supper, followed by the last of his deliveries.

"I'd hit the books until 8pm; after that, the rest of the night was mine.

The cultural center of the Jewish community in Whitney Pier in those days was the two room YMHA (Young Men's Hebrew Association) building, where Mendleson learned to play his favorite sport.

"I played basketball at the community house and when I got to Sydney Academy, I became captain of the basketball team.

"In other sports I just played with pickup teams, but basketball was always the big game, with a lot of good teams coming out of the community house.

"There were a lot of fine athletes that got there start there. Black, white, Catholic, Protestant – it made no difference. The community house was a meeting place for everyone, with a skating rink in the winter and a tennis court in the summer."

Graduating from Sydney Academy in 1936, Mendleson went straight to work landing a job at the Economy Grocery Store in Ashby. He stayed there for three years and then worked for a dry cleaner before opening his first business on the Esplanade

When a trip to New York City to work for his brother-in-law didn't pan out, Mendleson returned to Cape Breton and eventually became a fixture on the Sydney business scene, first as successful retailer on Charlotte street (Sammie's) and Alexandra Street (Sammy's Lucky Dollar) and, finally as a successful car salesman for 25 years.

In the Community he served to consecutive terms as president of the Lion's Club in Sydney and was well known as a fine competitive bowler.

"I enjoyed talking and meeting people," is how he explains his knack for selling. "I liked people and wanted them to like me. I don't think you could find anyone to say anything bad about me and my family.

"The Mendleson family always had a good name."

Harvey Lewis Webber

**Community leader, family man, mentor,
Retailer. Born June 1, 1914, in Halifax. Died Jan.28,
in Sydney, NS, of a heart attack, aged 88.**

by Marlene Webber (daughter)

Editor's Note: *Harvey Webber was an outstanding citizen of Cape Breton. He was also a longtime supporter of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. He will be missed by all.*

When chest pains awakened by father, he scrawled a note: "heart attack, gone hospital," and left it outside the bedroom door. That way, he doubtlessly anticipated, Mom could finish her morning ablutions before being shocked. Had Dad been less shaken, his note would surely have added: "Don't worry, darling." He was coping with crisis in his standard manner, sparing the ones he loved. Then, as the paramedics later explained, my father called 911, awaited the ambulance near the door and told the attendants he was home alone.

Although Dad was 88, he was youthful, fit and dapper. Days before he died, he was in his office as usual working the phones, putting people and plans together to build a museum to Sydney's defunct steel industry. He'd done the same years earlier to kickstart the Glace Bay Miners' Museum. And days before he died, he was, as usual, at the YMCA working out.

Dad was always addicted to community work. Tourism, jobs, social benefits and saving Main Street from the invasion of the malls – these were his passions. He's best known for a campaign called Atlantic Canada Plus, which promotes local products. He was also behind the similar Think Cape Breton First campaign, as well as a come-home-to-retire lure for natives who'd "gone down the road."

My father felt obliged to live the creed inherited from his immigrant parents: "The more you have, the more you owe." Doing for others made him feel good and involved "no sacrifices because organizing is easy for me." And he knew it served him as a shopkeeper to build the economy.

My father loved the accolades that came, from the Order of Canada to Atlantic Canadian of the Year to his appointment to Queen's Counsel (QC), rarely awarded to non-practicing lawyers such as himself. With great pride, he decorated his tiny office with his many tributes. From that desk, he ran his ladies' wear store, now called Smart Shop Place, founded by his own father as a hat shop almost a century ago.

Dad eventually transformed Smart Shop into a department store of boutiques owned by various



entrepreneurs. His innovative business streak earned him the Retail Council of Canada's Distinguished Retailer of 1991. Throughout, my father kept his cubicle as command central and for what we called his "free advice" table. Almost daily, strangers and acquaintances came seeking a financial advance or advice (or both) for some scheme.

Many seeking mentoring or guidance were younger than my father; with his vigour, non-stop ideas and tireless pace, Dad appealed to the next generation. A Holocaust-era Jew, he did share one thing with his peers: uncritical devotion to Israel, and to Jewish causes.

Besides the causes, his other love was family: my brother, Mom and me. My parents never let their fairytale romance go stale. It was launched 60 years ago with a steamer trunk of love letters, many hand-delivered to Mom in Montreal. During their courtship, Dad lived in Halifax. Finding the postal system too slow, he bribed stewardesses to carry letters.

He was markedly quirky but in harmless, hilarious ways. Minutiae of daily life could – no exaggeration – make him panic; he could buy a building but couldn't buy a bar of soap if faced with more than one brand. Yet, I've seen him walk away from a car accident singing because no one was hurt.

This may sound like a bumper sticker but my father really did live every day as though it were his last. He had, as he'd say, "a fabulous run," did oodles of good and died suddenly. What more could anyone ask?

Below are excerpts from the Cape Breton Post:

"I think of Harvey as someone who never stopped thinking about how to improve the community. This is what he thought about all the time." – Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce President Avvie Druker.

"I describe Harvey as the ideal community leader. I don't think he wasted an hour of his time. He was either working or doing something to help the community throughout his life." – Cape Breton Regional Municipality Mayor John Morgan.

Janet Harron wrote:

Dear Editor:

Please find below some information on a new book about to be published in Canada that I thought might be of interest to your readers.

Ten Thousand Lovers is a first novel by Canadian **Edeet Ravel**. This book was found on the slush pile at *Headline* last year (a publisher in the UK) and is the only book on their slush pile to have been published in 2002/2003. The editor that found it had met her husband on a kibbutz in Israel in the 1970s (where and when the book is set) and was immediately hooked. Author lives in Quebec with her daughter ? this is a first novel and is very timely as well as it is set in Israel and the main character embarks upon a love affair with an Israeli army interrogator. It also as etymological notes at the end of each chapter, musing on the difference between English, Hebrew and Arabic.

The author Edeet Ravel is Canadian and lives in Montreal with her teenage daughter. A description of the book is posted below. If you would like to receive a review copy, or schedule an interview with the author, don't hesitate to contact me either via email or on 416-408-4007 ext. 25.

TEN THOUSAND LOVERS by Edeet Ravel

Lily is a young emigrant student exploring the wonders and terrors of this new and beautiful land when she meets Ami....

Ami, a former actor is handsome, intelligent, charismatic and exciting, he has one flaw however, he's an interrogator in the Israeli army. But as their passion grows, so too does the shadow that looms over them – the unspeakable horror which Ami's work forces him to face.

Most love isn't easy. Lily and Ami's love is. Most stories are forgettable. Not this one!

Ten Thousand Lovers is set in Israel in the Seventies and acts as a dazzling backdrop to a universal story of passion, suffering and the transcending power of love, but is also a window into the politics of the time. Danger, terrorism and the possibility of war are issues we face daily and no novel could be more brilliantly, terrifyingly contemporary as this one.

About The Author

Edeet Ravel was born in Israel and grew up in Canada. She has taught literature and creative writing over twenty years and now lives in Montreal, Quebec with her teenage daughter. This is her first novel. *Ten Thousand Lovers* was discovered on the slush pile at *Headline* in the UK.

TITLE: *Ten Thousand Lovers*

AUTHOR: Edeet Ravel

PUB DATE: February 28, 2003

PRICE: \$24.95

For further information or to book an interview with the author, please contact **Janet Harron** at **McArthur & Company** on 416-408-4007 ext. 25 or via email on janeth@mcArthur-co.com.

Jewish experiences highlighted in Halifax anti-racism event – March 21, 2003

The Canadian Jewish News
by Joel Jacobson, Atlantic Correspondent

Three members of the Halifax Jewish community played prominent roles in a one-day conference held here last month to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

As more than 250 people sat in awe at the Pier 21 immigration heritage museum in Halifax, Holocaust survivor **Marianne Ferguson** described life in her native Poland, as well as changes she experienced when she arrived in Canada and incidents of racism toward Jews in her adopted country.

At the conclusion of her presentation, one of six talks on a panel titled Racism: Past, Present and Future, the audience rose as one to applaud her appeal for peace.

"The Bible teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves," she concluded. "Let us take pride in our friendship with our fellow men and women, no matter what their colour, race or ethnic background. Only if we do this, will we also be able to get along with other nations and eventually have peace on earth."

Hanna Zatzman, 15, a grade 9 student at Halifax Grammar School, represented Jewish youth. "I consider myself lucky to be born in North America, 43 years after the Holocaust, when anti-Semitism is at a low ebb. But I have faced many racist stereotypes and incorrect views, which need to be broken," she said.

She said stereotypes are caused by ignorance, such as calling a Jewish place of worship a Jewish church.

She said many people expect every Jew to be a wealthy professional. "This is not true, and that stereotype can cause a general dislike towards the Jewish community. Society also tends to define a Jew by her or his appearance, and assumes that a person is Jewish if she/he has a large nose and dark curly hair."

She said her life has been barely touched by blatant and intended racism, yet she said she is aware of the desecration of synagogues in Canada and Europe and the bullying of Jewish children at schools.

"Even here in Halifax during the Jewish [High Holy Days], synagogues hire police to guard them. And we have security guards at Jewish summer camps for fear of violence," she said.

Later, she expressed pride at representing the youth of the Jewish community. "I didn't know so many people in Halifax were this active in this type of event, and so interested in expressing their opinions."

Michael Anthony, Youth Programming coordinator for the Atlantic Jewish Council, sat on the organizing committee for the annual event, which was coordinated by Partners Against Racism, a coalition of individuals and organizations, including the AJC, that is dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights. He also moderated the panel discussion.

"There were several booths set up during a cross-cultural exchange," he said. "Our [AJC] booth was constantly busy, as we offered interactive opportunities to everyone through a question-and-answer on Jewish traditions."

Speech on Racism

by Marianne Ferguson

Editor's Note: Speech delivered at the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

From my early childhood on, I have been familiar with racism, as I was born into a German atmosphere. My father had a German passport, on which all of us children were registered. He came from East Prussia, Germany, but we were living in Danzig, which was formerly German and then was made into a so called corridor between Germany and Poland. However, things were just like in Germany, Nazis were everywhere and fear – a lot of fear.

We were fortunate to escape in March of 1939, but a little of this fear has inevitably stayed with me. Although we came to Canada, a free country, I have always had some apprehension, in certain situations, when religion was discussed. Generally speaking, I have not come across a lot of anti-Semitism since coming to Canada and in most instances, I have always been well received by people of all races and religions, but there have been some exceptions.

As a 13 year old girl, the first time I experienced racism, in the form of anti-Semitism, in Canada was when my parents applied for 11 members of our extended family to come to Canada. All was fine, until these people were examined by a doctor while still in Germany. One of my uncles had a very minor medical problem and the doctor said he would have to ask once more if Canada would accept him. At that time, a senior Canadian official, when asked how many Jews would be accepted into Canada, said: "None is too many." (In 1982, this quotation became the title of a book, by **Irving Abella** and **Harold Troper**). To come back to my family, many prominent people, here in Halifax, sent letters to Ottawa saying that they would look after the family if my uncle should become a liability and I know that would have never happened, as my father would have looked after things himself. Finally the permission to enter Canada came through, but unfortunately, it was too late. Those 11 family members came to the port of Hamburg, Germany, to board their ship on September 1st, 1939 the day Hitler entered Poland and WW2 began. They were left on the docks of Hamburg and did not know where to go. All were picked up by the Gestapo and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp where they were exterminated.

I remember the time I applied for a secretarial position in an insurance firm. I was just a young girl and the gentleman who interviewed me seemed quite impressed with my credentials and already said that I should start work the next week and then he wondered what religion I was. I started to feel very frightened, a left over from my early youth, I said I am Jewish and then he said that he would let me know about the job. Of course I never heard from him again.

Over the years there were other incidents of racism that touched our lives. Once, when our children were young, we wanted to rent a cottage in the country during the summer and were told by the owner that they do not rent to Jews and dogs. Jewish people were not allowed into some of the local private clubs, golf courses and certain professional studies at the universities.

I remember having a Jewish student staying with us during his years at Dalhousie University. He had a very Jewish sounding name and one day he said to me that he had legally changed his name to one that was not Jewish because he wanted to become an accountant and that Dalhousie would not give him his degree if they knew he was Jewish. Of course they also had limitations on the number of Jewish students they would take into Medical & Law School and those who were accepted, had to have the highest credentials.

Racist attitudes are very hurtful and destructive. Those who hate do not only harm others but also themselves. Some of the most brilliant minds were murdered in Germany and other Hitler occupied countries. Just think what they could have contributed to the world, had they been allowed to live!

My daughter, a counsellor at Halifax West High School, has students of over 50 different nationalities and religions attending that school and they are famous for all getting along well together. Sometimes she would have a multicultural day at her school and often she would ask my husband and myself if we would like to convene the Jewish booth. We have done so several times and it was so heart warming to see the students from the Palestinian Booth coming over to us, hugging us and saying they want to be friends. Why can't this be in other parts of the world?

Once we were invited to the school when a Holocaust survivor was going to speak to the students. This was a man who had lost all of his family, had been beaten, starved and made to do hard work when he was very weak, and yet, he said to the students "I don't hate anyone. I don't want you to hate anyone. People should love each other and make peace".

Children are not born racist. They learn these attitudes from listening to others and as an example I will tell you a little story. When my granddaughter first started school, they had some sort of an event where parents and grandparents were invited to see the children perform. She was telling us a little about this event and mentioned in particular a little boy who was going to be doing something and in order to identify him to us she said "You will know him right away because he is the only one who has a chocolate face". It was said so innocently and without prejudice.

In my life, I have friends of many races and religions. I enjoy this diversity and it is never an issue. They are friends and that's it.

Once again there is a war raging, this time in Iraq. Let us hope that it will not last too long but, unfortunately, there will be lives lost and many people will suffer sadness and grief. Today is the first day of spring. Soon the trees will have leaves again and the flowers will bloom. Nature renews itself. Let us resolve to renew our attitude towards our neighbours. The bible teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Let us take pride in our friendship with our fellow men and women, no matter what their colour, race or ethnic background. Only if we learn to do this, will we also be able to get along with other nations and eventually have peace on earth.

Hershell Ezrin of GPC International to work with United Israel Appeal Federations Canada

For Immediate Release

TORONTO, March X – Hershell Ezrin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GPC International, has been appointed by the Emergency Cabinet of the United Israel Appeal (UIA) Federations Canada to lead the launch of a new series of initiatives to address growing concerns about anti-Jewish and anti-Israel activities and expressions in Canada.

Mr. Ezrin, one of Canada's best known political advisors, public policy experts and strategic communications counselors, will work with the Emergency Cabinet, the ten Jewish Federations across Canada, the Canada Israel Committee and the Canadian Jewish Congress as they collectively increase the focus of the Canadian Jewish community on public advocacy, communication and education.

"I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to work with the business and community leaders that have volunteered for the Emergency Cabinet. I am, like all of them, highly committed to meeting the challenge of countering the disturbing trends in Anti-Jewish and Anti-Israel sentiment that has emerged in Canada over the past two years," Mr. Ezrin said.

Gerry Schwartz, co-Chair of the Emergency Cabinet, said "we are very pleased to bring Hershell and GPC on board to help us take immediate action on some of our priority issues. It is crucial that our organization acts aggressively to address these challenges, and Hershell and his team bring important skills to our projects. With his help, we hope to ensure that all of our efforts go forward in a coherent and mutually reinforcing way, to ensure that we can have maximum impact in improving the environment for Jews in Canada."

Mr. Ezrin has more than 20 years of experience in senior executive roles, at both the federal and provincial levels of government, and as a leader of two multi-national businesses. He will begin work immediately to manage the priorities established by the Emergency Cabinet, and will be supported by a senior team of GPC specialists.

About GPC International

Founded in 1986, GPC International is part of a worldwide consulting firm operating in 23 countries. In Canada, GPC has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City. GPC's staff provide public affairs, strategic communications and consulting services to a diverse range of public and private sector clients.

For more information, contact: Pelino Colaiacovo, GPC International, (416) 598-0055

Hershell Ezrin

Hershell Ezrin is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GPC International. He is one of Canada's best known political advisors, public policy experts and strategic communications counselors and brings to GPC over 25 years' experience in senior executive roles, at both the federal and provincial levels of government, and as a leader in two multi-national businesses.

Mr. Ezrin joined the federal public service as a career diplomat, assuming progressively greater responsibility in a number of overseas postings, and the Canadian Consuls in New York and Los Angeles. He played an integral part in the development and rollout of Canadian public diplomacy initiatives in the USA and worked closely with the New York-based financial and business media. In 1982, he left the public service to help rebuild the Ontario Liberal Party and, upon their electoral success, was appointed Deputy Minister to Premier David Peterson.

Mr. Ezrin then moved to the private sector, first overseeing the corporate and public affairs work of a Canadian-based diversified multi-national and subsequently becoming Chief Executive Officer of a publicly traded multi-national automotive services company.

In addition to being Vice Chair of the new Board of Directors of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Ezrin is currently a member of the Board of the Governor-General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, the Canadian Steering Committee for Atlantik-Brücke, the Toronto Board of Trade City Governance Task Force, and on the Program Committee of the Canadian Journalism Foundation. He is Vice Chair of the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation.

Mr. Ezrin is past Chairman of the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc., a past Vice-Chair of the Public Policy Forum of Canada, and a former Director of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, the Board of the Canadian Film Centre, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Toronto Board of Trade.

Fluent in English and French, Mr. Ezrin has written and spoken in Canada and the United States on subjects related to public policy and strategic communications. He holds a BA (Hons.) from the University of Toronto and an MA from Carleton University, both in history.

Treatment of Israel Strikes an Alien Note

by Alan M. Dershowitz

If a visitor from a faraway galaxy were to land at an American or Canadian university and peruse some of the petitions that were circulating around the campus, he would probably come away with the conclusion that the Earth is a peaceful and fair planet with only one villainous nation determined to destroy the peace and to violate human rights. That nation would not be Iraq, Libya, Serbia, Russia or Iran. It would be Israel. There are currently petitions circulating on most North American university campuses that would seek to have universities terminate all investments in companies that do business in or with Israel. There are also petitions asking individual faculty members to boycott scientists and scholars who happen to be Israeli Jews, regardless of their personal views on the Arab-Israeli conflict. There have been efforts, some successful, to prevent Israeli speakers from appearing on college campuses, as recently occurred at Concordia University. There are no comparable petitions seeking any action against other countries that enslave minorities, imprison dissidents, murder political opponents and torture suspected terrorists. Nor are there any comparable efforts to silence speakers from other countries.

The intergalactic visitor would wonder what this pariah nation, Israel, must have done to deserve this unique form of economic capital punishment. If he then went to the library and began to read books and articles about this planet, he would discover that Israel was a vibrant democracy, with freedom of speech, press and religion, that was surrounded by a group of tyrannical and undemocratic regimes, many of which are actively seeking its destruction. He would learn that in Egypt, homosexuals are routinely imprisoned and threatened with execution; that in Jordan, suspected terrorists and other opponents of the government are tortured, and that if individualized torture does not work, their relatives are called in and threatened with torture as well; that in Saudi Arabia, women who engage in sex outside of marriage are beheaded; that in Iraq, political opponents are routinely murdered en masse and no dissent is permitted; that in Iran, members of religious minorities, such as Baha'is and Jews, are imprisoned and sometimes executed; that in all of these surrounding nations, anti-Semitic material is frequently broadcast on state-sponsored television and radio programs; in Saudi Arabia, apartheid is practiced against non-Muslims, with signs indicating that Muslims must go to certain areas and non-Muslims to others; that China has occupied Tibet for half a century; that in several African countries women are stoned to death for violating sexual mores; that slavery still exists in some parts of the world; and that genocide has been committed by a number of countries in recent memory.

Our curious visitor would wonder why there are no petitions circulating with regard to these human rights

violators. Is Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza – an occupation it has offered to end in exchange for peace – worse than that of Chinese occupation of Tibet? Are the tactics used to combat terrorism by Israel worse than those used by the Russians against Chechen terrorists? Are Arab and Muslim states more democratic than Israel? Is there any comparable institution in any Arab or Muslim state to the Israeli Supreme Court, which frequently rules in favor of Palestinian claims against the Israeli government and military? Does the absence of the death penalty in Israel alone, among Middle East nations, make it more barbaric than the countries which behead, hang and shoot political dissidents? Is Israel's settlement policy, which 78% of Israelis want to end in exchange for peace, worse than the Chinese attempt at cultural genocide in Tibet? Is Israel's policy of full equality for openly gay soldiers and members of the Knesset somehow worse than the policy of Muslim states to persecute those who have a different sexual orientation than the majority? Is Israel's commitment to equality for women worse than the gender apartheid practiced in Saudi Arabia?

Our visitor would be perplexed to hear the excuses made by university professors and students for why they are prepared to delegitimize Israel while remaining silent about the far worse abuses committed by other countries. If he were to ask a student about the abuses committed by other countries, he would be told (as I have been): "You're changing the subject. We're talking about Israel now." This reminds me of an incident from the 1920s involving then-Harvard President A. Laurence Lowell. Lowell decided that the number of Jews admitted to Harvard should be reduced because "Jews cheat." When a distinguished alumnus, Judge Learned Hand, pointed out that Protestants also cheat, Lowell responded, "You're changing the subject; we're talking about Jews."

Is it not surprising, therefore, that as responsible and cautious a writer as **Andrew Sullivan**, formerly editor of *The New Republic* and now a writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, has concluded that "fanatical anti-Semitism, as bad or even worse than Hitler's, is now a cultural norm across much of the Middle East and beyond. It's the acrid glue that united Saddam, Arafat, al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Iran and the Saudis. They all hate the Jews and want to see them destroyed."

Our intergalactic traveller, after learning all of these facts, would wonder what kind of planet he had landed on. Do we have everything backwards? Do we know the difference between right and wrong? Do our universities teach the truth?

These are questions that need asking, lest we become the kind of world the visitor would have experienced had he arrived in Europe during the late 1930s and early 1940s.



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Tu B'Shevat Tree-a-thon 2003 – The most successful Yet!

by Angelica Feigin, JNF Halifax

The TuB'Shevat Tree-a-thon was an amazing success this year! This is due in large part to the wonderful efforts of our Halifax volunteers and of course the many, many people from all over the Maritime Provinces who planted trees. This year the Telethon raised over \$12,000, well exceeding our goal of meeting last years total of \$10,000! Also we had over 50 new donors who had not previously planted trees!

Once again this year, Aliant/MTT generously donated space for the telethon to take place as well as several phone cards and reduced long distance rates. Special thanks to Zack Rubin who helped early on with the preparations to organize the Telethon.

I especially want to acknowledge the wonderful volunteers from our local community and the Universities who called both from home and the MTT Building call center. To the volunteers who helped to make the telethon such a success; Barbara Alberstat, Mike Anthony, Lynn Bessoudo, Nancy Cieplinski, Ian Epstein, Marianne Ferguson, Yael Goodman, Lana Goldstein, Naomi Goloff, Jillian Green, Joanna Grossman Lea McKnight, Molly Rechnitzer, Daniel Rinzler, Aviva Rubin, Zack Rubin, Laura Schechter, Jonathon Schneider, Leo Weniger, Blair Wexler, Celia Yazer, Myrna Yazer, thank you so much for your efforts.

We need your e-mail
information in order to better
communicate with the Jewish
community in Atlantic Canada.

Please email any new email
addresses or changes to your
email addresses to
jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca.

SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

29 Wellington Row
Saint John, New Brunswick E2L 3H4
Telephone: 506-633-1833; Fax: 506-642-9926;
E-mail: sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca

PUBLIC SERVICE ACCOUNCEMENT FOR ONGOING RELEASE THROUGH OCTOBER 2003

SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPENS FOR 18th SEASON

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum opened for its eighteenth summer season on Sunday, June 1, 2003, with an official season opening and will remain open for visitors until Thursday, October 30, 2003. Hours of operation are from Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and also on Sunday during July and August from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Group tours are also welcomed by appointment throughout the year.

The museum will feature new exhibits for 2003:

- "From First to Latest: Jewish Weddings in Saint John, 1882-2002 including dresses from the 1930s to the 1950s, photographs and invitations
- "Six Generations of the Freedman Family: includes many family photographs
- "Original writing and art by members of the High School Jewish Holocaust Study Group, 2000-2003" – the work of over fifty local high school students who have studied the Holocaust as an enrichment activity in their schools will be displayed on a series of panels.

The permanent exhibits include a collection of religious artifacts, chapel, ritual bath and Hebrew School classroom. An archives and library which attract historians and genealogists from around the world is open to researchers by appointment throughout the year. A small gift shop operates in the lobby of the museum.

Each year the Museum holds a special fundraising raffle. This year the three prizes include a hand coloured print of the Saint John skyline by prominent local artist **Herzl Kashetsky**, a vintage Saint John print dating from 1855 and a Turkish samovar with cups. Tickets are available from the Museum at \$10.00 each or three tickets for \$25.00. The draw will be held in December.

The museum will be closed on all Saturdays in observance of the Jewish Sabbath and for Jewish holidays (dates as follows: October 6). The museum will also be closed on Labour Day (September 1), Thanksgiving (October 13) and for professional workshops (June 6).

For Further information contact:
Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator
506-633-1833; sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca

SHABBAT "EMOR" May 10, 2003

by Raymond I. Goldman, Glace Bay

We were blessed Shabbos, May 10 to have in our midst, a native son, **Irwin Simon**. Irwin Simon is the son of the late **Nate Simon**, our last kosher butcher.

Irwin has become a very successful businessman in New York City, a great philanthropist, a valuable contributor to the University College of Cape Breton, as well as his childhood Synagogue, Congregation Sons of Israel, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

After our Shabbos Service, Irwin rushed out to the University where he was honoured with a Doctorate of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Irwin grew up in Glace Bay. He helped his father, Nathan, in the family convenience store and the kosher meat shop. At the same time, he kept up his studies. He graduated from Morrison Glace Bay High School and enrolled at St. Mary's University, Halifax and graduated in 1979.

Irwin has built on the lessons he learned growing up in Glace Bay, the smile his father had for each customer, the respect he had for his community and the participation in a variety of sports. His knowledge from his father's business and university was a great asset for the young entrepreneur. He told us in Synagogue and at the University College of Cape Breton that he recalls handling brand name products such as Campbell's Soup and Heinz Ketchup. Today he is the founder, chairman, president and CEO of the Hain Celestial Group, a leading purveyor of quality brand name food product. He never dreamed that he would someday sit at Board meetings with such V.I.P.s

Over the next decade and a half he learned the specialty

food business with gourmet ice cream maker, Haagen-Dazs and later joined the Slim-Fast Foods Co. to become their Vice-President of Marketing. In the early 1990's Irwin saw an opportunity to bring together several small natural food businesses, all of which were losing money. except for a company selling frozen kosher foods. Through his bold management, within months, his new company was turning a profit. As his company grew by merging with other natural and health food companies, Irwin stayed true to his original strategy of building on the unique quality of each of his brands as he introduced them to more and more satisfied customers. Mr. Simon was the winner of the 1997 Ernst & Young Long Island Entrepreneur of the year award and the next year was recognized as one of the "Top Entrepreneurs" by Business Week Magazine.

His Hain Celestial Group, based in Melville, New York as sales in the \$600 million bracket. A leader in 13 of the top 15 natural food categories Hain has such well-known brand names as Celestial Seasons Tea, Terra Chips, Earth's Best Baby Food, and Hain's Best Baby Food, Hain's Pure Foods and many others.

Irwin has supported cancer treatment centres for children in the USA where he also campaigns to bring healthier eating habits to school age children. He is very well respected in all orthodox and Chabad Hasidim movements in the New York area. He is a *shoymer shabbos* and is devoted to *Tefillin* (phylactery) Prior to his busy workday. He advocates that putting on *tefillin* and sincere prayer, is like energizing yourself, and besides, it brings one good luck.

Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Sally Kramer** and **Ray Doucette** on the birth of their new baby.

Helen Sinclair is proud to announce the birth of her grandson on August 22, 2002, **Jacob Makai**, born to her son **Benjamin** and wife, **Nicole**, now living in Maui, Hawaii. Mazel tov to all.

Congratulations to **Joseph Rosenberg**, son of **Victoria** and **Ed Rosenberg** and grandson of **Dr. Anne Hammerling**, who received his Master of Arts degree in English Literature at Queen's University and is now studying for his Ph.D at University of Cambridge, UK.

Congratulations to **Roy Argand**, son of **Jo-Anne Nozick** and **Michael Argand**. Roy competed in the Provincial Track and Field meet and was a triple medal winner. He won in all the events in which he was entered. He won the gold in the 400 meter and beat the provincial record with a time of 54.92. He also won the gold in the 200 meter with a time of 24.73. In the Javilin he won the bronze.

Congratulations to **Debra Freeman** on her graduation from

McGill University with a Bachelor of Commerce and plans to pursue her Masters Degree in Communications in Global Marketing and Advertising. Debra is the daughter of her **Honour Myra A. Freeman**, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and his honour **Lawrence Freeman**.

Mazel Tov to **Miriam** and **Leonard Goldberg** who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Condolences to the family of **Mindy Kirsh**, wife of **Dr. Joel Kirsh**, mother of **Rebecca** and **Ilana**, daughter of **Shirley Scolnik**, Toronto and mother-in-law, **Flo Kirsh** of Toronto.

To Rabbi **Saul Aranov** and **Dina** we wish you a fond farewell on your departure from the Halifax community.

If you have an announcement that you would like printed in the Fall issue of Shalom, please e-mail Marie at mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca or send a note with the exact wording to 5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 508, Halifax, NS B3J 1H6.

Addition to Directory:

Jamie Ferguson and **Jennifer Jones**, 5 Braemount Drive, Halifax, NS B3M 3P3

Atlantic Jewish Foundation – Planned Giving

A WIN/WIN FORMULA

by Dov Harris, Director Financial Resource Development UIA Federations Canada

If you are asking yourself, how do I significantly increase my retirement income now – with no risk, benefit from a substantial tax receipt and help ensure the future of Jewish life in Atlantic Canada and Israel, the following concept, the Annuity Plus Gift, is worth looking at.

It is available through the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, which will reinsure your contribution through an insurance agency of your choice.

The income is guaranteed for life and can be arranged so that it provides a survivor benefit for your children. No medical examination is required. This is how the concept works.

Example 1:

Male, 70 years of age (widowed)

Wife, 67 years of age

Tax Bracket: 46.41%

Presently receiving 5% per year on \$100,000 term deposit, or \$5,000, fully taxable.

Tax on \$5000 at 46.41% is \$2,320, so the after-tax value of the annual income is \$2,680.

The donor then donates \$100,000 to United Israel Appeal.

He will receive, under this Planned Giving proposal:

- \$5000 per year guaranteed for life, of which only 28.4%, or \$1420, is taxable. The tax on \$1420 at 46.41% is \$659, so the after-tax value of the annual income increases to \$4,341 (\$5,000-\$659), which is equivalent to a return of 8.1% before taxes, plus
- Survivor benefit of \$4,341 after-tax income for up to 15 years for the children, plus
- Charitable contribution receipt for \$37,300.

Example 2:

Husband, 70 years of age

Wife, 67 years of age

Tax Bracket: 46.41%

Presently receiving 5% per year on \$100,000 term deposit, or \$5,000, fully taxable.

Tax on \$5000 at 46.41% is \$2,320, so the after-tax value of the Annual income is \$2,680.

The donors then donate \$100,000 to United Israel Appeal.

They will receive, under this Planned Giving proposal:

- \$5000 per year guaranteed for as long as either is alive, of which only 33.9%, or \$1695, is taxable. The tax on \$1695 at 46.41% is \$787, so the after-tax value of the annual income increases to \$4,213 (\$5,000-\$787), which is equivalent to a return of 7.86% before taxes, plus
- Survivor benefit of \$4,213 after-tax income for up to 15 years for the children, plus
- Charitable contribution receipt for \$28,600.

For further information please call the office of the Atlantic Jewish Foundation at 422-7491, Ext. 24. All enquiries are dealt with privately and confidentially.

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For More Information and an Application Form Please Contact:
Jon Goldberg (902) 422-7491 Ext. 22

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