

# *Shalom!* ! שלום

Fall 2003 Vol. 28, No. 3

STAV 5764



**What will tomorrow hold  
if we don't act  
TODAY?**

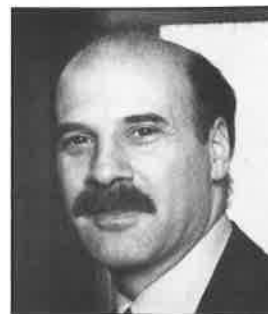
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**Community Highlights!**

# שלום

## President's Message

President: Mark Rosen

by Mark Rosen



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Shalom:

As I sit at my computer wondering  
 what to write in this message, Succot  
 is coming to an end and the weekend  
 chag's of Shimini Atzeret and Simchat  
 Torah are upon us. Having just written a  
 report for the shortened Rosh Hashana  
 edition I am somewhat at a loss for words  
 – now that's cause for celebration!

With the end of the Yom Tovim,  
 events in our communities kick into high  
 gear. Our annual UJA campaign is in full  
 swing and I encourage everyone to  
 consider a meaningful gift when your  
 canvasser calls. The recent atrocity in  
 Haifa, confusion in the Palestinian  
 political process, attacks against U.S.  
 personnel in Gaza and continued erosion  
 of the Israeli economy translate into a  
 need to increase our support, more than  
 ever, for our beloved Israel. Recent  
 statements by the Malaysian PM

**Mahathir Mohammad** at the opening of

the Organization of Islamic Conference  
 provide ample proof that we are a  
 constant target in a world increasingly  
 fuelled by anti-Semitism and anti-  
 Israelism and, despite condemnation of  
 these remarks by Canadian and U.S.  
 officials, this vicious anti-Semitic attack  
 underscores the fact that we have few  
 friends. Our donations to the UJA  
 campaign are an important response to  
 these hateful statements, as our donations  
 not only support Israel, they provide  
 necessary funds for Jewish continuity at  
 home – helping to keep us informed and  
 involved. I am pleased to report that on  
 November 9th more than 500 Canadian  
 Jews, including a contingent from the  
 Atlantic Region, will be traveling to Israel  
 on a UJA mission, many of whom will  
 remain after the mission to attend the  
 General Assembly of Jewish Federations  
 being held this year in Jerusalem. We will  
 go to Israel at a time of need, to see the  
 fruits of our donations and to congregate  
 with thousands of Jews in support of our  
 beleaguered Israel, as it is not only  
 important to support Israel monetarily, it  
 is equally important to show our support

by going to

Israel and

providing

solidarity in person.

On the local front, by the time you  
 read this article, the first Jewish Film  
 Festival will have occurred in Halifax. I  
 thank the committee for their diligent  
 work in putting together this wonderful  
 event and trust that everyone who  
 attended enjoyed the films. Hopefully this  
 worthwhile program will become an  
 annual event, with potential of expansion  
 to other communities in the region.

Our campus program is in full swing,  
 led by JSA President **Joanna Grossman**  
 and her executive. The bayit is a welcome  
 addition to our community and an official  
 opening is planned for the near future.  
 Our youth program under the direction of  
**Mike Anthony** is also in motion, with  
 many events being planned for the school  
 year.

Your AJC is presently undergoing a  
 strategic review with the assistance of  
 UIAFC's **Perry Romberg**. We are  
 addressing the needs and desires of our  
 constituent communities with a view to  
 providing all that we can within our  
 means. While we cannot be all things to  
 all people, we must be diligent in  
 providing required services to all of our  
 communities as best we can. Our  
 resources are few and our needs many. I  
 am hopeful this review will not only  
 provide food for thought but will lead to  
 tangible results. The AJC Board of  
 Directors is meeting on the weekend of  
 November 23rd to review the report and  
 its recommendations.

On a national level change is  
 occurring as well. With the need to better  
 represent Canadian Jewry at a time when  
 anti-Israel and anti-Semitism is on the  
 rise, a decision was made by our national  
 funding body, United Israel Appeal  
 Federations Canada (UIAFC), to  
 restructure current methods of advocacy  
 delivery on Jewish and Israel issues.  
 Following an endorsement of a report to

*continued on page 3*



## We Must Nourish Knowledge About our Ancestors

by Jon Goldberg

*Editor's Note: Uri Rozensweig, former Director of AJC and of Camp Kadimah contacted me from Edmonton in September. It was through his inspiration and urging that I write this article.*

With another successful season of Camp Kadimah over, its sixtieth, I was moved to look again through the remarkable book called, Camp Kadimah The First Fifty Years 1943 – 1993, published to mark the camp's 50th anniversary.

As I turned the pages looking at familiar faces and reading familiar names, I felt a deep sense of pride in the accomplishments of earlier generations, of those who had the wisdom and foresight to create and build this major institution that still serves the Atlantic Jewish community and many far beyond our borders.

But as I reminisced over the past, I felt sad that a similar historical record did not exist in Halifax or most of our Atlantic Jewish communities, from St. John's to Yarmouth, of men and women who had not only built their respective Jewish communities, their synagogues, their congregations and Jewish organizations, but who also played important roles in the business and professional life of their respective broader communities.

These early generations of Jews who came to Atlantic Canada, were mostly Eastern Europeans escaping the rising tide of pogroms and anti-Semitism. They arrived with little more than faith in God and a hope for the future to sustain them. Life was a struggle for these newcomers, the language and customs strange, and long hours of hard work to sustain them. But even under these most difficult conditions, these early Jewish pioneers in Atlantic Canada did not abandon their religious beliefs and traditions. And as their Jewish communities grew, they built and established organized Jewish life.

In our communal life, the past grows dimmer and more obscure with each passing generation. Each day we are deprived of a bit of our collective memory as our elders pass

away or we lose their children from our communities when they move to another city or country. Our past lies buried in boxes in basements, filled with old photographs and printed matter of all description which depict important aspects of the lives of our ancestors. But all this material and others just remain pieces of paper until we breathe life into people and places and times long gone.

Many Jewish communities in Canada and the U.S. have established historical and archival societies to gather, catalogue, preserve and record their history and their cultural and religious heritage. Isn't it time that we in the Atlantic Provinces undertook, in an organized way, to do the same?

This work will not be easy. But we have learned from others engaged in this process that searching out our past is an exciting voyage of discovery. As in other successful communal projects, volunteer leadership of the highest caliber is essential. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer leader and forming an Historical and Archival Committee in your community, please contact me at 902-422-2491 or email [jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca). If sufficient interest is shown in such a project we can move forward with it.

We Jews have long followed the imperatives laid down for us in our sacred writings, "and you shall tell it to your children." Everyone has a life story to show and tell. This is not only a project for the rich and famous. Shouldn't we nourish knowledge about many of our ancestors, men and women, and bring them from the dark silence of the past to renewed life in the light of remembrance? While the undertaking is about our past, it's intended for the future, for the sake of our children, grand children and generations yet unborn.

### *President's Message continued from page 1*

UIAFC by outside consultants at its June Board of Directors meeting, a resolution was passed on September 30th which will lead to the restructuring of the advocacy services supported by UIAFC. These services are currently provided by the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Canada Israel Committee (CIC) and the committee for National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL). The new organization, under the name of Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CCIIA), is a work in

progress and discussions on the new structure and role of current advocacy organizations are ongoing. Details of the new structure will be unfolded by year's end, following the UIAFC Board of Directors meeting in December.

So much for brevity!  
Shalom  
Mark



# Remembrance & Renewal

by Jon Goldberg

The Atlantic Jewish Council is pleased to announce an exciting Mission to beautiful ports of Northern Europe and the Baltic.

Join with your friends and family on the beautiful SS Constellation for a 14-day return to our roots and heritage. Visit Jewish historical sites in Latvia, Russia, Estonia, and Poland. Meet with members of the Jewish communities and also see the wonderful sights, artworks, and museums in such places as Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen and Oslo.

We anticipate Boris Tsinman, now a resident of Halifax will be with us as he returns to his home in Riga, Latvia for the first time in over 20 years.

There will be cultural and artistic displays and discussions while at sea. The ship leaves Stockholm, Sweden on July 3, 2004. The cruise ends in Dover, England on July 17. The price is \$3995 per person Canadian including taxes (cruise only). Additional benefits available to all participants on the Mission.

## Preliminary Itinerary

### Depart from:

Stockholm, Sweden  
Riga, Latvia  
Helsinki, Finland  
St. Petersburg, Russia  
Tallin, Estonia  
At Sea  
Gdansk, Poland (Gdynia)  
Rostock, Germany (Berlin)  
Copenhagen, Denmark  
Oslo, Norway  
At Sea

### Return to:

Dover, England (London)



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### How do I sign up?

You can register online through our web site [www.canadian-hadassah-wizo.org](http://www.canadian-hadassah-wizo.org)

### What will I learn?

The program will cover:

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### For more information contact:

Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada  
1310 Greene Avenue, Suite 900, Montreal, Quebec, H3Z 2B8  
Tel: (514) 937-9431 • Fax: (514) 933-6483  
e-mail: [natoff@canadian-hadassah-wizo.org](mailto:natoff@canadian-hadassah-wizo.org)



## The Youth Corner

by Mike Anthony, Youth Programmer

Well, well, well.... here we are once again!! Welcome to The Youth Corner! It's nice to have you!

I wanted to start by saying that Camp Kadimah 2003 was amazing! The spirit and chevrah were unlike anything I've ever been a part of!

The 2003-2004 school year started off with a bang! On September 7, 2003, we went on our annual apple picking trip in the Annapolis Valley for Rosh Hashanah. We were pleased to have Rabbi David Ellis join us on the trip. He led sessions for our youth on some traditions for Rosh Hashanah.

On September 14, 2003, the Atlantic Jewish Council hosted our Annual Halifax Community Picnic. It was great to see the massive turnout of young and old to the Picnic. I hope you all had a great time!

In October, I had an amazing trip to New Brunswick to visit Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton. It was great to meet all the young men and women from these communities....there are going to be great things coming out of New Brunswick in the near future. I'm very proud to be a part of it, and I hope you all are too...stay tuned!

There are TONNES of programs coming your way in the next few months. Look out for the flyers or e-mails and check the AJC youth website at [www.theajc.ns.ca](http://www.theajc.ns.ca) for all information.

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

Sincerely,  
Mike Anthony



*Greetings*

to the Atlantic Jewish Community  
from

**Canadian Jewish War Veterans**  
Atlantic Post #2

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(902) 422-7491

# The Reunion

by Carrie-Ann Smith

A woman stands in the foyer of Pier 21 National Historic Site. She is wearing a navy blue, slightly military style jacket and studying everyone as they walk through the doors. He said that he would be wearing a blue shirt. How is it that on this, an uncommonly busy day, every man who enters is wearing some variety of blue shirt. She glances at the time, watches and waits.

A man drives down Terminal Road towards Pier 21. He is wearing a blue shirt; next to him his wife holds a bouquet of flowers. He is nervous and excited. He is coming home in a sense and he cannot stop thinking about what brought him to Pier 21 the first time, all that had happened before and all that has happened since.

When **Marianne Ferguson** (nee Echt) was a young Jewish girl in 1939, her family had the remarkable good fortune of escaping from the Free State of Danzig (now Gdansk, Poland) before the Holocaust. As both a pharmacist and a hobby farmer her father was uniquely qualified to become one of the mere five thousand Jews given permission to enter Canada during the Hitler years.

Once her family was living peacefully in the Nova Scotian countryside a sixteen-year-old Marianne decided to record her memories of growing up in Broesen and of her family's escape. Her account details the transformation that occurred in that summer resort town where she spent an idyllic childhood.

The Echts were leading citizens in the community of 4,000. There was one church in the town and though the Echts, as Jews, were not members they were invited to all special services and parties that their Christian neighbours held. Her parents did charity work. They had a beautiful home and garden that were always filled with friends and relatives. In the summer they had frequent guests who came to enjoy the beach, park and good company in the pretty seaside town.

All of this changed when **Hitler** became Chancellor of Germany in 1933. Jews, Marianne writes, were not even allowed to visit the beach or walk in the park. She notes that although ninety percent of the people of Broesen were gentiles, most were anti-Nazi and would have resisted if any attempt had been made to hurt her family; but the good people of Broesen would not be exempt from the madness engulfing the world outside their little town.

There were Nazis in the town but they would not risk the wrath of their neighbours, so the government sent in Nazis from other towns. Marianne writes, "These men came at night, broke the doors and windows of some of the people's houses, and brought the head of the family to a place which was unknown to all other people. The next day, the family of such persons would get a little gift. This gift consisted of a dainty, little parcel, mostly a box, wrapped in tissue paper and tied with a brightly colored ribbon. When it was opened, one found in the box the remains or ashes of the person of the family which had disappeared the night before. Also a little card was enclosed, a card of sympathy."

## From the files of Jewish Historical Society - Pier 21



Mr. Noah Hainish and Mrs. Meta Echt are shown standing in the immigrant processing centre at Pier 21 (circa 1948) in Halifax, NS. As Halifax volunteers for JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Society), they were assisting Jewish refugee immigrants who had newly arrived from Europe by way of transatlantic liner. This photograph is present on a panel about Pier 21. It is dedicated to the immigrants who passed through Pier 21 and to the immigration authorities and to the many volunteers who assisted their entrance to a new life in Canada. Photo credit: Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives (Montreal).

Marianne recalls a shocking incident in which the minister of the local parish found on his doorstep two halves of a cat on a gallows, accompanied by a note which said, "Today the cat, tomorrow you." The same minister found his chicken-house robbed with a note reading, "God is everywhere, but not in the minister's chicken-house" posted on the wall.

Her father knew that it was time to get out. There were strip-searches, threats and questions, but they were finally able to leave. After tearful goodbyes with relatives the time came for the Echt family to leave for Canada. For Marianne and her sisters this departure was both cause for optimism and heartbreak. Marianne writes, "Everyone asked us to take them with us, but that was impossible."

At the same time in the town of Sandomierz, one of the oldest Jewish communities in Poland, eight-year old **Nathan Wasser** was sitting at his grandfather's feet. There were no happy bedtime stories for the little boy; instead his grandfather was teaching him lessons that he feared the boy would need. It was going to get worse for the Jews before it got better and he would not always be there. "Sleep with one eye open", his grandfather warned, "Be aware of everything that is going on around you, analyze, comprehend, find solutions." Over and over his grandfather reinforced, "analyze, comprehend, find solutions" and taught Nathan that he had to be able to do all of that in a split second. To this day Nathan Wasser remembers the exact words of the warnings, and credits his grandfather with saving his life when so many around him fell.

The Wasser family survived three ghetto liquidations and two slave labour camps before being sent to Auschwitz and what they thought was certain death. They had already been separated from two of their sons and feared for the two children that they had with them. Everyday brought new challenges to their survival. Upon arriving in Auschwitz the Wassers were miraculously reunited with their son **Kopel** who gave them instructions on how to survive in the camp. In Auschwitz prisoners declared 'unable to work' were sent to Birkenau to be killed in the gas chambers; healthy workers would be sent from Auschwitz to the slave labour camps. At inspection time Nathan, now thirteen-years-old, threw back his shoulders, stuck out his

chest and willed himself to look bigger. It worked and he, his father and uncle all made the forced march to Glavitz #1.

Nathan's brother, **Leibchu Wasser** had found a way to stay behind in Poland and hide in the underground. Nathan's mother and sister, **Helen**, were sent to a different camp and Nathan lost touch with them. It would be a long time before he would know that for his mother there would be no liberation, no reunion, no ship on the North Atlantic.

In April of 1945 Nathan's sister and mother were traveling aboard a train that was bombed. The Wasser women survived, crawled out of the wreck and walked to a neighboring farm. The next morning Nathan's sister and two other survivors went into town hoping the Russians would give them passes allowing them to go home. While they were in the town the German's discovered the hiding place where the others had stayed behind and threw grenades into the farmhouse killing everyone.

Mrs. Wasser would travel to Canada only in the hearts and minds of the survivors.

The Echts settled in Nova Scotia in late 1939 and bought a farm. Marianne and her sisters went to school, learned the language quickly and made friends. The family rejoiced in their freedom and new community but were always aware of those they had left behind. They did everything they could to gain permission to bring their relatives to Canada, but no promise of sponsorship or employment would soften the uncompromising stance of the Canadian government. In 1946 word reached the Echt family that there was no family left in Europe to try and save. The last letter they received was telling. It explained that there were no more ships leaving – it had been written hastily in a park in Hamburg where their aunts, uncles and cousins were gathered just before they were picked up by the Gestapo and taken to Auschwitz where they perished.

It was too late to help them, but there was still good that could be done. The Echt family had been welcomed to Canada at Pier 21 by **Sadie Fineberg** of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society. Sadie had become a close friend of the family so when she was appointed as a representative of the Mayor of Halifax **Meta Echt** assumed her role and became the representative of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society. Marianne's younger sisters were still in school but she would be her mother's constant companion at Pier 21.

It was early September of 1944 months before Nathan's arrival in the labour camp when American bombers destroyed large parts of the 'Oberschlesische Hydrierwerke AG' in Blechhammer and the oil refinery in nearby Trzebinia. It had to be a good omen. The end of the war had to be near.

The Wassers worked and survived in Glavitz. In early January 1945 they were forced to make another death march, this time to Blechhammer. With only a little bit of bread the prisoners had to walk for days; many died of exhaustion and hunger or were shot by SS officers but still the Wassers survived. By the time the Wassers reached Blechhammer Labour Camp they could barely stand.

The day after their arrival a Russian bombardment ensued with many bombs falling on the camp. Luckily a bomb pierced one of the camp's retaining walls and Nathan and his father were able to escape. They fled to the forest and with the help of the Russian Army, survived the final days of the war.

At this stage in his young life Nathan wanted only to find the rest of his family, to go back to school and to spend his life in the Poland that he loved, the Poland of his boyhood, his grandfather's Poland.

When Nathan and his father returned to Sandomierz they did not find Leibchu waiting for them as they had expected. Betrayed by his Polish school friends from the underground, Leibchu had been murdered by those that he trusted the most. As devastating as the loss of his beloved brother was, more sadness was to come and there would be an inconceivably evil event that would compel his departure across the sea.

By 1947 when Canada began admitting Jewish war orphans and large numbers of displaced persons, Meta Echt and her daughter worked long hours in the immigration shed. Marianne, now a young woman, had married **Lawrence Ferguson, Sadie Fineberg's** nephew.

In time one hundred thousand refugees would come to Canada; many of them would remember the volunteers who aided and reassured them – Sadie with the bread and kleenex that she brought from her husband's dry goods store, Meta and Marianne with their smiles and kindness. For Marianne every face she saw could have been one of her relatives and she lavished all of the love that she had for them on the lucky strangers who survived and made it to Canada.

In 1945 good fortune finally called on Nathan and his father, Helen Wasser found them and the reunited trio found Kopel who had just been released from an American military hospital. Helen told her father and brothers what had happened after the train was bombed. They grieved together and then the little family set out to look for other relatives and friends.

When originally interviewed, Nathan Wasser simply said, "When we reached Kielce they had a party for those of us who returned." It was almost a month before he telephoned to explain what he had meant. For months the Wassers had observed the post-war horrors occurring in Poland as Jewish survivors of the Holocaust attempted to reclaim their homes. Murder was common and survivors frequently realized they were not wanted in their birthplaces and that if they did not leave willingly they would be forced out.

The Wassers visited Kielce in 1945. They found no relations but felt the tension in the air, witnessed the abuse of fellow survivors and knew that they would not be safe there.

Anti-Semitism was fierce in the Polish town and it crystallized on July 4, 1946. A father in Kielce had told his young son to go to the next town so that he could claim the boy had been kidnapped and blame the repatriated Jews. In response to a fabricated story the community became enraged and started killing Jews. People of all ages participated in burning the synagogue and Jewish-owned homes. The police lured Jews out of their homes so that their neighbours could kill them. By three o'clock in the morning over forty people had been killed in the pogrom, including a Jewish mother and baby who were carried out of their house and murdered in the street. Seventy people were injured and countless others like Nathan Wasser would never be the same after learning of the incident.

This was no longer their Poland, if it ever had been. It was decided that Munich would be the first stop and then they would leave Europe for good. Nathan began attending school in



Munich and quickly made up for the six years he had missed. Nathan went to the ORT centre for education and training and learned an electrical trade paving the way for his later success in Canada.

While Nathan studied, his father,

with the assistance of a friend in the Canadian Jewish Congress, and relatives in Canada, organized their emigration. Although Nathan admits his father didn't know anything about the trade, he agreed to go to Montreal to be a furrier. Canada needed furriers, and like many refugees at the time, his father agreed to do whatever it took to get his children to Canada.

When Nathan Wasser finally arrived at Pier 21 he was seventeen years old, undernourished and frail-looking. He had been so busy with his studies and his preparation for Canada that he hadn't fully absorbed what he had been through, what he had lost and who he had become. It finally began to swirl in his mind when two women helped him up onto a counter at Pier 21, began feeding him candy, and told him that now, in Canada, everything was going to be all right.

There had been a problem with the currency he had procured on the black market in Germany before departure so one of the women gave him twenty dollars. He could not accept such generosity, how would he ever pay it back? Her words, "We trust you, we have faith in you, you are going to be a good Canadian citizen", hit him like a ton of bricks. Maybe it was their kindness, maybe there was something in the hug that the young woman had given him that reminded him of his mother. Whatever it was Nathan felt walls inside of him begin to crumble as Meta and Marianne Echt comforted him. Their time together was brief but he never forgot it.

The Wassers boarded the train and Nathan claimed a window seat. Beside the tracks the two women stood blowing him kisses and waving goodbye. As the city and then the countryside passed his window Nathan put his forehead against the cool glass. The words began repeating themselves over and over in his mind, "We trust you, we have faith in you, you are going to be a good Canadian citizen." His voice cracks even now as he repeats them like a mantra. In those moments one life ended and another began; with a few kind words and a gesture of faith, Meta and Marianne had unknowingly given a young man the courage to look both backwards and ahead.

Now here he was, following the Halifax road that runs parallel to where the train tracks used to be. With his wife of forty-eight years at his side, he was going to repay a debt.

Months before Nathan had begun planning the trip to Halifax. Friends had given him the contact information of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. It would be Mr. Goldberg that would hear Nathan's story and know by his descriptions that it was Meta and Marianne he sought. Meta Echt had since passed away but Marianne was not only still in Halifax but still volunteering at Pier 21, now in

its most recent incarnation as a National Historic Site – walking the same halls where she and her mother had welcomed and comforted so many people like Nathan Wasser.

The foyer grows more crowded, women push strollers, children run up and down as men in shirts of every possible shade of blue file by. Then she sees him; he wears a blue shirt and holds a bouquet; there can be no mistaking him. They smile, walk towards each other, embrace and the crowded foyer seems to go silent.

Nathan presents Marianne with two cheques for the Atlantic Jewish Council; one is made out for "10 times double Chai" which represents life to the Jewish people and one for the original twenty dollars given to him by Meta Echt. Nathan Wasser is an elegant gray haired gentleman, a successful businessman, a family man, a good Canadian citizen. His debt, had there ever really been one, is repaid.

Note: After their reunion Nathan and Shirley Wasser accompanied Marianne into **Rudolph Peter Bratty** Exhibition Hall. Their tour guide, one of Pier 21's summer students, was a pretty sixteen-year-old girl named **Becky**. Becky is Marianne's granddaughter working at her first job. Marianne and Lawrence have three children and four grandchildren. Nathan and Shirley have three children and eight grandchildren. All are a living tribute to those who came before, the relatives huddled in the park, the mother and brother, the wise grandfather.





# Camp Kadimah is Atlantic Jewry's Best Friend – a Reminiscence of Community Life.

by Pamela Medjuck Stein

**A** friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and sings it back to you when you forget how it goes."

Camp Kadimah in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia is a magnet for Jewish kids across Canada, the U.S. and Israel. While the number of Jewish children in the Atlantic Provinces dwindles, Kadimah magically draws in a full camper population from near and far. It offers everything anyone could in a Jewish summer camp and simultaneously possesses all the traits of a best friend nurturing Atlantic Jewish life.

The secret of the legendary charisma at work at Camp Kadimah is the same elusive ingredient that has kept Jews alive and together throughout history. As a mother with children there right now I'm excited for the fun they'll have and the friends they'll make. As someone with beloved relatives and friends in Atlantic Canada, I am grateful they have Camp Kadimah as a best friend.

Remember here, there are no Jewish day schools in Atlantic Canada. Each Atlantic camper lives from September through June as a member of a sparse minority in Saint John, Glace Bay, Cornerbrook, Bathurst or even the biggest city, Halifax. Jewish life hinges on community and Camp Kadimah gives Atlantic Jewish parents one good shot annually. It's the race against assimilation.

Growing up in the Maritimes was a blessing. Blessings are often mixed. The small Jewish community was close and active with friendly neighbours and peaceful streets. The flip-side is that small towns lose their young and the Atlantic Jewish community has certainly lost many, including me. Solid Jewish values send Maritime teenagers to universities west of the St. Laurence River and across the ocean in search of higher education and a Jewish social life. The conundrum remains 'how do I make a Jewish family for myself and still get to live in the Maritimes?' It's not easy.

I lay the laurels for the Atlantic Jewish community's strength and pride directly on the sun-tanned brow of Camp Kadimah. Almost every Jew born east of Montreal since 1943 has slept in its cabins, danced on its pavilion and sung in its dining hall. It's an unbelievable achievement. No one was ever turned away for lack of funds.

Every Jewish child received the same message at camp, "You are going to have more fun here than anywhere else in your life and you're going to be happy that you're a Jewish kid! You're going to be proud to be part of this very generation right here in the Maritimes and you're going to build and protect the State of Israel!" When **Bruce Elman** was camp director he actually said it and I quote, "You're going to do it! You're going to love it! And you're going to do it again!" Whatever it was, we did it, we loved it and we did it again and again and again.

A natural Atlantic pattern emerged. You started camp at the age of 8, knowing nothing about camp, here read in the word "life". Each summer you learn more about camp (read "life")

and have more and more exciting and interesting times. Soon you are hooked on camp and hooked on your friends throughout the Atlantic Provinces. You are hooked on your own community!

Camp becomes a central feature in your young life. At camp, free of the busyness of school, Hebrew school, after-school lessons etc, you see life as a whole. You learn to socialize through the intimacy of cabin living. You clean both the cabin and the camp. You cheer your peers. You console your peers. You watch other kids struggle where you don't and they watch you. You anticipate the rhythmic shift in camp routine which is Shabbat and you dance your cares away at the social on Saturday night. In six week batches you learn "community". The lifestyle is sound. But healthy lifestyle is just the outer shell of Camp Kadimah. The heart and soul of Kadimah was and is vibrant Jewish identity.

Generations of Kadimah counselors created a place where Jewish education was quick and deep. Maritime teens and adults comprised the staff and infused each summer with creative thematic programmes full of fun, tradition and the Zionist values of Canadian Young Judaea. They had to and through the years the Atlantic community built for itself a self-perpetuating centre of Jewish education based on fun and pride and God and Israel.

The goal of each Jewish community in all 4 Atlantic Provinces was and is to get all its kids to camp. Kadimah was the only real kick at the can for positive Jewish association. Camp just had to be great! Sports had to be exciting and gratifying to all. Music had to be joyous and full of Yiddishkeit! Shabbat routine, Shabbat services and Kashrut had to be unassailable! The kids had to be immersed in a feeling of warm togetherness and it had to be in the context of Israel and Jewish tradition. I'll bet some people didn't even realize what was going on. But boy, did it work!

The Maccabiah games were always themed to the development of the State of Israel. Team songs, cheers, plays and banners all interpreted the theme of the year. One year the Maccabiah theme was the agricultural development of Israel and White Team became the "Redeemers" of the Negev. Every cheer chimed about strength to clear swamps and to bring water. Another year the theme was human rights and Yellow Team became "The Light unto Nations" with songs about anti-discrimination and universal love at the heart of the Zionist dream.

The teams competed in sports of every kind, but original dramatic presentations garnered huge points and were crucial to winning the overall games. **Brian Ross** and **Frances Alexander** shone one year using the fat tug-of-war rope as an umbilical cord to drag a symbolic Jew (Brian or Francis?) around the sports field from skit to skit, each skit representing a different milestone in Jewish history. All 40 kids on the team were in the play. The rest of camp formed the roving audience. The dusty battered symbolic fetus finally reached self-fulfillment with birth as the State of Israel. Everyone cheered!

Older kids rewrote the lyrics to current radio hits and we all marched and sang about the Haganah, the Aliyot, the redemption of the Negev, the Six Day War, and on and on. Each year aspiring balladeers tried to match the poetic standards set by **Martha Gus** in meaningful Maccabiah songs, but no one really could. Neither could anyone parallel the musicality and ruach generating talents of **Evy Dubinsky**. Lore is big out east and it serves Kadimah well. Everyone still tries to make each summer better and more memorable than any summer in the lore before.

From the 1950's onwards, 16 year olds would travel to Camp Biluim for Young Judean leadership training, and then to Biluim Israel the following summer to see Israel for themselves. Most returned to Kadimah as staff for a few summers to give back what they could and to finally be on Shmira! This camping cycle carried and nurtured the lifeblood of Jewish Canada!

Now the flip-side of the mixed blessing shows up. When I was born in 1957 there were 25 other Jewish babies born in Halifax alone and we traveled the Kadimah cycle together. My sister's son in Halifax is now one of maybe only two or three 5 year old boys in town. The bandwagon of friends traveling the cycle together just can't hold when numbers are so low. Fortunately and beautifully good old Camp Kadimah is singing back the song in the Atlantic Jewish heart, and singing it loud and clear.

At first the influx of non-Maritimers was a worry. 'Alumni kids were one thing, but people from beyond the Pale? Wow!' 'Would the Maritime character be diluted?' 'Isn't it the people who make camp so great? Haven't they always been Maritimers?' The true character of camp was becoming blurred in protectiveness and routine.

Steadily the soul of Camp Kadimah shone through and it sang back the song its friend temporarily forgot. Alumni and staff realized that Jewish kids are Jewish kids. A full camp is what's important. A full camp is the minyan required to get with the programme and the programme is camp's strength, not campers' postal codes.

In 2003, 80% of the campers who people the programme which nourishes Atlantic Canada "come from away". It's fabulous. The list of maxims is endless;

- 'Why wait for spring, do it now.' We can't wait for a population shift to fill Kadimah cabins. Atlantic kids need camp now!
- 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder'. Big city kids want a down-to-earth Jewish camp experience. Small town kids want new friends.
- 'You can't tell a book by its cover'. Small town kids need the Jewish immersion. Big city kids need immersion in the fresh and simple.
- 'To survive we must stick together'. Big city kids learn there's a lot of fun outside the mainstream. Small town kids learn outsiders are fine.
- 'You gotta be a Maritimer to get who we are'. Small town kids and big city kids realize values can transcend locale.
- 'You can take a camper out of Kadimah, but you can't take Kadimah out of the camper.' Kadimah alumni the world over send their children and their friends' children to Nova Scotia year in year out.

Camp Kadimah is singing back to the shrinking Atlantic Jewish community. The song is bright and fresh just as it always

was. The Atlantic Jewish community needs that song dearly and thanks to its years of friendship with camp, the song is there for everyone to enjoy!

Those early campers in the 1940's and their parents possessed strong commitment to each other and to their Jewish identities. Their commitment has crystallized into a phenomenon of its own. Kadimah grabs onto each camper each summer with a zest that is truly hard to come by these days. That zest alone now attracts all the campers needed to fuel the annual Atlantic shot of Jewish joy and solidarity. Who would have thought that a summer camp could be the lynchpin for the continuity of the Atlantic Jewish community?

In my day we had pen pals from Yarmouth to St. John's. Today Atlantic kids connect all year long by email with camp friends from across central Canada, the U.S. and Israel. Who would have thought that 250 big city kids would choose Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia for 6 weeks of fun, renewal and Maritime Jewish 'folksiness'?

In my day we knew we were considered to live in the back of beyond. Today 250 campers come east to Kadimah and students from central Canada are now filling the ranks of Dalhousie Jewish student events. Many come to study thanks to a Maritime affinity nurtured at Kadimah. It bespeaks of the changeable and adaptable Jewish experience. It bespeaks of the global village. Maybe the Atlantic Jewish population will "rise again" to quote Evy's brother **Leon**. Maybe Camp Kadimah does have the secret ingredient, an influence far beyond what the eye can see. Maybe I'm waxing into overkill. Home is where the heart is.

Camp Kadimah was 60 years old this summer. More power to it! Kol hakavod! ...and hello to fellow campers out there somewhere!

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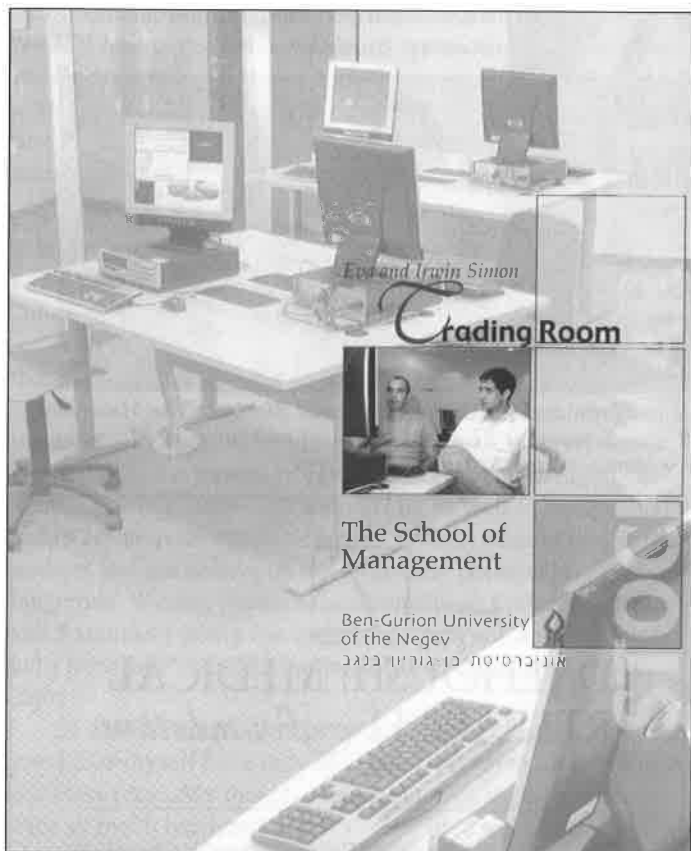
**eldercareatl@hfx.eastlink.ca**

*(Only those selected for an interview will be contacted)*

# New Online Trading Room at BGU

## From The Jerusalem Post, Wed. 5.6.03

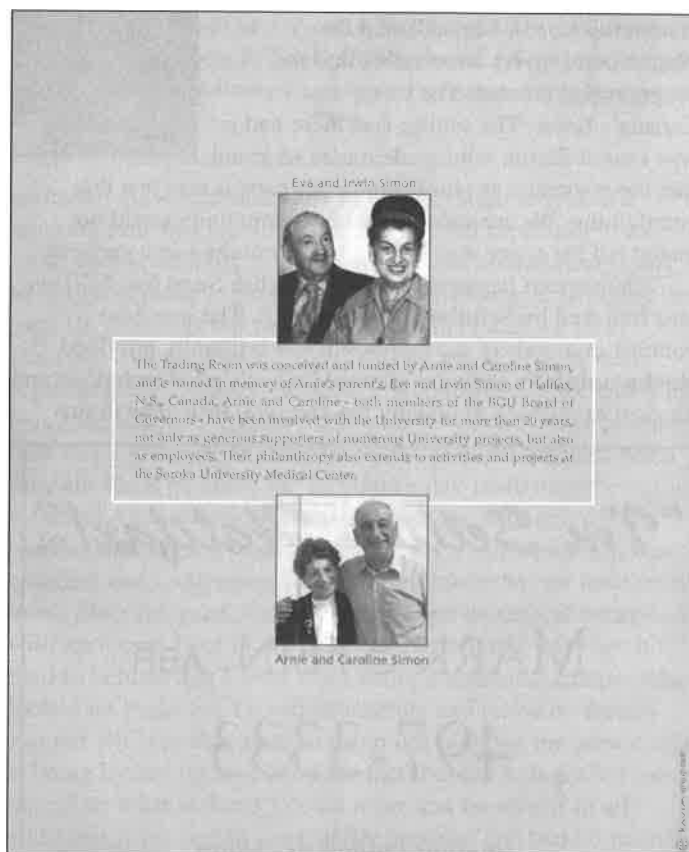
**B**en-Gurion University of the Negev inaugurated its new Trading Room this week during the Board of Governors meetings, June 1-4, 2003. The Trading Room, established in the name of the late **Eva** and **Irwin Simon** of Canada, is a joint venture between the university's School of Management and Bank Hapoalim. The new facility will allow students in the school's Finance Track to conduct online securities trading on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) with a total of \$300,000 as their initial investment portfolio.



## The Trading Room

The Eva and Irwin Simon Trading Room at the School of Management at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was established in May 2003. Its mission is to expose students of finance to the securities markets, providing them with sound academic training and supervised hands-on experience.

**The Trading Room is an on-line working facility located in the School of Management building, from which real transactions can be completed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE).**



*Ruth Hoffman and Sandra Hoffman attending the Dedication of The Trading Room in memory of Eva and Irwin Simon, July 1, 2003.*

## Teaching

The Trading Room serves the entire School of Management. Finance students – at both the bachelors and masters levels – take part of their course load in the Trading Room, where they are taught the principles of investment while being exposed to the operation and implementation of securities trading.

# Massada News

by Ralph Garson, President

On Sunday, September 21st, Massada members and the Northwood Players were invited to an absolutely awesome concert performed by Halifax's own **Daniel Zlatin**, son of **Jean Zlatin**. What a treat!!!

It all came about in a matter of days. Daniel was available and the magic of Shirley Burnstein's imagination went to work to create an evening of wonderful musical excellence for the hundred who were privileged to attend. In just four days, she found the hall (the Music Room on Lady Hammond Road), Massada and the Northwood Players were called and the program was created. The piano was Canada's finest. The setting was there and so was Daniel Zlatin, who made music so grand that the resonance is still echoing our ears. It was just that entertaining. We are sorry the whole community could not attend but the space was limited to the hundred-seat capacity.

The concert began with **Bach** "English Suite No. 3." This was followed by **Schubert's** Sonata in B. The immense contrast in moods of the composer was brilliantly provided. **Rachmaninoff's** Preludes showed Daniel's good technique and musical excellence in playing the complex structures in this



lyrical and melodious piece. He concluded with the poetic and religious harmonies of **Liszt's** "Funerailles".

Although Daniel's day job continues as a Manager of software development at Nortel Networks in Ottawa, by night he continues with music.

Thank you, Daniel for a program of dynamic and vigorous music. It was fully enjoyed by everyone there. Please let us know when you can return for an encore evening. Bravo!!



Jean Zlatin and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Zlatin at The Music Room, September 21, 2003. Concert presented by Massada for members and Northwood Players.

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# My Camp Hatikvah Experience

by Jenny Farbstein

*Editor's Note: Jenny was the recipient of a Miasnik-Rein Scholarship which enabled her to attend Camp Hatikvah in British Columbia.*

**Dear readers,**

*I am Jenny Farbstein, a fifteen year old who went to Camp Hatikvah as a SIT this summer. I love summer, British Columbia, and other typical things such as sports. I am competitively involved in trampoline and won provincial championships for my division this year. I am also a gymnastics coach and love the job! In my free time I listen to music (mostly rock), play guitar and hang out with my fiends. I love going to the movies or just walking around at night. Cross country running, snow and waterskiing as well as reading and design are more of my favorite past times. I usually live in the moment and am always up for something potentially dangerous. Writing poems is also something I often do. The past 5 summers of my life have been spent at Camp Hatikvah and I hope you will see how much I love camp in my essay. I thank the Atlantic Jewish Foundation Trustees for helping to make this summer camp experience possible. Enjoy!*

I am Jenny Farbstein, a fifteen year old who went to Camp Hatikvah as a SIT this summer. I love summer, British Columbia, and other typical things such as sports. I am competitively involved in trampoline and won provincial championships for my division this year. I am also a gymnastics coach and love the job! In my free time I listen to music (mostly rock), play guitar and hang out with my fiends. I love going to the movies or just walking around at night. Cross country running, snow and waterskiing as well as reading and design are more of my favorite past times. I usually live in the moment and am always up for something potentially dangerous. Writing poems is also something I often do. The past 5 summers of my life have been spent at Camp Hatikvah and I hope you will see how much I love camp in my essay. Enjoy!

So another amazing summer at Camp Hatikvah ended, and now I find myself back in Nova Scotia reflecting on how much of a blast I had. My thoughts and memories are all a mess since so much happened and it's really hard to keep track of why exactly I had such a good time. Soon after my return from camp, while suffering a bit of jetlag and a lot of campsickness (like "homesickness" except the last place you want to be is home) my friends asked me for a detailed explanation of why I had the time of my life being a S.I.T. at Camp Hatikvah. I quickly found myself mentally frozen and with no good answer on my mind. You see Camp Hatikvah is the perfect place to be and I couldn't describe it since the atmosphere and feeling of Camp Hatikvah is irreplaceable and indescribable.

I was so lucky to be chosen for the program since I got to meet unbelievable people who all helped to shape my summer and probably don't even realize how much impact they had on me. The thing I love about camp is that it feels like a right of passage and the whole idea of living in the middle of nowhere, eating things that barely resemble food (the stuff kitchen personnel cook up) and following the same daily routine with few variations feels like the most normal thing in the world. I have learned so much from all the people in my unit and

perfected my social skills just in time for high school. It's amazing how fast the S.I.T.s of 2k3 bonded especially since a lot of us had clashing personalities and we all had many gaps to bridge in order to survive camp and stay happy. Bridging the gaps (B.T.G.) was our motto of the summer and we sure managed to live up to it. Things started out slow with many separate groups, but by the start of second session we ended up being the best and tightest S.I.T. year yet. You'd be surprised how fast a group of 45 campers and staff come together when they are stuck paddling for 10 hours a day in 40 degree weather! And to think, that many hours are hard enough for one day, but six is a whole different story. Our canoe trip was amazing and I will never forget all the jokes that we have from there. Over the years, Camp Hatikvah got better and better and with each year I got to see what each camp unit was like. It's hard to believe that I went from being a homesick camper who looked up to the S.I.T.s and counselors and relied on their support while getting used to camp life to being the person that is being looked up to. I liked the fact that the kids adored me no matter what and that I could relax and be myself in all situations. I learned to work under pressure and that no matter how big a task is it will get done if you try. The Banquet taught us that one. None of the S.I.T.s would have ever believed that our banquet would come together and look as good as it did. Countless hours of work were a good way to leave a sort of signature in the history of camp so that our S.I.T. year would be remembered because we all want to feel like we have affected the camp as much as it affected us. I have been thinking about this short essay for a while now and still find it hard to describe my summer even though I'm usually quite good at explaining things of that sort.

Camp Hatikvah is a combination of the best counselors, campers, activities and location possible. The fact that I will be spending my next summer at Camp Biluim instead of in the familiar summer heaven that Camp Hatikvah has become is still not sinking in. I miss everyone so much and sort of feel empty

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# My Bucket Runneth Over: A Plea for Peace

by Barbara Silburt

Recently, the topic under discussion around our family dinner table was the increasingly negative image of Muslims, particularly Arab Muslims, in the media. This unfortunate state isn't helped by the release of a new book, *The Trouble with Islam*, by **Irshad Manji**, which claims that the Muslim religion is anti-Semitic, anti-feminist, anti-homosexual, and racist. *Oi! What next?*

During the course of our lively dinner discussion, one of my children pronounced, "Mom, I don't see why you like Muslims so much when their own Bible encourages terrorism." *What?!!!!* The comment so shocked and disturbed me that I decided to offer this submission. Why? Because the image of the Muslim as a dark, sinister villain has just got to go. There is simply no room on this overly crowded, overly tense planet for such small-minded thinking.

According to the 2002 Canadian census, approximately 2% of Canadians, or roughly 600,000 people, are declared Muslims. In my personal experience, the vast majority are decent, productive, peace-loving, law-abiding citizens. They come from different countries, and different cultures. Most want to blend quietly into Canadian society and, especially in the wake of September 11, are anxious to stay far away from heated political issues.

They are people like **Leila**, originally from Iran, who cuts my children's hair. I feel at ease with Leila. With her long kerchief, and traditional, floor-length dress, she looks and sounds a lot more like me than do the other stylists with their spiky, bleached hair, and bare midriffs. Leila knows that we are Jewish. Nonetheless, she greets us warmly. As her sharp scissors click away, I never wonder if she secretly contemplates dark deeds.

When **Moe**, a friendly convenience-store owner, and former Syrian, slips my child a gratuitous lollipop, it doesn't occur to me to consider if it's poison. And when my son announces that he is going over to **Kazar's** house to work on a school project, I don't worry that he'll be taken hostage. Have I been taking unnecessary chances? I doubt it.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of assisting in an ESL class for new Canadians. Almost all of the twenty students were Muslim youths. They were clean-cut, attentive, and respectful.

As soon as they discovered I was Jewish, they plied me with questions: What is the name you give to Allah? What is written in the Jewish *Quran*?<sup>1</sup> Who is your most important prophet?

Based on the enthusiasm with which they fired off these and many other questions, it quickly became apparent that these keen youngsters spent considerably more time thinking about G-d and religion than do most North American born teens. Not one of them asked me how many bombs our side has, or when Palestinian refugees, forced from their homes, would be able to return.

Back to our family dinner discussion. What role *does* the media play in shaping our perceptions? More importantly, what responsibility do we, as individuals, have to educate ourselves, and to apply some common sense in understanding and responding to our world?

Two years ago, following the September 11 tragedy, someone of influence within my immediate sphere began making outrageous statements attacking the Muslim community. I acted quickly, working through appropriate channels, to shut him down. Nothing happened. I tried a different approach. Still nothing. Finally, in desperation, I met with him face to face. In true Barbara style, I goo-ed and gushed, subjecting him to one of my lengthy, impassioned speeches about how I, a housewife, mother and Jew, was personally offended by his remarks.

It worked. A public apology followed, and I got to feel that I had contributed something towards world peace.

A mere drop in the bucket? Maybe. But a drop, nonetheless.

Knowing of my idealistic tendencies, a Jewish friend commented, "Why do you stick your neck out like that? This isn't *your* fight." Not my fight? Indeed. World peace is *everyone's* fight.

When King **Hussein** of Jordan died four years ago, I was so moved by the dignity of the man that I wrote a letter of condolence to his wife, Queen **Noor**. Here was a man of tremendous integrity, vitality, courage and faith. A 1998 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, a staunch enemy of terrorism, and a devout Muslim, he is quoted as saying: "It is time that, together, we occupy a place beyond ourselves, our peoples, that is worthy

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## **Camp Hatikvah** *continued from page 13*

knowing that I will never be a Hatikvah camper again. Biluim should be the final step to prepare me for being a staff member at Camp. I have met so many great people this summer that I want to come back as staff and be a little like all of the great counselors at Camp. They all taught me so much and each of them was my inspiration. I have become a different person after Camp and I love it. I have so much energy and enthusiasm now. Also I am confident that if I can make banquets, plan programs and be someone who younger kids admire, then I can do almost anything high school throws my way. Camp Hatikvah and the S.I.T.s of 2k3 (what the SITS of 2003 are called) made my summer unbelievable and I can't wait until the summer of 2006

when I get a chance to help form an amazing learning experience for campers. I will make sure to enjoy every moment of camp and will ensure that others will do the same, since a wasted moment is one that you can't hold on to and remember. I'm happy to say that I left camp with hundreds of memories as well as many old and new friends that I wouldn't have met if I didn't enjoy myself to the fullest. It's no surprise I had the best summer of my life, anyone would have a blast if placed into the summer paradise known as Camp Hatikvah. Sadly it's over, my next Hatikvah summer will be in 2006 and I can't express how ready I am. If only time would fly faster in the city and slower at Camp – if only....

# News from "The Rock" – September 2003

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Another year begins for us all. Although cafes and Rosh Hashanah dinners are still not immune from terrorism, we still hope and pray that this new year will bring us a little more peace. On the positive side, a story was broadcast on the local CBC concerning a rabbi who was unable to take his flight from Gander, rescheduled for Shabbat, following 9/11. A local couple offered to drive him and a companion to Stephenville where he could get an early flight on Friday in order to get to New York in time for Rosh Hashanah. Apparently, this rabbi kept in touch with the couple and invited them to contact him in London, England. The couple finally went there this year and were promptly invited to dinner by their still grateful 9/11 visitor. When they arrived at the « dinner », they found that they were the guests of honour at a dinner with 400 guests! Even our little community received gifts of Shemurah matzah at Pesach and a lovely CD of Rosh Hashanah activities from **Rabbi Garelik**, a New Yorker, who was marooned here in St. John's at that very difficult time.

This past summer was warm and beautiful, and, as usual, replete with arrivals and departures. Our first activity, although actually the last one of the previous season, was our annual Community Barbeque, hosted by Dr. **David and Christine Wright**. The food was great and the weather cooperated perfectly. We said goodbye to our wonderful Areiva, **Freda Surki**, who left for a camp job and who is now directing Hillel in Gainesville, Florida. We also bid farewell to a well-loved member of our congregation, **Thomas Loewenheim**, who has returned to Indiana to finish his doctorate in music. Thomas did several cello concerts for the community, particularly for Yom HaShoah. He also served as our AJC representative for two years. Leaving us as well are **Ray and Margaret Lennark** of Toronto, and lately of the Battery. Fortunately we welcomed many visitors as well. **Judy Wilansky**, a former

businesswoman and teacher in St. John's and her daughter **Hannah**, a psychiatrist in Toronto, came to stay in August. They were joined by Dr. **Douglas Wilansky** and his wife, **Ruth**, for their annual « pilgrimage ». **Miriam Noel**, a student at Acadia University, came home to visit her parents, **Ruth and John Noel**. At the end of August we welcomed **Menara Simeone** of P.E.I., who has come to study at Memorial's Faculty of Music. We also welcomed back our newlyweds from Israel, **Inbal and Shahar Koubi**, who got married in Ashkelon in between university terms. Also from Israel came our new Areiva, **Adi Varon**, a warm and most engaging young woman who has already begun working with the Community's children.

Despite the generally relaxed atmosphere, we organized several events including Oneg Shabbats and the third annual Cape Spear sunrise Shacharit service followed by breakfast and the annual Memorial visit to the Beth-El Cemetery on Blackmarsh Road. Unfortunately, that day was the coldest day we have experienced since the end of June, as you can see in the accompanying picture. A new event that took place recently was « Doors Open », an international programme that organizes an « open house » at many public buildings including religious establishments. A committee of six volunteers was struck, and preparations were made. After an initial trickle, a flood of some 600 guests came through the « open doors », exhausting the few souls who had been looking forward to some leisurely explanations. People were curious, enthusiastic and excited to be able to visit the synagogue, the mosque, the Hindu temple and other diverse buildings. If only

it were so easy outside this little island, we would not be so apprehensive about turning on the news or picking up the newspaper. Let us all hope for a sweet, healthy and prosperous year, a year of Shalom.





*Camp Alumni at the 60th Camp Kadimah Anniversary party at the Lord Nelson Hotel, summer 2003.*



*Happy 60th Camp Kadimah!*



*Party scene at the Lord Nelson Hotel.*



*Canoeing is just one of the many activities at Camp Kadimah.*



*The new "Bayit" for students opened in Halifax, September 2003. Donated by the Latner Family, Toronto.*



*They were there in '43.*



*Entertainment at the 60th.*



*Taking a few "cuts" at Camp Kadimah, summer, 2003.*



*Reunited!*



*Camp Alumni, Aviva Rubin Schneider and new born daughter (and future camper), Gabriella.*



*Rabbi David Ellis talks to the young apple pickers on some Rosh Hashanah traditions, September 7, 2003.*





Bette Ross and Mike Anthony at the Annual Multicultural Festival of Nova Scotia, June 2003.



Angelica Feigin and Mike Anthony speak to a couple at the Annual Multicultural Festival of Nova Scotia, June 2003.



AJC Community Picnic, September 2003.



Martin Herschorn, Director of Public Prosecutions Nova Scotia shown with Edna Arbel, State Attorney, Ministry of Justice – Israel in Washington, D.C., August/03 at the 8th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors – **The Fight AGAINST Terrorism: A Global Effort.**



Camp Kadimah Alumni gather to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of longtime assistant Director Mike Soberman in Atlantic City, July 2003. l-r: M. Astroff, M. Rinzler, M. Druckman, Sheldon Cohen, Jon Goldberg, front row: Matt Cohen and the nervous groom, Mike Soberman.



Israel Day at Camp Kadimah.



Children enjoying the AJC Community Picnic, September 2003.



Camp Kadimah Committee – meeting in Halifax, July 2003.



Friends at Camp Kadimah, 2003



Nathanson Reunion, Cape Breton.



Nathanson Reunion, Cape Breton.

# Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

This has been a very busy season for the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. The season began with the official opening on Sunday June 1st with guest speaker, Dr. **Patrick Cavaliere**, Professor of History at University of New Brunswick, Saint John, who spoke on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust in Italy.

The new displays for 2003 were "From First to Latest: Jewish Weddings in Saint John, 1882 to 2002", "Six Generations of the Freedman Family", and "Original Writing and Art: Holocaust Study Group, 2001-2003". Visitors to the Museum have commented favorably upon all of the exhibits and have been more impressed by the work done by the high school students (none of whom were Jewish) on the Holocaust.

Throughout the summer, we welcomed many members of the Museum and former Saint John residents as well as many members of the Freedman family who were on their way to or from the family reunion held in Halifax in July.

The number of visitors through the museum is comparable to previous years, due in large part to thirteen visits to Saint John by the cruise ship, Carnival Victory. The passengers on board this ship had the opportunity to sign up for the Jewish Heritage Bus Tour which takes them through the original Jewish neighborhood, to the museum and the synagogue and then to the cemetery before returning to the pier. More than twenty-two ships will round out the season through September and October. In addition we welcomed two capacity bus tours from Toronto.

Much of what we do would not be possible without the assistance of summer tour guides – university and high school students paid through government grants, and the faithful volunteers who have greeted ships and given tours. These include: **Marcia Koven, Dr. Joseph Arditti, Phil Bloom, Norman Hamburg, Max Fransblow, I.J. Davis, Nathan and**

**Candace Davis, Norman and Janet Holtzman and Morrie Mendelson.**

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum continues to fundraise, not just by accepting donations from visitors to the museum and from our valued members, but also by selling raffle tickets and selling starts on the torch displayed in our entrance.

This year the museum has two raffle draws. The first has three prizes: a hand colored print of the Saint John waterfront by **Herzl Kashetsky**; an antique print of the Saint John harbor from 1853 and a beautiful Turkish samovar with cups. Tickets for this draw are \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. W. Smith and Company of Saint John, valued at \$450.00 for a beautiful diamond encrusted Chai necklace donate the second raffle to the museum. Tickets for this draw are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Draws for both raffles will be held during Hanukah. To purchase tickets for either of these draws please contact the Museum at 29 Wellington Row, Saint John, NB, E2L 3H4 or 506-633-1833 or at our email address [sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca)

As always the Museum is working on expanding and organizing the archival holdings. One major project nearing completion is the compilation of a database for the Shaarei Zedek Cemetery. The information includes names, dates of birth, death, burial and family details, along with obituaries and photographs of the gravestones.

Plans for the upcoming months include organizing the fourth edition of the High School Holocaust Study Group, the Annual Hanukah menorah lighting and focusing on other educational activities with the local schools. Work will also begin on the creation of a virtual exhibit based on a Canadian Heritage Website. The chosen theme is Jewish Women in Saint John, New Brunswick, 1896 – 2003. An update on this project will be available in the spring.

## My Bucket *continued from page 14*

of them under the sun, the descendants of the children of Abraham."<sup>2</sup>

It is doubtful, of course, that the Queen ever received my letter, but I felt better for reaching out and supporting something I believe in.

As a Jew, I have a strong incentive for speaking out. During these troubled times, I am often reminded that the Holocaust was not some freak phenomenon, an erratic shudder through time, the whim of a powerful dictator. It was a volcano that simmered and brewed for many years before it erupted. There were plenty of chances for people to speak out beforehand. Few did.

Now, as I listen with dismay to the ongoing crossfire, even within my own walls, I often wonder what it will take to achieve peace? Will it require both sides to blow each other up? Do we sit back and wait for some far off time when our world leaders finally decide that it is politically expedient to work together? Do we add still more damaging rhetoric to the already overwhelming body of hate propaganda?

Jews haven't survived through the ages because of brute strength, political savvy, or propaganda. We have survived because of our enduring spirit, and our Law. We don't need more bombs. We need more compassion, more reflection and a greater commitment to uphold the ideals of the Torah.

Instinctively, I sense that the only way of achieving lasting peace is for ordinary people everywhere to respond to our common humanity by standing up and declaring that it **MUST** be so. If each voice is a drop added to the bucket, eventually that bucket will overflow, and something *will* be done, if only to address the outpouring.

This New Year, instead of merely praying for peace, I think I'll start gushing to the Globe & Mail, to the Canadian Jewish Congress, or maybe even directly to Mr. **Yasser Arafat** and Mr. **Ariel Sharon**. It worked before.

'Til then, here's my first drop in the bucket. Plunk.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The Arab term for the Muslim holy book (also anglicized as *Koran*).

<sup>2</sup> From *Leap of Faith*, by Her Majesty Queen Noor. Copyright 2003, Miramax Books, p416

# Report from Saint John, New Brunswick

by Dr. J. Arditti

The once vibrant Jewish community in Saint John has been gradually diminishing so that it now comprises only 20 families, totaling 53 members.

Originally, ours was an orthodox congregation, then conservative, and now for the past year or so, we are egalitarian. Without the ability to count the women, we would not have a minyan on Friday nights or on Saturday mornings. This decision, unfortunately, has meant that we no longer have the luxury of calling upon Rabbi **David Ellis**, who has helped us in many different ways in the past.

We now find ourselves at a crossroads where we must decide which way to turn. We have a beautiful and impressive synagogue, which we struggle to preserve within our budget. At the same time, there is a Jewish community center that houses a museum, a Hebrew school classroom and a chapel. We also have a cemetery to maintain.

The question we face is which of the buildings to keep, considering what may happen in five to ten years from now. A major factor in the decision is that we are commissioned by previous members to ensure that our heritage is perpetuated, and that the flame continues to burn. We pray for

wisdom to make the right decision.

We have engaged a Hazan from the Boston area for the High Holy Days. As usual, most of the members attend the Yom Kippur service and to a lesser extent, the Rosh Hashana services. Despite our small numbers, we manage to hold several events to mark special occasions. We break the fast on Yom Kippur, and enjoy lunches at Hanukkah and Purim that are prepared by the women of the congregation.

Some members volunteer at the Port of Saint John to greet passengers disembarking from the cruise ships, and to promote our museum and Jewish historical sites. Please refer to the report from Saint John Jewish Historical Museum for more information about these activities. This past summer, a few days before July 21, the Freedman family held a mini reunion here in Saint John. Then, they were united in Halifax with the other members of the clan. This coincided with the weekend of July 25th, which celebrated the 60th anniversary of Camp Kadimah.

On September 15, **Chanan Cohen**, a Shaliach from Israel visited Saint John and we had a parlor meeting at the home of **Norman and Janet Holtzman**.

# Report from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

It is always sad to see summer end, but this year the summer's end brought lots of simchas to Moncton. On August 30 **Tyler Murray**, son of **Linda and Scott Murray** celebrated his bar mitzvah. Mazel tov to **Tyler**, his proud parents, brother **Aaron**, and grandparents **Goldie and Lynwood Johnston**. The following day the shule was once again packed with people for the wedding of **Nicole Druckman** and **Jack Haller**. Mazel tov to the happy couple, and to parents **Betty and Isaac Druckman** and **Dora Haller**.

Mazel tov to **Shauna Rinzler-Johnston** and **Andrew Johnston** on the birth of their daughter **Rhianna**, and to first time grandparents **David and Carol Rinzler**. Shauna has recently opened her own business, Carmaz Stables, which just received a big write-up in the Moncton Times-Transcript. We wish her all the best in this exciting endeavour.

Mazel tov to **Uri Carnat**, son of **Barrie and Evy Carnat** on the occasion of his marriage to **Kelly Wood**. The wedding took place in Calgary on August 24.

Mazel tov to **Leigh Lampert**, son of **Audrey and Irwin Lampert** on his engagement to **Darcie Richler**, daughter of **Barry and Marla Richler** of Toronto.

Mazel tov to Rabbi **Zalmen Stiefel** on receiving his Smicha.

Mazel tov to Dr. **Andrew Boghen** who was recently appointed dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and

Research at the University of Moncton.

Several children from Moncton attended Camp Kadimah this summer. The Moncton contingent included **Joshua Alpern, Daniel Cohen, Ashley and Chelsey Coppel, Hyde Jochelman, Nathan Rinzler** and **Preston Rodd**. **Aaron Cohen** was a senior staff member in charge of boating. Congratulations to **Joshua Alpern** who won the Dennis Wolfson Award for sports, and to **Daniel Cohen** who received the Eisener Trophy for being a captain of the winning Maccabiah team.

In other news, **Michael Rubin** of Montreal was hired once again to assist Rabbi Stiefel with Rosh Hashannah and Yom Kippur services. While he was in Moncton Mr. Rubin and the Rabbi gave a concert for the community.

On the second day of Succot Rabbi and **Aida Stiefel** hosted a kiddush lunch in their succah. With unseasonably warm weather, it was a pleasure to eat outside. A succot party was held for the Hebrew school children and they made decorations for the shule succah and Simhat Torah flags.

The Tiferes Israel Sisterhood is busy preparing for a bazaar and auction to be held on November 9 at the synagogue. Convenors **Ann Gorber, Leah Alpern, Evy Carnat** and all their helpers are working hard to ensure that this fundraiser will be a big success.

Best wishes to all for a year of happiness, health and peace.

## Dateline Halifax

**Congratulations to the following high school graduates – Class 2003**

**Diana Wolfson**, daughter of **Louise** and **Andrew Wolfson**, Granddaughter of **Donald Arron** who graduated from Armbrae Academy. Diana is attending McGill University.

**Caleb Zelenietz**, son of **Marty Zelenitz** and **Jill Grant**. Caleb received a Scholarship in Physics to Dalhousie University. He graduated from Dartmouth High School.

**Daniel Wendt**, son of **Fran Ornstein** and **Fred Wendt**. Daniel is attending University of King's College.

**Toba Offman**, daughter of **Joel** and **Ardith Offman** and Granddaughter of **Helen**. Toba graduated from Halifax West High School.

**Daniel Pink**, son of **Rita** and **Joel Pink**, grandson of **Irving** and **Ruth Pink** of Yarmouth who graduated from Armbrae Academy. Daniel was the recipient of the following awards - Alumni Nita Vidito Memorial Prize for Character; Vincent-Englehart Prize for character and Citizenship; Antoinette Budreski Memorial Scholarship and Male Athlete of the Year. Daniel is attending Dalhousie University.

**Jamie Tax**, daughter of **Cara** and **Ted Tax**, granddaughter of **Anne** who graduated from St. Patrick's High School with honours. Jamie received a scholarship from Dalhousie University where she is studying Science.

Mazel Tov to **Penny Dankner** and **Jeff Harding** on the occasion of their marriage.

Mazel Tov to **Renee** and **Gordon Dankner** on the occasion of their daughter, Penny's marriage to Jeff and also on the occasion of their son Mitchell's engagement to **Serita Feig**.

Mazel Tov to the **Nevo** family on the marriage of **Igal** to **Tamar** in Israel.

Mazel Tov to **Andrea Strug**, daughter of **Joe** and **Susan Strug** on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Nathan Pink**, son of **Elizabeth** and **Darrel**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Ethan Macaulay**, son of **Cynthia Guzner** and **Rob Macaulay** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Robert MacDonald**, son of **Kay MacDonald** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Avram Spatz**, son of **Marcie Gilsig** and **Jim Spatz**, grandson of **Simon** and **Riva Spatz**, on the occasion of his upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

Congratulations to Dr. **Barrie** and **Bette Ross** who are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, **David Ian**, to **Kitty**, daughter of **Tom** and **Susan Molnar** of Toronto.

Congratulations to **Ann Raskin**, daughter of **Leon** and **Linda Raskin**, on her graduation from the University of British Columbia with an MA in Urban Planning. Ann is currently working in India on a community development project in Bangalore.

Mazel Tov to **Miriam** and **Leonard Goldberg** on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to **Simon Spatz** on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Renee Zatzman**, daughter of **Steve**, who was elected Co-President at Halifax West High School and was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the past year.

Mazel Tov to **Ina Kohler** on the birth of her great-grandson. Parents are Dr. and Mrs. James Cohen of Toronto and proud grandmother is **Anna Lee Cohen**, formerly of Halifax.

Mazel Tov to **Carol Lee** and **Ralph Loebenberg** on the birth of their grandson **Judah Leib**. Proud parents are **Brenda** and **Zev Gewurz** of Montreal.

Mazel Tov to **Simon LeVine**, son of **Lennard** and **Edna LeVine**, grandson of **Jean Levine**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Hedda** and **Frank Medjuck** on the marriage of their daughter, **Bina** to **Gustavo**.

Mazel Tov to **Josh** and **Cindy Arnold** on their marriage.

Congratulations to **Robert Astroff** who successfully completed Ironman Canada in Penticton, B.C. on August 24, 2003 in 12 hours, 33 minutes and 4 seconds. Robert is the son of **Laurie** and **Marsha Astroff**.

Mazel Tov to **Renee** and **Jonathan Ross** on the birth of their son **Alex Henry**. Proud grandparents are **Sharron** and **Norman Ross**.

Mazel Tov to **Aviva** and **Jonathan Schneider** on the birth of their daughter, **Gabriella Chaya**. Proud grandparents are **Zack** and **Myrna Rubin**.

Mazel Tov to **Peninah** and **Perry Rose** on the birth of their daughter, **Emily Isabel**.

Condolences to **Joan Pink** and family on the passing of her father, **Charlie MacIntosh**.

Condolences to Dr. **David Alexander** and family on the passing of his mother, **Eda**.

Condolences to Dr. **Victoria Rosenberg** and family on the passing of her mother, **Anne**.

Condolences to **Linda Law** on the passing of her mother.

Condolences to **Yona Korn** on the passing of her mother.

Condolences to the family of the late **Nordau Goodman**.

Condolences to the family of **Hugo Gutfreund**.

Condolences to the family of **Sarah Levine**.

*If you have announcements you wish placed in the next Shalom issue please call Marie Herschorn at 422-7491, ext. 24 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca*



# Cape Breton Hadassah-Wizo 35th Bazaar

by Betty Shore & Shirley Chernin (Convenors)

A strong sense of camaraderie among everyone involved in the Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar made our 35th birthday a special event.

The decline of our membership has meant an increase in the importance of friends and supporters who volunteer each year. Their dedication has not faded with time.

A special thanks to the women in Halifax who were so generous with their parcels of better used clothing allocated to "Joan's Boutique". We wish to extend our gratitude to Catherine Nathanson and her staff for their assistance as a drop-off centre before the Bazaar. Thank you for your caring and sharing from Cape Breton!

"Everyone who is involved with the Cape Breton Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar is very proud to be part of it."



Joan Elman and Dr. Jack Yayer getting ready for the Annual Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar.

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## Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo

by Evelyn Davis

At the annual meeting of the Cape Breton Chapter of Hadassah-Wizo **Sam Mendleson** was honoured. In recognition of his exceptional fundraising talent he was presented with associate membership in Hadassah-Wizo.

The membership applauded **Faye David**, Treasurer when she presented the results of the 35th Annual Bazaar. **Shirley Dubinsky**, Youth Aliyah Chair reported another successful Youth Aliyah campaign and all were enthusiastic about the annual Medical Services event which took place earlier in the year.



2003-2004 Executive of Hadassah-Wizo  
back l-r: Edith Lecker, Secretary; Diana Schwartz, Co-President; Maryanne Cohen, Treasurer; Evy Druker, Vice-President.  
front l-r: Joan Elman, Co-President; Shirley Dubinsky, Correspondent Treasurer.



Sam Mendleson and Nonogenarian – Charlie Miller.



Minnie Nathanson, Reva Nathanson, Shirley Dubinsky, Edith Lecker and Anita Lubetsky.



Jean David, Ethel Webber, Eleanor Yazer and Evy Druker standing.



Bella Shore, Freema Shore, Shirley Chernin and Faye David standing.

## The Glace Bay Ladies Aid and Hadassah-Wizo Chapter Honour Two Special Members

by Shirley Chernin

The Glace Bay Ladies Aid and Hadassah-Wizo Chapter hosted two dinner meetings in honour of two special members.

On June 18th, **Libby Cohen** celebrated her 90th birthday and the members honoured her for her dedication to the community and to Israel. Libby was presented with a gift from the Ladies Aid, a Certificate of Merit and Service Pin from Hadassah-Wizo.

On July 16th, **Fanny Cohen** celebrated 95 years young. As President of both organizations, Fanny exemplifies true leadership and commitment. She has the respect and admiration of the entire Cape Breton Jewish Community. Fanny was presented with a gift from the Ladies Aid, a Certificate of Merit from Hadassah-Wizo and a bouquet of roses from the Congregation Sons of Israel.

The two events were memorable for the honorees and the guests attending. We wish Libby and Fanny "Yasher Koach"!

With love and best wishes in the New Year.



90th! Libby Cohen – left: Charlene Cohen (daughter-in-law) right: Fanny Cohen seated: Libby Cohen



95th! Fanny Cohen – Dinner in her honor at the Delta Sydney, July 16/03.

# Three Members of Cape Breton Jewish Community Inducted to the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame

by Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce & University College of Cape Breton

The Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame has a mission of recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of its outstanding Cape Breton business leaders, to perpetuate and inspire the values of entrepreneurial spirit, personal integrity and community leadership.

The mission is achieved by honouring Cape Breton's foremost past and present business leaders and by inspiring the leadership of the future. Inductees into the Hall of Fame are chosen for their distinguished accomplishments in business and the community. Scholarships are awarded in honour of the inductees through the University College of Cape Breton to outstanding business students who exhibit the same entrepreneurial drive and leadership spirit.

This year three of the 2003 inductees into the Business Hall of Fame are from the Jewish Community of Cape Breton, **Evelyn (Moraff) Davis**, **Ethel Webber** and the late **Harvey Webber**.

**Evelyn (Moraff) Davis** – When Evelyn was a young girl, she would help out around her family's grocery store in Whitney Pier by stocking display cases in the front of the store. After studying as a lab technician in Ottawa for several years, Evelyn and her husband, **Harold Davis**, moved back to Sydney shortly after their marriage. Upon returning to Sydney, Evelyn became more involved in the family business. She has run the successful yarn and craft store for many years and has had customers visit from all over the world. In 1991, Moraff's Yarns and Crafts opened a second location in Sydney River that has been enjoying the same success as the Whitney Pier location. Although Mrs. Davis has seen much success from her store, it is her involvement in the community of Whitney Pier and the Jewish community that displays her strongest attributes. Mrs. Davis is a founding member of the Whitney Pier Historical Society, the Whitney Pier and Area Development Association, and the Whitney Pier Visual Arts Festival. She was a member of the first Human Rights Affirmative Action Committee that initiated the Tommy Miller Award. Mrs. Davis' biggest contribution to her Jewish community came recently when she was elected as one of six National Vice-Presidents of Hadassah-Wizo.

**Harvey and Ethel Webber** – The Webbers are best known as a business couple who owned and operated the Smart Shop for many years in downtown Sydney. Harvey's father originally opened the store selling women's hats in 1904. After Harvey graduated from Dalhousie Law School, he moved to Sydney to run the store with his sister **Dolly**. On one of his many buying trips to Montreal Harvey met Ethel Nadler who was studying for her Master's in Social Work at McGill University. Following their marriage, Ethel worked for Children's Aid in Sydney for several years. After fire destroyed the original store in the 1950's, Harvey sought Ethel's assistance to help while the store was being rebuilt. Harvey recognized Ethel's

significant contribution at the temporary store and insisted, when the new store was finished, she join him full-time as partner in the business. Some of Harvey's many worthwhile contributions to local and regional communities include founding Atlantic Canada Plus, forming the Cape Breton Tourist Association and helping with the creation of Sydney's Centennial Sports Centre. Another major contribution to the community was as founder of the 1964 Centennial Project for the Glace Bay Miners Museum. Until Harvey's passing last winter, he was enthusiastically involved with the committee that is planning the creation of a Sydney Steel Museum to commemorate Sydney's century of steel making. While Harvey received much public recognition for community contributions, Ethel also remained involved in social work, volunteering for Transition House, the UCCB Art Gallery, all the while raising the couple's two children. Ethel is actively involved in the Jewish community and responsible for advertising and public relations for the Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar each year.

Leaders in the business community were inducted to the Cape Breton Business Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Delta Sydney on Thursday, September 18th, 2003.



Evelyn (Moraff) Davis



Ethel and the late Harvey Webber

## Double Mazel Tov to Sylvia and Louis Allen of New Waterford, Cape Breton

- \* On the birth of their grandson, **Maksim Benjamin Pikoul** to daughter **Roselyn** and her husband **Sergei** on May 17th, 2003.
- \* On the wedding of their daughter **Shayna** to **Darren Strong** of Toronto on July 13th, 2003.

# Dr. Anne Linder Hammerling

*Eulogy delivered by Dr. Judith Gold*

We want to thank all of you for coming today, and for your support, by so doing, for our family – especially considering the devastating natural events of the past few days. The physical destruction around us has enhanced the surreal feelings associated with the loss of our mother. Ironically, the woman – our mother – who died in the midst of a hurricane began her schooling by surviving the Halifax Explosion: late for class (being late was a life-long trait), she was hanging up her coat in the basement of Bloomfield School when the blast shattered the city, and she was safe in that basement.

She graduated later from Bloomfield High School with numerous prizes. In recognition of her academic achievement she was honoured by a plaque placed in the high school assembly hall. She then obtained an Arts degree from Dalhousie, and went on to Dal Medical School. For three years she was the only student in the medical school, graduating in 1934. She then interned in New York City where she met and married our father (**Dr. James**) who was the Chief Resident in EENT. She opened a general practice in New York City.

She not only ran that private practice, but volunteered a considerable amount of time to the then new and controversial **Margaret Sanger** Family Planning Clinic. As well, she was physician to several inner city high schools. When pregnant herself, she was told she could no longer be employed there, as schools did not employ pregnant physicians or teachers. She worked at several factories treating women, and taught family planning to immigrant women at the East Side Settlement House Community Centre. All of these were very unusual activities for a physician in the 1930's and 40's, and remarkable for a woman physician at that time.

When the US entered World War II, her husband, our father, served with distinction in the US Medical Corps. She continued in practice, but then returned to Halifax. For the duration of the war she worked as an anaesthetist at the hospital here (as did some other women MD's), replacing the male physicians who had gone to war. She then was associated in practice with the only woman who had a general practice in Halifax. Later she established her own practice, specializing in women's health until her retirement due to a sudden illness in 1984.

Meanwhile, she was very active in a number of volunteer services, especially Hadassah-Wizo and the Israel Bonds. In Hadassah she was National Chair of Medical Services. In that capacity, she led Hadassah in obtaining funds to purchase and send to Israel the then new breathing tube (Brooks endotracheal tube) to be used in the treatment of wounded soldiers and ill civilians. She established physiotherapy services in the rehab hospital in Israel, and, following a polio epidemic in that country, raised funds for a hydrotherapy pool and other physiotherapy services.

Next she became National Vice President of Hadassah in 1972, and continued her activities with medical services in

Israel. Due to her work on behalf of the Israel Bonds she was recognized by the Halifax Jewish Community at a national dinner in her honour.

Her other great interest was the Canadian Federation of medical Women, a support group of women MD's for the growing number of women medical students. In 1970, she became National President of that organization.

For her work in medicine in Halifax, she was also elected a Senior Member of the Halifax Medical Society. In 1995, she was named Alumnus of the Year by the Dalhousie Medical School. Even after her retirement in 1984, she continued to maintain her interest in and knowledge of the medical field, and her contact with many former patients.

With our father, she was a founding member of this congregation of Shaar Shalom Synagogue. She was known for her rousing speeches and ability to sway a crowd with her words. She was also a private and reserved woman who loved opera and music and literature more than social occasions.

Our mother, Dr. Anne, and father, Dr. Jim, spent sixty-three years of happy marriage together before his death in December 1999.

This was only a thumbnail sketch of the life of Dr. Anne, a woman who touched many lives in many ways, and who died in the middle of a hurricane – a fitting ending to an eventful life.



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## Letter to Miasnik-Rein Trust Fund

Atlantic Jewish Foundation  
5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 508,  
Halifax, NS, B3J 1H6

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to thank you for giving me a scholarship to help fund my recent trip to Israel with Kadimah/Biluim Israel. It was a wonderful trip and an experience I'll never forget. I was able to reconnect with some of my friends from Kadimah Israel who were also on the trip, and spent a week with the Israelis who attended the Camp Kadimah CIT program when I was a CIT. I also found it interesting to meet people from other countries. I enjoyed two beautiful Shabbats with the arevim who had been my teachers in Moncton.

The highlight of this trip, however, was seeing all the sights I had heard so much about, and getting to know the country. I'm hoping to return again sometime soon.

Yours truly,

*Aviva Cohen*  
Aviva Cohen

## First Jewish member *elected to* Newfoundland Legislature.

Corner Brook, Newfoundland resident, **Tom Marshall, Q.C.** was elected as a Member of the House of Assembly in the district of Humber East on Monday evening the 20th of October.

Mr. Marshall was elected as a Progressive Conservative. He went to Dalhousie Law School and graduated in 1971.

*Congratulations from the entire  
Atlantic Jewish community!!*



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# Giving with life insurance

by Dov Harris, Regional Director Financial Resource Development

Establishing a gift today with the *Atlantic Jewish Foundation* to create a legacy of support for the future

Although many members of our community wish to make a significant contribution, they either don't have the means or are worried about giving up a substantial portion of their assets.

There is a relatively simple way to create a meaningful future gift with little or no cost to the donor.

When giving a gift of Life Insurance, the current dollar amount you give may be small while the future gift that is established for the benefit of your favorite charity could be significant.

Whether it is a new life insurance policy or one that is paid up, this type of gift can help reduce your estate's tax bill and enable you to make a considerable gift. Here are two ways to give a Gift of Life Insurance.

## Donation of an existing policy

Whether it was originally intended to secure the future of your children who are now grown or to be available to cover debt you no longer have, many people find that they have an existing life insurance policy they no longer require for its original purpose.

It is easy to make this policy a charitable gift and have

your estate benefit tremendously from the available tax incentive.

With new Federal tax legislation in place, by simply naming your preferred charity as the beneficiary of your policy, the proceeds of the policy go directly to that charity without entering into your estate, thus avoiding probate. Your estate will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full value of the gift. This charitable tax receipt can be used to offset any taxes your estate may have to pay.

## Purchasing a new policy

Another way to give with life insurance is by purchasing a new policy and naming your charity as both the owner and beneficiary.

A tax receipt is issued for each premium payment which will mean immediate tax savings. You can also arrange a lump sum payment.

The amount of your premiums can be set according to your own financial capability, and the ultimate dollar value of your policy will be far greater than the premiums you pay.

This is a wonderful way for younger donors to be able to establish a significant gift now for the future benefit of a favorite charity.

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# Shalom Tishrei 5764

by Rabbi Zalmen Stiefel of Congregation Tiferes, Moncton, N.B.

One morning I was about to blow Shofar for our Pre School kids. Hiding the Shofar behind my back, I asked the little ones if they could identify “something we will see in Shul on Rosh Hashana which we don’t see there the whole year?” One of the children answered, “I know Rabbi,” “My mother!”

So to those of you, who are not seen in Shul for 11 months during the year, let me hasten to say, that the fact that for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur you **do** come to Shul, it is the right thing to do and it is greatly appreciated. I believe coming to shul on the High Holidays to be a genuine expression of your own inherent Jewishness and your deep-seated need to identify with your G-d, your Faith and your People.

And that brings me to my subject – doing the right thing. I would like to focus on what I think is one of the most important principles of our faith, something which distinguishes us from other faiths and walks of life.

What is it, in fact, that is unique about being Jewish?

Well, if I had to sum it up into one idea, it might be this – the emphasis on Deed rather than Creed, meaning, on our Behavior rather than on our Beliefs. We Jews are not as concerned about our faith as we are on how we follow through on that faith.

Have you ever heard those fundamentalist preachers on the radio? (Not recommended, you really should not listen to those guys.) “You believe, my brothers?!” “I believe!” comes the resounding response from the audience. “Well, if you do believe, and you take the lord into your hearts, you will be saved!” And, of course, they all take him into their hearts and are saved. “Hallelujah!”

Sometimes I wish it were that easy in Judaism. Judaism doesn’t only ask for pledges of faith. But it does ask us to behave in a certain way and, where necessary, to change our behavior before we can be “saved.” Judaism does not ask us how we believe; it asks us how we behave. It demands action, not words. And if we’re sitting with someone else’s money in our pocket, we need to return it to its rightful owner **before** G-d will accept our repentance.

Remember Tarzan? Well, apparently Tarzan gave up life in the jungle and decided to become a city slicker. So after leaving his healthy, natural diet – behind, and embracing junk food, he soon developed chest pains. So he goes to the doctor who begins the examination by taking his pulse. “Hey,” says Tarzan, “why are you checking my hand? It’s my heart that hurts, not my hand!” And the good doctor explains that by checking out his *hand*, he is able to determine how his *heart* is doing.

You say you have a good Jewish heart? Let’s take your

Jewish pulse. Does that hand wear Tefillin, does it dispense Tzedakah, and is it a helping hand for a friend in need? If the answer is yes, then it is indeed an indicator of a healthy Jewish heart. Otherwise...

Let’s take a cue from our human relationships to see how our relationship with G-d is.

People often **profess** Love, but they don’t necessarily **practice** Love. “Do you really love me, Darling?” the wife asks after dinner. “More than anything in the world, sweetie,” answers the husband. “Good,” she says, “won’t you help me with the dishes then?” “Hang on, there are limits to love! And for me, the dishes are off limits.”

It’s safe to suggest that the three most-abused words in the English language are “I love you.” Does he **really** love you? If he really loves you, why is he asking you to do something you don’t really want to do? The test of true love between a man and a woman is not in what we **say** but in what we **do**. It’s not in our **words**, but in our **ways**.

And so it is in the relationship between a Jew and G-d. In Shma Yisrael we recite “And you shall love Hashem with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might.” And then in the very next breath we talk about studying Torah, teaching it to our children, putting on tefillin, affixing mezuzahs. Love is not abstract. Love is measured in deeds. This most famous Prayer, that great testament of Faith proclaims our love for G-d and immediately defines that love with specific acts of faith, the practical observance of some well-known Mitzvahs that G-d has asked us to do.

Does this mean that Judaism has no Creed, no Philosophy? Is there no emphasis on Theology in Judaism? G-d forbid! Of course there is. We can’t just believe anything! Maimonides lists the 13 Principles of Faith and there are volumes of philosophical works devoted to discussions on the fundamental beliefs that we are obliged to study, do our best to understand and make our own. But the **emphasis**, the accent and stress are not so much on the belief system as on the behavior pattern. As profoundly philosophical as Judaism may be, it is more **practice**-centered than **philosophy**-centered. There is no disputing it. Judaism is Mitzvah-minded!

So we find the Ethics of the Fathers telling us to study Torah even if it’s for the wrong reasons, because eventually it will lead to study for the right reason. Even if our motivations are not entirely pure, the action is more important than the intent. And even though one ought to perform Mitzvahs with forethought and devotion, we would much rather you put on tefillin for five minutes than meditate about tefillin for an hour without wearing them! At the end of the day, the deed must be done.

Interestingly, that's why when Jewish men put on Tefillin on a weekday morning, they always put on the hand-tefillin first and remove the head-tefillin first. Because the hand represents Action and Deed while the head stands for Intellect and Theory. Of course, the ideal is a meaningful, holistic good deed, but while we are prepared to tolerate good behavior that hasn't been thought through, the same cannot be said of wonderful theories that aren't put into practice. So the head-tefillin symbolizing intellect, should never be worn without the hand-tefillin symbolizing action.

Ask any poor person – who has been unfortunate enough to have to ask for help – whether he prefers an arrogant giver or a humble miser. One may be loud, bombastic and status seeking, while the other is soft-spoken and unassuming; but ultimately, the Giver has helped the poor in tangible terms. That's *Tachlis!* We might have to teach this arrogant generous contributor to shut his mouth, but at least we don't have to teach him to open his hand!

To identify as a Jew, yes! You must have a Jewish heart! But the answer "I'm a good Jew at heart" just doesn't wash. (And it also may explain why so many Jews today suffer heart attacks. Once upon a time, we Jews spread out our Judaism. The hand gave Tzedakah, the head studied Torah, the feet walked to Shul, the stomach ate kosher etc. But today, we are Cardiac Jews. "I'm a good Jew at heart." Nu, I ask you, so how much pressure can one heart take? [Just a joke!])

This is one of the ideas behind the Lubavitcher Rebbe's

Mitzvah Campaigns. A Jew's heart is good; his/her soul is certainly good and holy. So all we really need, to put it all together, is to **do** the right thing. Then **everything** is right.

So the time has come for us to learn from that famous brand of designer sportswear and "Just Do It!" We don't need to wait for the meditations, motivation or all the philosophical underpinnings to be in place. Just Do It! Do the right thing and you will be right.

As the most important days in the Jewish calendar have gone by, it is an ideal time to try and develop a new good habit. According to the Talmud, one single good deed has the power to change us, and the entire world for good. One new Mitzvah in our lives can provide that all-important point of entry into the beautiful world of Yiddishkeit that may have seemed distant and intimidating.

Our fellow Jews through the ages have already performed so many good deeds, that it may be that your one good deed will tilt the balance. Your Mitzvah can very well bring the world to its fulfillment and Moshiach to the world.

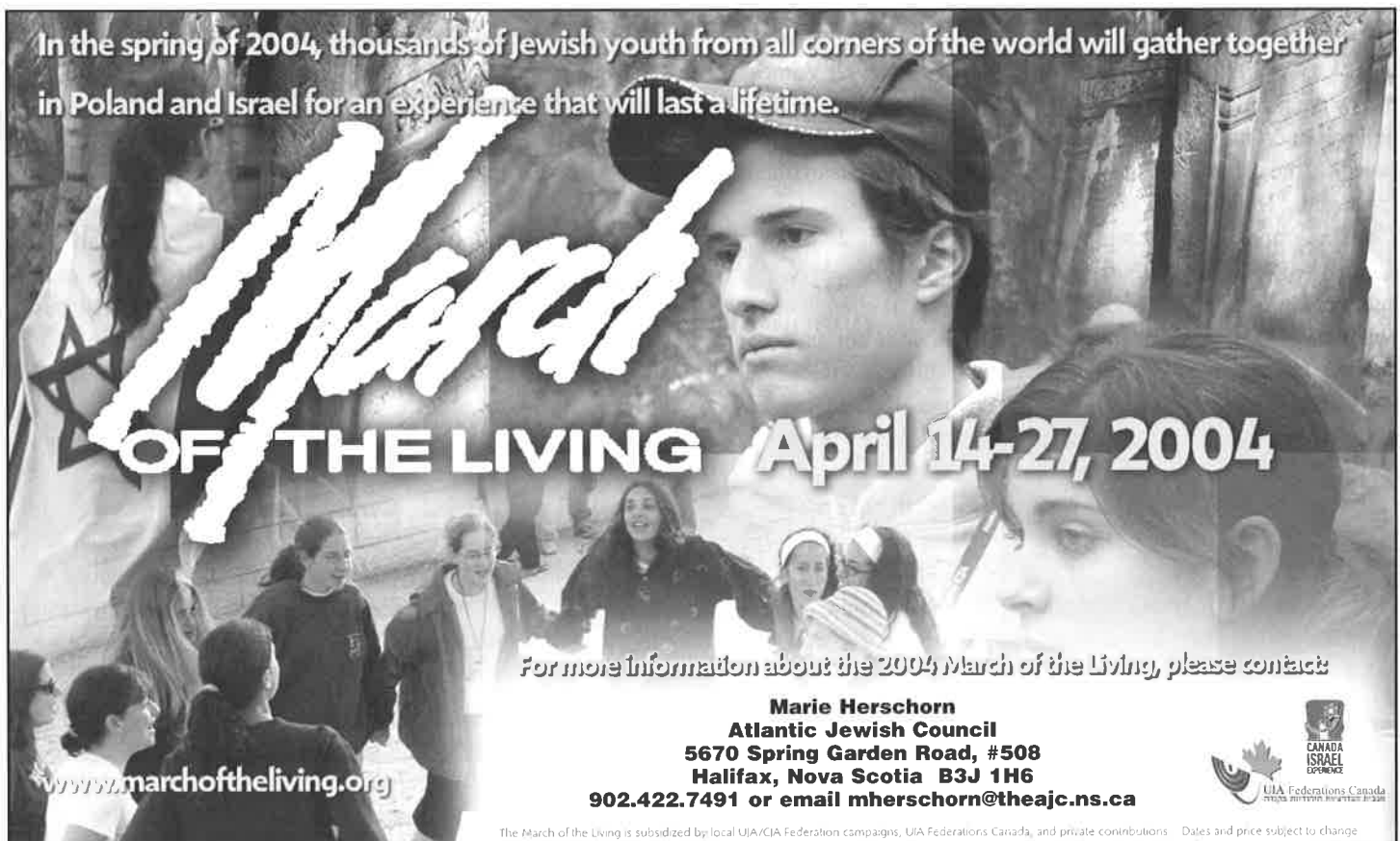
May all our collective good deeds bring us a New Year of health and happiness, of contentment and nachas, a year of Peace here and in Israel! And may we merit all the Almighty's abundant blessings, now and always!

Shana Tova,

Rabbi Zalmen Stiefel

For your questions or comments,

Email me at [monctonrabbi@hotmail.com](mailto:monctonrabbi@hotmail.com)



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# Christians for Israel Holds its First Atlantic Canada Conference in Moncton

by Ray and Rosalind MacDonald

"Holocaust through the Eyes of a Child" by Israel Unger – Holocaust survivor was the back drop to a very auspicious occasion as Jewish leaders and Christians gathered together to focus on the world today. On the weekend of September 19th Christians For Israel held its first Atlantic Canada conference in Moncton to promote understanding of anti-Semitism and the consequences that have been incurred because of it.

**Leo Adler**, Director of National Affairs Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies brought all who attended up to date on the infiltration of hate on the internet. **Joseph Ben-Ami**, Director of Communications Bnai Brith Canada and **Willem Glashouwer**, President Christians for Israel International, and **John Tweedie**, Chairman for Christians for Israel Canada spoke on the Biblical need for Christians to support Israel. A stirring message – "The reason for Supporting Israel" was delivered by **Stockwell Day**, MP. Mr. Day was very compelling and forceful in His defense for Israel's right to live within secure borders.

A celebrative spirit and Israeli flavour was brought to the conference through **Lisa Saia** and her dance team. A joyous mixture of music in Hebrew and English was provided by Glad Tidings Church – the event host, under the leadership of Reverend **Stirling Penney**. **Dani Shahal**, Director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Toronto, and **Yaffa Dattner**, Manager of Sunworld Tours of Calgary, gave a captivating visual presentation on the land of Israel. As part of the Tourist Ministry's presence, all in attendance were delighted to receive video greetings from Minister Benny Elon.

The event organizers, **Ray and Rosalind MacDonald** of Christians For Israel Atlantic, were pleased with the response as attendance grew each day within the three-day period. Heart felt sentiments by both speakers and conference attendees were expressed. It was thought by many that the groundwork had been laid for a coming together of both the Jewish and Christian communities for the purpose of supporting each other.

Christians For Israel are in the beginning stages of planning a conference for the spring of 2004 to take place in the Halifax Metro area.

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*On behalf of the entire SELAH family in Israel, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a Shana Tova u'Metuka – a good and sweet year, a year of health, joy, and peace for all Israel. Please convey our blessings for the New Year to the members of Congregation Shaarei Zedek, as well.*

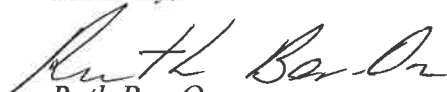
*We are very grateful to you for your contribution this year to SELAH – Israel Crisis Management Center. This gift has been used to aid new immigrants hit by recent terror and tragedy who lack the resources critical in an emergency -- family and long-time acquaintances, the language, knowledge of the system, funds, to name just a few.*

*For terror victims, people struck by sudden illness, those who've lost a family member, SELAH volunteers try to provide the immediate aid necessary to help them through the emergency, and then stay in close contact for as long as necessary, through personal contacts, and by bringing the tragedy-stricken together in healing retreats held throughout Israel, where they are strengthened and encouraged in the presence of others who have endured similar experiences.*

*Thank you so much for your support of this work.*

*Shana Tova!*

*Sincerely,*

  
**Ruth Bar-On**  
*Executive Director*



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