"Shalom! ! שלום

Winter 2004 Vol. 29, No. 1 CHOREF 576

UIA Federations Canada National GA Mission
November 9-20, 2003



Top: L-R: Hilroy Nathanson, Marlene Unger, Israel Unger, Michael Argand,
Arthur Zilbert, Mark Rosen, Howard Conter, Frank Medjuck.
Middle: L-R: Fanny Nathanson, Shulamith Medjuck, Sheva Medjuck, Jo-Anne Nozick,
Kathy Zilbert, Karen Conter, Yael Goodman, Laura Tsinman, Hedda Medjuck.
Kneeling: David Silverberg, Boris Tsinman.

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Mission Highlights

CIJA - A New Direction

Community News

שלום

President: Mark Rosen

The Atlantic Jewish Council
Quarterly
WINTER 2004
CHOREF 5764
Vol. 29 No. 1

Mailed under Canada Post
Publications Mail Sales Agreement
No. 1622374.

Supervising Editor:
Jon Goldberg
Assistant Editor:
Marie Herschorn
Design and Layout:
The Printer
Printing:
The Printer

Deadline for next issue is May 15, 2004

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

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This publication is printed by

The Printer

Phone: (902) 423-2679
Fax: (902) 422-3706
For advertising inquiries, contact
Leigh LeCreux at The Printer.

President's Message

by Mark Rosen

From Israel (via Riga) With Love

o, here we are, walking through the Old City, the special feeling of the approaching Shabbat upon us. As we arrive at the Kotel the crowds begin to swell and we move closer to enjoy the full experience of Shabbat at the western wall. There are many of us here from Canada, enjoying the final days of a successful UJA mission to Israel before the commencement of the GA. We tour under the wall, marveling at the excavations, and then move outside to take part in services, singing, dancing, praying. My eyes shift their focus from those around us and I notice our good friend Boris has approached the wall. Upon reaching it he takes a few small notes from his pocket and gently places them in a crack, he leans his arm against the wall and with his head resting on his arm begins to pray. I gain the attention of Howard, Art, Jay & Michael and motion to Boris. It is truly an emotional moment for us, after all, here is our friend who we have known for many years, traveling to Israel for the first time. He left the former Soviet Union as a young man, arriving in Halifax with the clothes on his back. His brother traveled on to Toronto to make his home there and his parents remained in Germany for many years before moving to Toronto where they now reside. Boris worked hard to establish himself in Halifax, without the

support most of us are privileged to have. And here he is, a lifetime from his past in Riga, saying a prayer for his family, for their deliverance. Then singing and dancing with his friends at the Kotel, a

Frank "dancing".

million miles from Riga and all that evokes – quite a scene.

quite a scene.
Now, fast forward to Neve Tzedek, a trendy neighbourhood in the heart of historic Tel Aviv. Music booming, drinks flowing, varieties of food being served – an incredible party atmosphere. And there, being "reluctantly" dragged onto the dance floor by a beautiful Israeli dancer, is our conscience, Franklyn M., showing off his best moves under the watchful eyes of Hedda, who is having no less fun herself with the rest of us exhibiting our dancing feet. A world away from Israel's troubles, life being lived for the moment. As they say, Jerusalem prays while Tel

Aviv plays! Again, quite a scene.

Kiryat Shmona, Caesarea, Haifa, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Masada, the Galilee, Palmachim Air Force Base, Solidarity March, discussions on the road map, Mea P'anim soup kitchen...just some of the many, many places and things experienced by Atlantic Region participants during the UJA Mission and GA this past November. Led by our scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Danny Levine, and tour guide, Yael Goodman, our contingent laughed, learned and cried throughout the week. Who can forget our visit to Selah where we were moved to tears on hearing from the mother of two daughters killed at the

Dolphanarium or enjoying the excitement of young Israeli soldiers at the Palmachim AFB, especially at getting our Canadian pins. Much appreciation to the Zilberts, Conters, Argands, Medjucks, Nathansons, Ungers,

Tsinmans, David Silverberg, and Sheva and Shulamith for their continued efforts to lift Israel out of its recession. Ben Yehuda effectively became Rechov Halifax, as shopowner after shopowner laid out the red carpet upon hearing that

continued on page 3





The Winter of my Discontent!

by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

2003 has finally ended and sitting here overlooking Spring Garden Road on a freezing winter afternoon, I must say I'm glad we're into 2004.

A new year – a new start and new hope for the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada. As some of our readers know, last summer I was diagnosed with colon cancer and underwent surgery early in July. It was a shock to me, as I had no symptoms. Since September I've been undergoing chemotherapy, which is almost over. I mention this for two reasons; first, to thank everyone for their good wishes and the many communications I had from all over the region, and secondly; to say things seem to have gone okay and the prognosis is good. It certainly makes one come to grips with one's own mortality when confronted with this type of illness and it has only strengthened my resolve to work harder and to enjoy both my vocation and my life. So it is with this outlook that I begin the New Year of 2004.

This past year your AJC Board has had a number of strategic planning sessions, which have resulted in a survey being sent to all our major communities outside Halifax. I anticipate, along with a number of our lay leaders visiting every community prior to the summer to discuss how better the AJC can service those people living outside the metro Halifax area. I know this is a major initiative that is most important to our officers, as we must take a realistic appraisal of our future as a Jewish community here in Atlantic Canada.

I'm pleased to report that we had a very successful UJA campaign this year led by our Regional Chair, **Howard Conter**

and our wonderful campaign chairs in all the communities. A few major gifts and continued growth in our culture of giving allowed for an increase of over 33% over last year's regular campaign. I thank all of you for your commitment and generosity. Yet as every year, even with success, I personally feel some sense of failure, as there are still many in our Jewish community who can't or won't give to the campaign. Some have legitimate financial concerns but most of those people and they are, by and large the same people every year, don't want to acknowledge any obligation to their fellow Jew. This coming year we will try to reach as many of these people as we can on a personal level to find out where we've gone wrong and try to bring our message in a better way to this group of "too many" of our friends and neighbours.

In this edition you will also see an article about CIJA, a newly created structure for the Canadian Jewish Polity. As part of their mandate we will be working more in the areas of community relations, anti-Semitism and Israel advocacy. As a Jewish community we must get more involved in our political system. Too few of us in Atlantic Canada are involved in political parties and in Municipal, Provincial and Federal elections. This is most important to affect a better quality of Canadian support for Israel and to ensure the quality of our Jewish life here at home.

Well, my friends, I've gone on long enough. I hope you enjoy this winter issue of Shalom and that you will renew your subscriptions, as we need your support to make this magazine a more meaningful expression of Jewish life in Atlantic Canada.

My best wishes to you and your families for a Happy and Healthy Passover!

President's Message continued from page 1

Kathy was in the vicinity. The mission was an unmitigated success. I thank all of those who attended and anticipate an even greater attendance for our next sojourn to Aretz.

On the local scene, the cold days of winter have set in. Our Board met in December to discuss the strategic review and questionnaires have been sent to communities to elicit information from them on wants and needs. Plans have been made to visit communities to further our discussions with a view to address concerns and perhaps change the way we conduct our business in order to make us a more effective and representative body. Youth, campus and adult programs will continue throughout the winter months as we move towards our annual Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaot programs. Plans for the Asper Foundation youth trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington and this year's March of the Living Program are well under way and, of course, planning for another successful season at Kadimah continues under the able guidance of cochairs Victor Goldberg and Jim Spatz. While we cannot be all things to all people and provide the breadth of activities of larger communities, we do attempt to do our best and provide

what we can with our minimal resources. Our AJC staff, in conjunction with an active volunteer base, will continue to work hard on our behalf and I am most appreciative of their efforts.

Our regional UJA campaign has experienced a banner year under the leadership of Howard Conter and community reps. Mazel Tov to Mike Argand, Joseph Arditti, Marty Payne, Barrie Carnat, Shari Ritter, Ruth Noel, Marty Chernin, David Ein, Bobby Cohen, Kurdis Karrel and all those who canvassed on behalf of UJA. Our communities have stepped up and delivered one of, if not the best result experienced for our general campaign in Atlantic Canada for many years. I thank all of those who gave their support to Israel and our communities by giving their time and their dollars. Your donations will go a long way to support needed programs in Israel and at home.

I look forward to continue working with our Board and Management committee on our behalf this year.

Shalom Mark



The Youth Corner

by Mike Anthony, Youth Programmer

It feels like it's been an eternity since I last wrote my article for Shalom Magazine. So much has happened here over the past few months, and there is a lot to write about! Let's get started!

The best place to start is New Brunswick. As I said in my last article, "there are going to be great things coming out of New Brunswick in the near future." Those words have come true. I would like to congratulate the youth leaders in Fredericton and Mr. Jason Goldlist for running a very successful clothing drive. The community donated tons of clothing in support of a local charity, Women in Transition.

As well, a committee of lay leaders has been formed to create some programming weekends in New Brunswick. This committee consists of one representative from Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. We are still at the beginning stages of our planning, so stay tuned for important announcements and notices. If you would like to be involved in these programs, please contact **Mike Anthony** at the AJC office.

October and November continued to be very busy months in youth programming. At the end of October, there was a Shabbat Dinner called "Shabbat Around the World" which featured speakers from Israel, the United States, Mexico and India who are now living in Halifax. The meal was delicious, the company was great, and the presentations were unforgettable! I would like to thank our speakers, Menashe Cieplinski, Rabbi Michael Goldberg, Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein, and Naomi Judah for taking the time to participate in the youth program.

In November, each age group had at least one program. For the 9-11 year olds, the program was Order in the Court, a Jewish Law program where the youth used their investigative skills to solve a crime and learn about some interesting ideas in Jewish law. This program was organized and chaperoned by some members of Halifax's 15-17 year old age grouping. A special thank you to Jenna Conter, Eric Goldberg, Brendan Rosen, and Josh Spatz for many entertaining meetings in my office preparing for the program! The 12-17 year olds had two programs. The Pier 21 Program focused on Jewish Immigration into Canada, where Mrs. Marianne Ferguson led us on a great tour. The next program was the first edition of the Movie Nights in Halifax at the Home of Jenna Conter. The following weekend was a program for the 5-8 year olds called Kosher Cooking for Kids. I would like to thank Mrs. Bassie Feldman for her help in the program. Bassie and I worked together to do another edition of Kosher Cooking for Kids, but this time with a Channukah theme for the 9-11 year olds.

There are a number of other things I've been involved in over the past few months. Throughout my time at the AJC, I have been actively involved in representing the Jewish Community on two committees concerned with Multiculturalism. The first of these committees is the Partners Against Racism Committee that held a program on December 10th called *Living Human Rights: (Role) Models For Change.* We are also working on a March 21st program that will focus



information. Another Multicultural program in which I participated as a representative of the Atlantic Jewish Council was the "Communities Uniting An Atlantic Multicultural Conference" over the weekend of November 7 to 9. Naturally, I was not a participant for Shabbat, but did attend the Sunday sessions that were all very interesting. The plenary session dealt with changing the way we look at ourselves and at our multicultural framework as something to work with and not against. It was a very powerful and informative session.

This conference has led to the beginning of a partnership between the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia to create cross-cultural youth programs based on a formula I have developed. This partnership will hopefully strengthen, expand and produce many cross-cultural youth meetings and initiatives.

On a personal note, December 10, 2003 was a big day for me. I was speaking at a school in Sheet Harbour, NS on the topic of Channukah and Judaism. As I was returning to Halifax in the early afternoon, I was in a bad single-vehicle accident caused by a car malfunction and suffered some pretty bad injuries, which will take time to heal. I would like to thank all those people who called to check up on me, sent me cards, included me in their prayers and helped or offered to help. A special thank you goes out to those that helped with the Halifax Channukah Party, Mrs. Sheri Myer for her work on the committee, Mr. Victor Fineberg for his tireless work on the committee and for emceeing the event in my place, Jonah and Tehillah Rabinovitch, and to anyone else who helped (but that I did not know of their efforts).

The next few months are going to be really exciting! As I sit writing this article, my desk has disappeared under the preparations for this year's Winter Shabbaton. The theme for the Shabbaton is the "Jews in Comedy" featuring Mr. Arie Kaplan (a writer for MAD Magazine, a stand up comedian, and lecturer/academic on the role of the Jews in Comedy). By the time you have read this, he will have performed at the Shabbaton and also as a fundraiser for the Jewish Student Association at The Village Idiot pub in Halifax. The calendar is set for the next few months with great opportunities and experiences for our youth, including the Asper Foundation Program and the March of the Living.

I thank you all for reading, and I hope you enjoyed this article!! Stay tuned for the next report out of The Youth Corner!

Sincerely, Mike Anthony

From the Desk of Robert Dickman Director of Campus Programming & Young Professionals

Shalom, it is with pleasure that I have the opportunity to fill you in on some the activities that we've been working on at the JSA and with Young Professionals.

This year on University campus' across the Atlantic Region the JSA has in practical and actual terms increased its registration numbers by outstanding proportions. Our email lists have been continually upgraded to include those who are no longer at a university out here and have unsubscribed and of course, all of those who have subscribed from the start of the 2003 academic year to present. The lists are as follows: Dalhousie- 311, Kings- 81, Acadia- 22, Mt.Allison- 13, UNB- 10, Memorial- 7, St.Marys- 3, UPEI- 0-5? Remember these statistics are actual and represent a very large increase over 2002/03 mailing list registrants, which were 250.

As far as numbers of students who have attended such varied programs as "Jewshi" Shabbat (make your own kosher sushi), **Ismael Khaladi** lecture (Israeli bedouin) and A Break the Fast Meal amongst other excellent programs we have attracted well over 700 participants in total. This does not include a most creative "Channukah in residence" program at Dal/Kings that reached over 1000 mostly non-Jewish students. These numbers represent 1st semester alone.

The beginning of our 2nd semester has started off even stronger with over 60 people in attendence for our L'Chaim Shabbat @ the Bayit (standing room only) and good attendence is expected for a lecture on February 5th by Julie Bernstein about rising international anti-Semitism at the U.N. Julie is only 24 years old but has, even at her youthful age, already been the speech writer for the Israeli Mission to the U.N. for more than a year. Irshad Manji (author of the book "the Trouble With Islam" and self-proclaimed "Muslim refusenik" will kick off her six date national campus tour here in Halifax on March 1st. In addition to this we have plans for a challah baking class, a Tu B'Shavat planting program, multiple Shabbat dinners and a tentatively scheduled Atlantic Region ski trip/conference in mid March. If you wish to know more about upcoming events with the JSA please feel free to contact me directly anytime.

Admittedly, Young Professionals has been a bit slower in forward movement but there has been progress. Already this year we have doubled the programmatic output compared to 2002/03 and have plans for more in the coming months. **Toni Fried** (of Halifax) will represent the Atlantic region YP'S at the national YP gathering in Winnipeg this month and we hope that Toni will return energetic and enthused with what she learns. We are in the process of forming a YP executive committee in Halifax and in the next few weeks will see what sort of shape this group will evolve into.

The **Temmy** and **Albert Latner** Jewish Students Resource Center (aka The Bayit) has seen a steady rise in activity throughout the year and continues to attract new and different people. Almost all JSA meetings and events (excluding lectures) have been held here and it has made an excellent

contibution to Jewish student life here in Halifax.

The birthright program has seen good success this year with 11 participants from our region participating in the December trip and three more booked on trips for February. These numbers represent only Canada Israel Experience led tours and not students who have chosen to go to Israel with CIE competitors (who shall remain nameless) and actually run tours which are inferior to those offered by CIE.

For any of you who may be interested, a complete breakdown of all JSA/YP programs and activities is available from me directly upon request.

I guess that about wraps it up, thanks for listening, stay well and shalom.



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May Their Memory be for a Blessing

by Rabbi David Ellis, Atlantic Jewish Council Regional Chaplain

Over the last few months, our outlying regions lost three long-time members of their communities. I would share my remembrances of three fine gentlemen.

ISAAC EIN, Glace Bay

Isaac was a fixture in the Glace Bay synagogue for many years, serving as Vice-President and other roles.

There are few persons I have met whose life revolved around the shul as much as Isaac Ein's. He was already looking forward to services late in the week. When he came into the little shul in the Bay, his face would light up, almost as we would see that of the **Cohen Gadol** of the ancient temple. He, though, was a Levi, and would usually get called up second, if not for Maftir.

A time I will never forget is when Isaac came into shul on a bleak winter's today. Getting through the snow was an enormous task for any older person on that day. But Isaac took it in stride: "Well, I guess I should complain about this day, my health, etc. But when I come into shul, I have so much to be thankful for, that I just can't complain."

Sometimes we rabbis make propitious claims in eulogy of the departed, finding hidden meanings on the date of death, from the closest Parashah of the week, etc. I must confess that I have often thought many of these derivations to be bunkum and word juggling. But I would venture one in memory of Isaac Ein, because it really does seem to be fitting.

Isaac passed away on the 5th of the Hebrew month of Sivan, the day before the holiday of Shavuot. We had counted until that day the counting of the omer, the days from Passover till Shavuot. Many explanations are given for the counting of these days, but one of them is that the days are a preparation for the receiving of the Torah, after receiving our freedom at Passover. Indeed, some siddurim include mystical meditations on the various attributes of each day. A spiritual perfection is achieved through the counting of the entire period.

Isaac Ein certainly lived his life thoroughly, full of gratitude and blessing, till the very end. Even when he was in the hospital in his last days, he was looking for his siddur to daven maariv, the evening service. He made the most of all of his many years, counting each day, rising to new heights, till the very end.

Isaac Ein is survived by his lifelong companion **Toby**, and three sons, **Arnold**, **Robert** and **David**. His memory is appreciated by all of us who worship in the little shul in the Bay and will always be precious to us.

DR. DAVID GAUM, Sydney

I only knew Dr. David Gaum for the past two years. And yet, when you met him, you felt as if you knew him all along and that here was a person who had made a great stake in this world.

Dr. Gaum was born in Sydney, and his entire life was centred there. But he made some noteworthy junkets off the way.

He went to Dalhousie University for his medical training. Working in assistance with his older brother, Dr. A.B. Gaum, they would promote a generation of first-rate medical knowledge and practice to Cape Bretoners. Dr. Dave and his brother were the old style of doctors, doing house calls, performing all medical tasks—surgery, anaesthesia, births—with competence.

He would take his expertise during the war to Europe, serving as a doctor for the Canadian military.

After he retired, he left Cape Breton for a number of years and lived in Caesarea in Israel, on the same street as Israel's former president, **Ezer Weizmann.** But then this move was not inconsistent with his life in Sydney. For everyone knows that for many years till this day, the Sydney community is perhaps the strongest small community in North America in commitment to Israel, both in giving and in making aliyah. His place was a meeting ground for travelers from Cape Breton and other places.

Indeed, Dr. Dave insisted, one of the last times I saw him that I take a video made of him. It was of him and a British friend riding on horseback through the Judean hills. The surroundings were beautiful; his handling of his steed over the rugged terrain was artful.

As I told my family with sadness that I had to go to Sydney for the funeral, I told them to play this video again, in tribute to a fine doctor, a public man and a lover of Israel.

Though never married, Dr. Gaum was devoted to and revered by his family. He is survived by a brother, Dr. Cyril Gaum, of Boston and two sisters, Mrs. Bunnie Davidson and Mrs. Etta Chernin, both of Sydney, as well as by nine nieces and nephews and thirteen great nieces and nephews.

We wish that they should be consoled among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

NORMAN RUBIN, Moncton

Mr. Norman Rubin was one of the first persons I met in the community when I came there, and the first person I met in the hospital. He had been a bit too adventurous along the shores of his Shediac beach cottage and had developed an infection, which had spread, through his leg. But he recovered and was back soon, to his usual seat in the shul.

Norman worked very hard at his clothing store on Main Street in Moncton, but never so hard that he did not have time to contribute to the Jewish community. He was chair of the UJA campaign several times and took an interest in all of the shul's affairs.

Norman once told me a story, which I will never forget, and which I have told many of you. When he was just a teenager, he was called upon by Mr. Morris Gorber, then head of the Chevra Kadisha, to assist in preparing for a funeral. Mr. Gorber asked him, "What do you see different about these clothes?"

"Nothing, Mr. Gorber."

"Look again."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Gorber. But they're just pants for the deceased."

"They don't have any pockets in them."

Norman, I believe, never forgot this incident. He knew that what we do in life, the ups and downs of money, fate and fortune, are just pieces on the chessboard. What is left in the end is how we have played the game, what sort of a name we have made for ourselves; only this endures.

By this measure, Norman Rubin fared very well. He was recognized by everyone as a solid friend, a supporter of the community, having a good name among all who knew him.

Norman is survived by his wife **Adelle** and four daughters, **Janice** and **Rhonda** of Moncton, **Nancy** of Halifax, and **Susan**

of Calgary, and by his brother, Dr. **David Rubin**, of Moncton. May they know that all of us remember Norman for a blessing and share in their loss.

Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain

P.S. I would note that we lost another fine gentleman in Fredericton last month, Mr. **Frank Budovitch.** I only met him a time or two, but I always enjoyed listening to his lifetime of stories and wisdom from his years of work and dedication to the Fredericton community. I assume that someone elsewhere in this addition has given proper tribute to him and his accomplishments.

From Rabbi Michael Goldberg Congregation Shaar Shalom, Halifax

In the name of "communal solidarity," how many times have we heard the invocation of Hillel's famous maxim from Pirke Avot 1:5, "Al tifrosh min hatzibur" – "Do not separate from the community".

And yet, such a glib citation of Hillel may well fail to accurately capture the true meaning of his statement, because those who typically cite it ignore the historical context within which it was uttered. During Hillel's time, one group, the Essenes, had left Jerusalem behind to go out into the Judean wilderness to be totally by itself. By contrast, Hillel's counsel to his group, the Pharisees, was to remain in Jerusalem among such other sects as, for example, the Sadducees.

Surprisingly and significantly, the name of Hillel's own sect, the Pharisees, in Hebrew is p'rushim – "separatists." The name of his sect, in other words, uses the same Hebrew

root as that found in his oft-quoted maxim – i.e., *tifrosh* – which warns against separation. How to reconcile, then, the same root used in these apparently diametrically opposed ways?

Hillel's wise insight was that Jews, while remaining part of a single community, could still form separate, distinct groups within it. We rightly call Hillel – and his frequent Pharisaic antagonist, Shammai – Sages, because they understood the difference between diversity and divisiveness. Any community or communal leaders that fail to acknowledge diversity as legitimate by mechanically crying "Divisiveness!" at every turn will ultimately create the very sort of community they most dread, one indeed fractured beyond repair.

May we and our communal leaders learn from our ancient sages.

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The Mezuza - Insuring Jewishness in Every Room

by Rabbi Y.C. Grunstein/Beth Israel, Halifax

One of the more enjoyable aspects of a Rabbinic life is the need, and privilege, to do "house calls". What can I do-not everyone likes to come to Shul, some physically can no longer and how can we accept a salary, paid by these above people's dues, without at least visiting them.

So after my wife **Tali**, son **Noam** and I were settled in and getting through the culture shocks of the transition from the West Bank of Israel to the East Atlantic coast of N.S, we set out one day with a membership list in one hand and a map of HRM in the other, to seek these people out.

While finding a private home is quite simple, seeking an apartment in a large 15-story building proved to be harder than we thought. And while doing so in December is quite easy [just look for the house without the lights and wreath], going around the HRM in September proved to be a "Modern Jewish Challenge".

But the Talmud already instructs a Jew [Tractate Berachot 10a] that "even if a sharp sword is at your throat, don't be discouraged from petitioning G-d for Mercy". Indeed, the mercy of G-d came through, but not as a result from a clumsy Rabbi, but rather from his own initiative, one expressed long before I came along:

"And you shall write them on the doorposts of your homes, and your entrances"! [Book of Devarim 6/9].

That small box, with the parchment inside and the "Shin" outside, allowed us to spot the Jewish homes, even when the list in hand was rather ambiguous! We indeed thanked G-d for thinking ahead of time that a Rabbi may need that small symbol.

But going back to the above quoted verse, we see that the Mezuza must be placed not only on the Main entrance to the home [i.e.- 'entrances'], but also on each and every doorpost within the house! It is rather strange that one isn't enough. If G-d would like us to make a statement that this house is a Jewish home, having a Mezuza at the main entrance, facing outwards, should suffice. Why must we invest the money and time to put a Mezuza on each and every doorpost? Indeed, we as Jews learn to live with surrender to the DivineWill; even if we don't understand, we fulfill, having faith that G-d would not command us to do something useless. But if I may suggest a possible "result" [rather than "reason"] to this Mitzva, I would submit that G-d wanted to insure that everything we do in each room lives up to being Jewish! It is not enough to state that this home is one in which Jews reside [i.e.- Mezuza at the front door]; it is vitally imperative to make sure that everything done in each and every room of one's home is indeed living up to the ideals of the Mezuza:

- In a room with a Mezuza, one would watch his mouth, filtering all with his/her brain and heart, not letting any form of slander or foul language leave it.
- In a room with a Mezuza, one would never think of filing a false tax return.
- In a room with a Mezuza, one would only watch movies and TV shows that befit his status as G-d's "Kingdom of

priests, and a Holy Nation" [Book of Shemot 19/6]. Indeed, the small but firm Mezuza box, holding a small but relevant and ancient parchment in its midst, insures that each room is one of sanctity, insuring that all that is done in a Jewish home befits one's status as a Jew. Living a life of holiness and sanctity is tough. Making every minute on this earth substantial is even more difficult. But the Mezuza is there for you – it is there to help a Jew make those fast decisions about his/her every day activities.

How lucky we are to have this Mitzva: To place a Mezuza on the doorpost, to ensure that we can seek a Jewish home even if we are as clumsy as this Rabbi, and to have a Mezuza at every door-post within that home, to ensure that we are constantly living in an environment befitting our status as Jews.

Indeed, it is a privilege to make "house calls" to such homes!

Rabbi Grunstein would be happy to accompany your Family in affixing Mezuzot in your home, together with the "Birkat Habayit"/Blessing of the Home.

Please feel free to set a time and place at [W] 422-1301 or [H] 444-6684

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Massada News

by Shirley Burnstein

Shalom!

The fall has come and gone and we are now in the midst of a "deep freeze". Oh well! This too will pass.

"Massada" keeps meeting and growing in numbers – and these are "good things"!

Our Chanukah luncheon was held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue – prepared by **Janet Casey** and her staff. Needless to say, the meal was delicious – especially the latkes! **Joanna** and **Ezra Wexler** provided the music – Hebrew, Yiddish, English – and we hummed and sang along. A good time was had by all. Thanks Joanna and Ezra.

On December 22nd, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Massada members were invited to a Chanukah Tea at Government House hosted by Her Honour Lieutenant Governor **Myra Freeman**. We were warmly and graciously received. Many menorahs were on display and were lit by members, **Bina Funt, Bea Zemel, Sara Yablon** (to name a few). The tables were filled with beautiful and tasty goodies and it was indeed an afternoon to remember.

On Thursday, January 22nd, 2004 Massada's monthly meeting was held at Northwood (the strong, cold winds didn't keep the 43 members from attending). **Rabbi Grunstein** dropped in and paid us a most welcome visit. The lunch was delicious and enjoyed by all. A program on stress presented by

Molly Rechnitzer (a Massada member) was well prepared, well presented and very well received. Following this Barbara Yablon and Phyllis Perlin read from *Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul*. This added greatly to the afternoon which was a pleasure to be part of. Such warmth and friendship

Executive meetings are held regularly and plans for future programs, projects, etc are always on our minds. Also transportation, senior facilities, meals and finding ways to make

made it worth venturing out

into the cold.

Mrs. Bina Funt lighting the Hannuka candles at Government House, December, 2003.

life easier and more social for our Massada members are constantly discussed. If you have any ideas or needs, call Ralph Garson or Shirley B – perhaps Massada can help.

Keep well and warm!



Government House Massada Tea. L-R: Phyllis Perlin, Shoshana Katz, Mildred Glynn, Mindy Jacobson.



Government House Massada Tea. L-R: Molly Rechnitzer, Shoshana Katz, Harry Block, Mr. & Mrs. Rose.



Government House Massada Tea. Her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman and His Honour Larry Freeman.

Help Wanted

Massada "Knitting for the needy"

We need knitters, leftover yarns, donations to buy wool, sweaters, etc. We have about 12 people who have donated yarn, made toques, mitts, scarves, socks, afghans. So far we have donated over 75 items to:

Missions to Seamen, Adsum House, Metro Turning Point, Phoenix Teens.

It has been a cold winter and we'd appreciate hearing from you.

Please call Celia Fried - 423-5533 or leave a message.

Jewish Student Association

by Joanna Grossman, President

The academic year has been one of growth and excitement for the JSA. The new Tammy and Albert Latner Center for Jewish Student Life in Halifax, or more fondly, the JSA Bayit, has provided a home for our programs and students.

This year's student executive has been an active team working to implement creative programs for our growing student community. Under the guidance of Robert Dickman, a calendar full of events was implemented. Students gathered for 'Jewshi' an unconventional Shabbat dinner where students learned how to make their own sushi. We met with Marc Attali from the Israeli Consulate in Montreal and had the opportunity to hear an Israeli Bedouin speak about his experience as a minority within Israel's culturally diverse society. Also, Executive Member Heather Socken along with Robert Dickman, went on a road trip throughout the region to connect with students on the smaller campuses.

This semester promises to be as successful as the first. Our 'L'Chaim Shabbos', a 'spirited' and traditional Shabbat dinner, saw the Bayit filled with students. **Daniel Rattner**, along with his Israel Affairs committee has been working hard to implement pro-active Israel programming. His team is establishing a presence on campus providing information about the growing problem of Anti-Semitism and the facts about Israel that the media often ignores. **Julie Bernstein**, a speech writer for Israel at the UN will be speaking on campus and **Irshad Manji**, author of *The Trouble with Islam* will be speaking, offering her unique point of view to students and the community.

We are also looking forward to our regional Shabbaton and ski trip to give students from all across the Atlantic Provinces a chance to meet, socialise, and improve on our potential to be active representatives of the Jewish community on our respective campuses. Lastly, for all the sports enthusiasts, the JSA will be hosting a basketball tournament and party to raise funds to support the Bayit.

The student community is hard at work developing programs and working to develop an organised and active body. The school months that remain will be busy, but we hope to continue building on the success we have had to date.

The Atlantic Jewish Community congratulates **Irving Schwartz**, O.C., of Sydney, Nova Scotia on his appointment as Officer within the *Order of Canada*. This is a promotion within the Order.

Partnership 2000

by Kathy Zilbert, co Chair Partnership 2000 Atlantic Canada



Kathy and Arthur on their trip to Israel, November, 2003.

Our partnership continues with the communities of the Galilee Panhandle of Israel. We again had Israeli youth at Camp Kadimah in the CIT program and had a small contingent go to Israel as part of Kadimah Israel this past summer. The hope is to continue this partnership with the youth of the north again this summer. As the situation remains relatively

quiet in Israel the numbers of teens going to camp in Israel is going up and they will have an opportunity to go the Galilee and renew friendships with their Israeli counterparts who were at Kadimah last year. This programme has been a tremendous experience for all as they each learn about Jewish life in the others homes.

Arthur and I had the pleasure of going to Israel in November on a mission with several friends from the Atlantic region. During this trip we had a short visit in the north with our partner communities. One of the highlights of this stop was going to the homes of families in and around Kiryat Shemona. We were paired with many teachers and their families who are involved in the Israeli side of P2K. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to get to know the people first hand and learn more about their day to day life in the region.

I had meetings during this trip about a new Educational Initiative (E I) that P2K is becoming involved with. During the last few years the Galilee has had a difficult time economically, as has the rest of the country. The educational system has been severely affected with budgets being cut for teachers, equipment and resources. The local mayors and Israeli partners of P2K have chosen to focus our efforts on improving the educational system in the region. This E I will greatly enhance educational achievements in the region by focusing funds and expertise on computer skills, English language and mathematics. P2K, along with the Ministry of Education and two Israeli philanthropic organizations will work together to implement new initiatives which will greatly improve the existing system and will continue for years to come.

Our hope is to get our local region more involved with these new initiatives and find ways to continue to help the children of this region. I will be going to Israel again on February 1st and plan to gather information and come back with ideas for further projects which the Atlantic region can embrace as our own. Watch for updates.

NEWS ~ International Musician, January 2004

Halifax Concert Premiered Works from WWII

Music that survived the Holocaust was performed in concert on November 9 at historic Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The St. Cecilia Concert Series in Halifax joined forces with the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Shaar Shalom Synagogue (celebrating its 50th anniversary) in a unique partnership to present the Lost Composers Concert, premiering long-buried works by Jewish composers and those boycotted by the Nazis for Jewish sympathies.

In the years preceding World War II, the Nazi regime in Germany forbade Jewish musicians and sympathizers from performing in public and stopped the publication and performance of their compositions. As a result, much of this music was lost during the Holocaust. However, some of it was secreted away for safe storage, sometimes literally buried underground, and only found in recent years.

The Lost Composers concert featured St. Cecilia's Artists-in-Residence, the Blue Engine String Quartet (BESQ), performing world premiere performances of two string quartets by **Paul Kletzki** and **Reinhard Oppel**, as well as the only known surviving work by **Carlo Taube**. Pianist **Peter Allen**, a member of locals 145 (Vancouver, BC) and 571 (Halifax, NS) and Local 571 cellist **Shimon Walt** also premiered a previously unknown Oppel cello sonata. "We were honoured to present this program in Halifax," said BESQ violinist Anne Simons of locals 571 and 820 (St. John's, NF). "As performers we believe in ensuring that political suppression is never allowed to extinguish beauty and creativity."

The performance took place on the 65th anniversary of "Kristallnacht," or "The Night of the Broken Glass." On that day in 1938, the Nazis encouraged the destruction of thousands of Jewish establishments and synagogues throughout Germany as a prelude to the genocide that was about to be launched on Europe's Jewish population. The idea for the concert arose from a chance meeting between the BESQ's agent and Local 406 (Montreal, PQ) member Dr. **Timothy Jackson**, originally from Halifax and now an associate professor of Music Theory at the University of North Texas. Jackson, a noted music scholar who is resurrecting the music of unjustly neglected composers such as Kletzki and Oppel, also gave a pre-concert talk about the music at Pier 21.

Oppel was a member of the Germany "cultural aristocracy" who quickly came to regard Hitler with contempt. Oppel refused to join Nazi organizations and maintained critical distance from the regime. Fleeing with his family, he feared that his works would be destroyed as part of the Nazis' attempts to purge all Jewish influences from German life. His music was buried in his old WWI trunk in the vicinity of Leuna, near Halle. In 1990, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, Oppel's son Kurt dug up the chest and brought it to his home near Frankfurt. Dr. Jackson met **Kurt Oppel** in 1995. In 1999, the Oppel Collection was placed on deposit in the UNT library.

Conductor and composer Kletzki was teaching in Milan in 1936 when he fled first to Russia and then to Switzerland, where he lived as a refugee during WWII. Before the Nazi

takeover, his music was being played and published by important music organizations across Europe. However, in 1933 he was branded as a Jewish composer and his scores were destroyed, along with the copperplates used to lithograph his music in Germany. He buried a copy of his scores in a trunk in a house in Milan, near the La Scala Opera House, in an area which was heavily bombed. Kletzki believed that his music had been destroyed. After the war, Kletzki achieved worldwide fame as a conductor. In 1965, the chest was discovered and returned to him. Believing that all his manuscripts and scores had turned to dust, Kletzki was too afraid to open it. After his death in 1973, the chest was opened and the music was found to be perfectly preserved. Halifax audiences heard the premiere performance of Kletzki's *String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 1*.

Composer **Taube**, his wife, and son were housed in Theriesienstadt (Terezin), the Nazi's "model" concentration camp, where many artists were sent as they waited to be deported to the death camps elsewhere in Europe. Taube's moving "To a Jewish Child," with lyrics by his wife **Erika**, is the only known surviving work by the composer, who studied with the famous composer-pianist **Ferrucio Busoni** in Vienna. Taube and his family were all gassed in Auschwitz on October 11, 1944.

The concert was recorded for future broadcast on radio by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, who also supported the production as media sponsors.

For more information on the concert and performers, log onto www.waltmusic.com and visit the Classical section. The St. Cecelia Concert Series' Web site is at www.stcecilia.ca.

To read more about Kristallnacht, visit www.us-israel.org/jsource/Holocaust/kristallnacht.html.

Taps for the Bugler?

For more than 150 years, it has been the scene at nearly every state funeral: a solitary bugler, typically under gray skies in a pouring rain, sounding out the arpeggio of 24 haunting notes that make up "Taps," tone wavering with the emotion of the occasion. Now, that scene may be changing.

Recent successful tests of a new electronic device, fitted into the bell of a bugle to play "Taps" automatically, have proven that virtual devices now have the dubious capability to invade even this most hallowed of musical arenas. The digital, or "ceremonial" bugler, as the device is called, has been racking up proponents and detractors all across the country.

"Taps" has held a long place in our nation's history. In the British Army, a similar call known as "Last Post" has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of "Taps" is unique to the US military. It is sounded at funerals, wreathlaying, and memorial services. The call, first sounded in Virginia following the Seven Days Battle of the Civil War in July, 1862, quickly spread to units of the Union Army. It was even used by the Confederates.

"Taps" was made an official bugle call after the Civil War, and has since earned an irreplaceableand legendaryrole for itself in American history. Many will never forget a particular rendition of "Taps" played for the funeral of President **John F. Kennedy,** when an army bugler cracked the high note. The mistake subsequently became identified with the grief of a nation.

While the ceremonial bugler has its obvious detractors, even the most vehement critics might concede that it serves a purpose, particularly in smaller communities that lack the resources to hire and pay a bugler for memorial services.

Russel Seager, a trumpet player and member of Local 78 (Syracuse, NY), sees both sides. Seager, a jazz player by vocation, has been called upon to play "Taps" on numerous occasions for funerals.

"Resources aside, there are also many smaller communities in the country where there simply are no live

musicians available to handle the job," he says. "Sometimes, when there is nobody around, you have to do it. The ceremonial bugler can give these communities a viable alternative."

Opponents of the ceremonial bugle also point out that the proof is in the sound. They feel there is no way a digital device can replace the feeling of a live player. While Seager has never heard the ceremonial bugle, he feels that even a recording of a real bugler would probably provide a more lifelike sound. "However, it's not just about the sound," he is quick to point out. "A recording doesn't provide the important visual aspect that you get with the ceremonial bugle."

Whatever views musicians may hold about the new device, it's a thorny question that incidentally bears more than a passing resemblance to issues at the heart of the March 2003 Broadway musicians' strike, where pit musicians fought to avoid being replaced by "virtual orchestras."

Fredericton Loses a Community Leader



Fredericton lost a dear and respected member of its community when Frank Budovitch passed away on December 29, 2003. Frank was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, but spent most of his life in Fredericton where he and his business partner, Ben Medjuck, founded Medjuck and Budovitch Ltd., a furniture company that served the Province for 50 years.

During the weeks that followed his death, his wife **Daisy**, and his sons **Mitchell, Arnold, Steven** and **Howard** were touched and comforted by the many people who took the time to visit with them and who

wrote beautifully to them of fond memories of their husband and father. He was a man who enjoyed the customer contact in the retail business. His genuine interest in the people he served was evident to his children and grandchildren who knew that any public outing with Zaidie would involve patiently waiting with him as he talked to the many people who recognized him and wanted to reminisce, or just "sit a bit" and feel the warmth and kindness that was such a signature aspect of his personality. People were often amazed when they told him he had sold them their first sofa, and he then remembered the colour. He would later tell his grandchildren that it wasn't

really a great feat, because they only bought three colours in the early days.

His community participation during his many years in business was often through the Rotary Club, and most Frederictonions recalled when he was the "voice" of the annual radio auction the Club held as its principal fundraiser. He served on the Board of the Dr. Everet Chalmers Hospital and in his retirement years was the inspiration for the Heartmenders Team in the Labatt 24 Hour Relay Race. His Heartmenders didn't actually "run" the course, but they often lead the field in funds raised. He enjoyed the event, but as with all his involvements, his real pleasure came from the contact with the people who joined him in the effort and in the successes they shared together.

Frank was of the generation that saw growth in the Maritime Jewish communities and witnessed the birth of the State of Israel. Like so many of his peers he willingly and enthusiastically took his turn(s) as President of the synagogue and chairman of the UJA, the JNF and the Israeli Bond Drive. His efforts were recognized by the Atlantic Jewish Council, when he was awarded the Community Service Award, a form of recognition that touched him deeply and of which he was very proud.

Daisy and Frank Budovitch were childhood sweethearts who knew the joys of a good marriage, strong family ties and enduring friendships. They understood their blessings and felt strongly that their role was to ensure their children and grandchildren stayed true to the same values. Recently the family played a video of their father addressing them all following a toast to the couple on their 50th wedding anniversary eleven years ago. He said many thoughtful things, but closed with a message to his children and grandchildren that would have been his message to all, "Be a family that loves each other".

Fredericton Hadassah-Wizo News

by Ruth Chippin

With the coming of the Fall Season, we have launched the 2003-2004 Hadassah-Wizo year with our Medical Services Fund Raiser.

The co-chairs, Marlene Unger and Marilyn Kaufman did a wonderful job of soliciting donations and finding an interesting speaker for the event. On Thursday evening, Sept. 18, at the home of Marlene Unger, we gathered to hear Sharon Levesque, owner of Health Styles Fitness Centres, give an informative talk on the impact exercise has on us as we age. She said the most effective way to entice everyone to exercise,

as they get older is to create programs based on modified versions of physical activities that were enjoyed in our youth. Every person's program will be different and levels of exertion will be different for everyone. For example, Sharon's gym has even brought in a trampoline and come up with some modified exercises for those that enjoy bouncing up and down, no matter what their age. Sharon stressed the advantages of exercise to maintain good health.

Stay tuned for further news as the 2003-2004 season moves forward.

Fredericton Sisterhood News... "I Never Saw Another Butterfly"

by Ruth Chippin

At the Sisterhood meeting on Thursday evening, October 23rd, we were fortunate to have Helen Morag

McKinnon as a special guest. Last spring Helen spearheaded the production of a play called "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" about the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia. This very moving play delves into the horrific experiences that the children at Terezin endured throughout the Holocaust. The cast was comprised of students from the Fredericton and surrounding communities from grades 4 through 12. It is Helen's hope that all those who were involved in the production and presentation of this play will go on to be wonderful ambassadors not only for human rights but also in not forgetting the Holocaust, as they get older. There were 7 performances to sold out audiences in Fredericton.

Helen's vision is to make the play into an educational film using the same cast as performed the play last spring. This film could not only be televised but more importantly be used as a teaching tool for teachers here in the Maritimes and across Canada. Helen has been in contact with Heritage

Canada and they have assigned a programme advisor to help Helen keep this play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" alive. Helen and her very committed cast and technical crew are preparing to re-present the play again in Fredericton. Then at the suggestion of Heritage Canada, they will be taking the play to other communities in New Brunswick, starting with Moncton and Saint John.

The importance and benefits of the project "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" is that Holocaust education will continue, that tolerance and understanding towards other cultures and beliefs will be fostered, that the cruelty, and senseless destruction of bigotry, bullying, stereotyping, racism, and genocide will cease. The young people involved in this production have all been extremely dedicated and responsible. They are the next generation of ambassadors and advocates for tolerance, understanding and respectful appreciation of other cultural beliefs and customs.

If you are interested in learning more about this project you can contact Helen Morag McKinnon by email at eilidh@nbnet.nb.ca or by phone at 1-506-357-3838.

More Fredericton News:

Mazel Tov to Miriam and Warren Cohen on the birth or their grandson, Samuel Bradley.

Mazel Toy to **Daniel Chippin**, son of **Rose** and **Arnold Chippin**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Jason Airst**, son of **Carol** and **Simmy Airst**, who graduated from Fredericton High School last June. Jason is attending Dalhousie University.

Around the Region . . .



Her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman presenting Consul General of Israel Mark Attali with a gift from the province on his initial visit to Halifax, Nova Scotia, November, 2003



Old friends gathering to celebrate a simcha in Halifax, August, 2003. L-R: Mrs. Danny Levine of Israel, Jon Goldberg, Dr. Danny Levine of Israel, Dr. Stanley Jacobson, Toronto and Mrs. Sharon Jacobson, Toronto.



"Israel at Heart" addressing students at Dalhousie University, November, 2003.



Rabbi Grunstein and Joanna Grossman shown here putting up the Mezuzah at the official opening of the Temmy & Albert Latner Jewish Student Centre, Halifax, November, 2003.

Fond Memories...

UIA Federations Canada National Canadian GA Mission, November, 2003.



Israeli soldiers happy to see their Canadian supporters at Palmachim Air Force Base.



David Silverberg of Wolfville, NS (lower right) enjoys the company of Israel Airforce Cadets in Israel, November, 2003.



Jerusalem November 2003 March – Canada salutes Israel. L-R: Jo-Anne Nozick, Boris Tzinman, Shulamith Medjuck, Kathy Zilbert, Hedda Medjuck, Sheva Medjuck.



Jerusalem November 2003 March – Canada supports Israel.

more fond memories...more fond memories...













Dateline Halifax

Mazal Tov to **Avram Spatz**, son of **Jim** and **Marcie**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Ari Silburt**, son of **Barbara** and **Bruce Silburt**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Lawrence Ferguson** on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Mazal Tov to **Arnold** and **Rena Webber** on the occasion of their 54th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to **Norman Ross** on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Mazal Tov to **Earle Bowman** on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mazal Tov to **Shirley Burnstein** who recently celebrated a special birthday.

Mazal Tov to **Victor Goldberg** on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Mazal Tov to **Victor** and **Sybil Fineberg** on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary.

Condolences to the family of the late Sheldon Cohen.

Condolences to Dr. **Sol Hirsch** and family on the passing of **Doris Hirsch**.

Condolences to Rabbi **David Ellis** on the passing of his father.

Condolences to **Joseph Jacobson** and family on the passing of **Jennette Jacobson**.

Report from Saint John

by Joseph Arditti

During the winter months, after celebrating Hanukkah, we look forward for Tu-Bishvat, then Purim and we reach our mid year celebration that is Pessah. These lines are being written during the coldest winter months while we look ahead to Pessah.

Despite our ageing population, we have continued to have services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, thanks to the dedicated persons who make it possible to have minyan.

During the Fall we had a successful UJA campaign which was completed within a few weeks after Shaliach Chanan Cohen visited Saint John.

During the week of Hanukkah, our outdoor large Hanukiah continued to illuminate the front of the Jewish Center. Of course, one more light was added each night. On the third day of Hanukkah we had a luncheon for the congregation at the vestry of the Synagogue. The ladies prepared latkes and salads, which is traditional for the event. A few Hebrew School children sang Hanukkah songs. They were accompanied by Herzl Kashetsky playing the guitar and Bruce Washburn, the flute. That same evening the Jewish Museum Board organized the annual Hanukkah candle outdoor lighting ceremony. This was attended by citizens of the city, as well as members of the congregation. A social gathering followed in the vestry of the synagogue where apple cider and cookies were served.

A few members went to Florida during the winter months. They are expected to return sometime around Pessah, when the climate will improve.

On behalf of the Saint John Congregation I send Pessah greetings to all readers of Shalom Magazine.

Shalom Report for Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

The basement of Tiferes Israel Synagogue was overflowing with treasures (and some junk) this past November for the Sisterhood Bazaar. The one day bazaar, which included an auction and draw, was hugely successful raising \$10,000. Of this amount \$9000 was donated to the shule, and \$500 was donated to each of Moncton's hospitals. More important than the dollars, although badly needed, however, was the spirit and camaraderie that evolved as the whole community drew together to insure this project's success. Congratulations are due to the co-convenors of the bazaar, Evy Carnat, Ann Gorber, Anne Jochelman and Leah Alpern.

No sooner was the bazaar cleaned up than it was time to start planning and cooking for the community Chanukah dinner. A large crowd arrived for a turkey dinner and a concert of Chanukah songs performed by Rabbi **Zalman Stiefel** and his brothers.

A large turnout from the Jewish community and the non-Jewish community lent a party-like atmosphere to the second annual lighting of the menorah in front of Moncton's City Hall. The weather was perfect for the outdoor ceremony where Mayor **Brian Murphy** announced that he was "almost Jewish because he had chutzpah." During the party Sisterhood served latkes and sufganyot, and the children were entertained by Rondo the Magician.

Several of the children have been getting together with Aida Stiefel every Sunday over the last few months to rehearse a play called "Forgive and Forget" which will be performed for the community on February 15.

We were saddened by the loss of two members of our community, **Gayle Rinzler**, wife of **Gordon Rinzler** and **Norman Rubin**, husband of **Adelle Rubin**. Before becoming ill Gayle was a very active member of Sisterhood and served as treasurer for several years. Norm was well known in Moncton, and well liked by all who know him. They will both be greatly missed. Sincere condolences are extended to the Rinzler and Rubin families.

Moncton Armistice Day 2003

by Mendel Greenblatt

The 2003 Armistice Day ceremonies were held in the Moncton Coliseum on November 11.

On the Sabbath before Armistice Day (November 8) any veterans who were present in the shul that day were called up and given an aliyah. On November 11th, Armistice Day itself,

Rabbi **Zalmen Stiefel**, the new Rabbi of the Congregation gave a memorial tribute and then read the 20th Psalm in Hebrew.

Mr. Mendel Greenblatt, on behalf of the Jewish Congregation of Moncton, laid the Star of David Wreath at the Memorial.

Report from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Shalom from balmy St. John's. Although we understand that the rest of Canada has been suffering from record cold, we have managed to dodge the arctic weather and are feeling slightly smug. So far no services or parties have been cancelled and our classes and school visits are taking place on schedule. Our wonderful Areiva, Adi Varon, having heard the tales of our impressive winters, is wondering if these accounts were somewhat exaggerated. She has been busy with Hebrew school, outreach visits, movie nights and general synagogue functions. She also held a very successful Challah-making workshop, as she is a very talented cook and baker.

Our late fall season has been active as usual. We celebrated Sukkot and Simhat Torah with services and a fine Sukkah. A large community party took place on December 20th to celebrate Hanukah which was enhanced by the presence of **Joanna** and **Ezra**, two musicians sent by the AJC. Hanukah goodie bags were distributed to all the children, and copious amounts of latkes were consumed. The community wishes to thank artist **Bonnie Leyton** for donating a piece of sculpture that was auctioned at this event. Next Saturday we will be holding a Tu B'shvat Seder and we are pleased to host the Pentecostal Church of Conception Bay South for this event.

During the past few months our Shul has held bi-monthly Talmud study luncheons after Shabbat services. They have been very successful in stimulating Saturday morning attendance. A Yasher Koach goes to Arnold Bennett for the idea and the impetus.

Still more intellectual and cultural nourishment has come our way through various visits. We were pleased to welcome **Chanan Cohen,** the UIA Shaliach from Israel who addressed our synagogue on Friday night after services. Later in the fall, Dr. **Israel Unger** and renowned lawyer and activist, **Leo Adler,** came to talk about human rights and the Holocaust at a local high school, on local television and on the radio. We thank Shari Ritter, our AJC representative, for organizing this event so superbly. In January, **Anat Uzzan,** a Shaliach from Montreal, held a workshop on the Bible during her weekend visit which was unfortunately cut short by a virulent, one-day snowstorm.

As the days are getting longer, Shabbat is coming in later, and the headache of Pesach orders are looming, we look forward to an early spring. *Yesh lanu tikvah!* While a fixed link to the mainland is still far off in the future, we do urge you do drop by and visit us. After all, you can leave your newly purchased *gatkes* at home!

PEI Community

by Sol Feldstein

Are we Jews if we don't have a synagogue or a rabbi, if our services are a mixture of what some remember from childhood experiences and what others want to express in the course of our modified approach to Judaism? Is it more important to be inclusive of everyone with some Jewish heritage or to adhere to religious doctrine, as the religious among us would prescribe? These are some of the questions with which the small PEI Jewish community has had to struggle. Over the past 20 years we have seen many comings and goings in our attempts to maintain a Jewish identity far from centers of Jewish activity. In the beginning (and no one is sure of what exactly the beginning consisted) some of us came together on holidays in small pot luck gatherings where a candle may have been lighted and a chalah may have appeared from someone's oven.

The children were brought together in a school and a few mothers taught what they could of Jewish history and in particular the meaning of the holidays. Most of these children are now college graduates or in the working and professional world. For a long period there were so few children that the

school dwindled and still remains largely a collection of materials that may be useful again in the future. The community itself formalized into an organization with officers and constitution. By commission or omission the community became more and more observant of the formal tenets of the religion, including the invitation to a rabbi to conduct services on special holidays. There were many who appreciated this opportunity, but at the same time we experienced a falling away of many members, who for a variety of reasons felt that their relationship with Jewishness needed to be expressed in other ways. This very small community was diminished in numbers. At the last AGM there was an influx of people who had not been attending for a long time. They had prepared in advance knowing that our constitution was structured democratically, and they voted in a new slate and made several changes.

The decision was not to use rabbinical services as we had before, and that men and women would be equal in the performance of our rituals. Since that September meeting, all of the services have been better attended, have been planned by committees and there is a new spirit.

OBITUARY Dr. David Gaum Sydney, Nova Scotia



After a lifetime of dedication and quiet contribution to his community and his philanthropic interests, David Gaum passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends, December 15, 2003. Born in Sydney, NS on April 19, 1918 Dr. Gaum graduated from Sydney Academy and furthered his studies at Dalhousie University where he graduated in medicine in 1943. He went to specialize in surgery at the Maimonide Medical Centre in New York before returning to Sydney to join his brother Dr.

Abraham Gaum in their medical practice. Together they served the Sydney community for 50 years. Dr. Gaum was a war veteran and was a Captain in the Medical Corps of the Canadian Armed Forces. He served overseas during the Second World War.

During his career he also served as Chief of Staff and as Chief of Surgery for both the Sydney City Hospital and the St. Rita Hospital. Unrelenting in his efforts to advance modern surgical techniques in Cape Breton Dr. Gaum's particular focus was in the area of orthopedic surgery. He and his brother Abe also developed and funded the first dialysis unit in the Sydney City Hospital, which was named in honour of their parents.

His respect for his colleagues and his commitment to his patients brought him many friends, which was never more evident than in his last years as he battled the illness

that took his life. His family is extremely grateful to the doctors and nurses at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital who showed him such love and kindness throughout his

stoic battle with cancer.

While Dr. Gaum resided in Sydney all of his life he had a deep commitment to the State of Israel where he owned a home for 20 years and welcomed many visiting Canadians during his times there.

David Gaum was predeceased by his parents, Louis and Pearl Gaum; his brothers, Dr. Abraham (Rita), and the Hon. Percy (Pinky) (Hannah); his sisters, Bella and Libby Brenner (Harry).

He is survived by his sisters, Etta Chernin (Mendel), Bunny Davidson (Dr. Harold); and his brother Dr. Cyril Gaum (Esther) of Boston; nine nieces and nephews; 13 great-nieces and nephews.

Temple Sons of Israel P.O. Box 311 Sydney, NS B1P 6H2

Dear Friend,

I am writing you today on a few matters which have arisen in the Sydney Jewish Community. As you know our community has dwindled in size dramatically; most of our congregates are over seventy-five years of age, widows and widowers. We now have approximately 45 paying members including widows, widowers, and singles. We are still able to have minyans for the Sabbath and all Jewish holidays and although we do not have a Rabbi, the congregates are able to conduct the services. We do have available a Rabbi from Halifax for special needs (funerals and holidays).

This year we had to replace our building at the cemetery (\$35,000) and are in the midst of replacing the roof on the Synagogue (\$95,000).

Although we do have money on hand to pay for these items, it will reduce our savings dramatically, monies, which were earmarked for perpetual care of our cemetery. I am writing you and as many people as we can find, who have connections with Cape Breton, whether it being parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, who were brought up here and have family interned in our cemetery, to help us replenish our funds.

My executive and myself as President ask you to make a one-time generous gift to the Temple Sons of Israel. We will issue tax receipts for these amounts.

I cannot recall in my tenure as President (15 years) or before, of our community asking for financial aid. I find it now necessary to do so as there are not enough locals to achieve our goal. We anticipate recognizing donors by a plaque in the shul.

Our cemetery must be maintained in perpetuity in respect and admiration for our forbearers who enabled us to be successful in life and gave us the opportunity to better our lives. Please give your urgent consideration to this request, as I am sure, especially those who have relatives buried here, will.

Yours truly, Martin Chernin President

P.S. Please mail your cheque to the Temple Sons of Israel at P.O. Box 311, Sydney, NS B1P 6H2

First Annual Atlantic Jewish Film Festival at The Oxford Theatre, Halifax

by Linda Law

The inaugural Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) (October, 2003) was a rousing success, screening fourteen films from six countries—documentaries, shorts, dramas, comedies—with two Academy Award winners and another Academy Award nominee. One film had captured six Israeli Academy Awards; another, Trembling Before G-d, had earned accolades from around the world, among them the coveted Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Festival. The AJFF brought to Halifax some of the best that Jewish cinema has to offer—cinema that entertained, provoked and touched our audiences, both Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

With more than 1200 tickets sold and the generous support of patrons and program advertisers, the festival was as much a financial as artistic success: by breaking even, it defied the typical experience of new arts festivals that often see deep losses in their inaugural years.

The festival received wide media coverage, both locally and nationally, including articles in *The Halifax Herald* and *The Canadian Jewish News*; a 4-page spread and cover of *The Coast*; and news coverage on Eastlink Cable and CBC Radio. The festival is now on the cultural map in Halifax.

The Steering Committee 2004 is already planning an even stronger festival this year. They will cast a wider net for sponsorship; pursue more critically-acclaimed films; entice interesting speakers to Halifax; and raise the festival's profile even higher.

Stay tuned for Year 2!

"Night Voices" Launched in Halifax

by Heather Lasky

"In the title of a book published recently by McGill-Queen's University Press in Montreal.

Based on the memories of a Halifax family, it tells the little-known story of Poland's Jewish idealists, who committed themselves to building a communist state out of the ashes of the Holocaust, in the doomed belief that it would create a just society, free of anti-Semitism. The reality was that in 1968, needing a scapegoat, the communist leadership set up a campaign of Fascist-style intimidation and harassment to pressure the remnants of its Jewish population to leave..

Set against the background of Poland in the 1930s, the Second World War, and the early years of the post-war communist state, Night Voices is centred on the interwoven memories of Dr. Stanislawa (Stasia) Alapin Rubillowicz, her late husband Dr. Mieczylaw (Mietek) Rubillowicz and her son Peter Alapin, and the people around them – their moral dilemmas, loves, lives, dreams, despair and disillusionment.

Professor **Gershon Hundert** of the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University has said of the book "The very intimate and almost dispassionate portrayal of the corruption of idealism among the Jewish elite in Poland is quite striking and virtually unique". Professor **Piotr Wrobel** of the Department of History at the University of Toronto, found it "very powerful, interesting and deeply moving..."

The book was the focus of a lively and well-attended panel discussion, under the heading of "Jews and the Left", held at Shaar Shalom synagogue in Halifax, last November 23rd through the aegis of the Library Committee for their Books 'n Bagels events. The moderator was Dr. Norman Pereira, Professor of Russian History at Dalhousie University. Members of the panel were Andrew Terris, Roni Gechman, Marty

Zelenietz and **Heather Laskey.** The book is selling briskly through local bookstores in Halifax, including Frog Hollow and the Book Room.

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Atlantic Jewish Foundation

by Patricia Warren - Leave a Legacy consultant

Although some provinces accept a hand written will (called a "Holograph" will) or will kit, it is far too risky to prepare your will yourself. Why?

- 1. Provincial and federal tax and law change.
- 2. No consideration of estate taxes and liabilities is made.
- 3. Any wills written previously are not formally revoked.
- 4. The family members selected to be executor do not have the time or expertise to administer your estate. The executor may predecease you and there is often no alternate Executor named.
- Most people who write their own wills do not make sufficient provision for the person administering your estate.
 For example the power to sell and convert asets to cash, etc. resulting in additional estate administration and legal costs.
- 6. On several occasions the language a person uses in making a will can be vague or misinterpreted. Challenges from family members excluded from the will.
- 7. Frequently a family member or friend is given a bequest, but then there is no consideration for what happens to this gift if the person predeceases the author of the will. Often people take certain things for granted; for example that their children will outlive them.
- 8. You might give a particular item to a relative, but no consideration is given to what happens if that gift does not exist at the date of death. Sometimes a house is left to a

- spouse, in trust for example, but there is no mention of who pays the upkeep of the property during the lifetime of the beneficiary.
- 9. Favourite charitable organizations may not be identified properly which could result in needless litigation and the possibility of the charity never receiving the gift and your estate not benefiting from the tax benefits of the gift.
- 10. The settlement process is more likely to be costly and drawn out and your family may undergo financial hardship.

If your will is not current or properly prepared all that you have worked for and value may be lost. You should always seek advice from a lawyer or notary when preparing a will or codicil. You also should seek professional advisors for income tax advice before completing your will. Don't make the mistake of assuming because you have typewritten your own will that it is a valid holograph will. A typewritten will has to follow the usual formalities of a prepared will, such as witnessing and signing as required by law.

A will is a relatively inexpensive legal document to have made once you consider the expenses and taxes your estate will be subject to if you do not have a will!

For further information regarding "Leaving a Legacy", contact Dov Harris, Director Financial Resource Development, UIA Federations Canada at 416-636-7655, ext. 226. E-mail: dharris@uiafed.org.



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Mission to Israel November 2003

by Boris Tsinman

Our decision to go to Israel on the November 2003 mission was an easy one. We have never been to Israel and have always wanted to go. This was a perfect opportunity. Not only did this trip cover North and Central Israel but a number of our friends had made the decision to go on this mission as well. It was also very appealing to get the chance to participate in the 2003 UJC North American General Assembly and show our solidarity to the State of Israel.

The trip began with a gathering of friends in Toronto's Pearson International Airport. My wife **Laura** and I had spent a day with my parents in Toronto and arrived at the Airport two hours before the flight. Our group consisted of nineteen Maritimers and six Kingstonians.

The flight took off on time and before long everyone on the plane was fast asleep. For some reason, maybe due to excitement, or maybe because I did not take a sleeping pill, I could not fall asleep. After watching a few movies, I managed to dose off for a short while.

We landed in Tel-Aviv at around 6 p.m. Israeli time and started to leave the plane. Our friends made sure that when my wife and I got off the last step of the ladder and set foot on Israeli soil we did it together. Our fun was just beginning.

A very pleasant surprise was awaiting us at the terminal. Our tour bus was to be driven by **Shuli, Toby Abramsky**'s brother-in-law. Many of us had met him in August in Kingston, Ontario at **Hailey Abramsky**'s Bat-Mitzvah. In addition, our tour guide was to be **Yael Goodman,** who many of you will remember from her work here in Halifax with the AJC.

The very first stop was at the Beniamina Winery, for a great supper, music and wine tasting. After the supper, very happy we all got back on our bus and reached our first destination near Kiryat Shmona for two nights.

I will not attempt to do a day by day account of our activities and the many wonderful things we saw and experienced, but my top 10 list would be as follows: Meeting Camp Kadimah Israeli youth in Galil; Ice skating in Metula; sitting in the Amphitheatre in Caesarea; Supper at Palmachim

Air Base with an address by **Ariel Sharon** and other dignitaries; gathering after a long day at the hospitality suite in Tel Aviv and exchanging the day's experiences with all our friends; being briefed by a top analyst on the situation in Israel and terrorists' activities and goals; the road to Jerusalem, an extremely moving experience on Friday night at the Wailing Wall; Masada, Qumran and the dead sea scrolls; the General Assembly meeting and concert with 4,000 people marching through the streets of Jerusalem and; the gala evening and dance at the Neve Tzedek in Tel Aviv. I must add that having our guide Yael Goodman and scholar in residence Rabbi **Danny Levine** with us made our trip pleasant and full of fun.

It was something special, our first evening in Jerusalem. We arrived at the lookout at Mount Scopus at around two pm. The panoramic view of the city was spectacular. It was all white stone etched by the blue sky and in the background, through the mist, we saw reddish brown colours of the Judean desert. Our group stood in front of this picture perfect setting and we made lechaim and sang shehehiyanu. Shabbat was fast approaching and after a quick lunch and checking in procedure at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Jerusalem we boarded our buses again and went to the Kotel.

The Kotel was just becoming busy with groups of men and women streaming towards the wall. I saw the Kotel for the first time up close in the midst of many people praying at the wall. The stones of the wall felt very smooth and surprisingly cool to the touch in spite of the evening sun. I was truly overwhelmed by the feeling of being there and felt as if I was coming home. When I turned around I saw my friends standing behind me, we shook hands and joined in the dancing and singing with Israeli youth.

Upon returning to Canada I had a chance to do a "lunchand-learn" presentation at the QEII hospital for those who were asking me about the trip. Everyone asked me if I would go back to Israel. G-d willing, I will try I said.

WITH ISRAEL * IN ISRAEL



Boris and Laura – Galilee in the background.



Boris skating at Canada Centre, Metulla, Israel.

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. At present we have 20 participants.

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.

There will be cultural and artistic displays and discussions while at sea. The ship leaves Stockholm, Sweden on July 3, 2004.

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For Immediate Release

UIAFC establishes new Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy as umbrella organization for Jewish Community advocacy efforts

TORONTO, January 5, 2004: UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) President Shoel Silver, along with the co-chairs of the Israel Emergency Cabinet, Steven Cummings, Gerald Schwartz, and Larry Tanenbaum, today announced a landmark agreement among Jewish Canadian advocacy groups to create a new body to conduct and direct a wide range of non-partisan public advocacy initiatives on behalf of the Canadian Jewish Community. The new Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) will bring together two existing complementary Canadian Jewish Community advocacy organizations: the Canadian Jewish Congress, which has served the Community for close to a century in addressing Jewish quality of life issues in Canada and anti-Semitism abroad; and the restructured Canada-Israel Committee, which serves as a focal point on all aspects of the relationship between Canada and Israel. CIJA will also provide significant support to key organizations, such as National Committee for Jewish Campus Life, that are working to improve the quality of Jewish life on campus and that promote leadership and participation by the Canadian Jewish Community in advocacy efforts.

The decision to create CIJA resulted from an extensive review, undertaken by a voluntary group of senior business and Jewish Canadian community leaders under the auspices of the UIAFC, of the existing Jewish Community advocacy mechanisms. This group, known as the Israel Emergency Cabinet, identified a series of steps to help the Community improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada, increase support for Israel and strengthen the Canada-Israel relationship. In addition to creating CIJA as a means to streamline and coordinate advocacy efforts, members of the Israel Emergency Cabinet have spearheaded the allocation of substantial additional human and financial resources and called for the launch of new initiatives to sensitize Canadians and the Canadian government to challenges facing Jewish

Canadians and Israel. Key to the success of these initiatives is broad participation by the Jewish Community in advocacy efforts, to leverage and build on existing skills, knowledge and networks.

"The need for CIJA is clear: the time has come for the Jewish Community to pool the resources at its disposal, to speak with a more effective voice on the most important issues of the day," said UIAFC President Shoel Silver. "CIJA will communicate directly with those interested in Jewish Advocacy. Its membership organization, the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy Public Affairs Committee (CIJA-PAC) will encourage the direct participation of as many people as possible in addressing the challenges faced by the Community, and to provide a means for future leaders to be identified and nurtured." Under the new arrangements, CIJA has also invited representatives of all major Jewish Community organizations in Canada to join a Community Council, that will provide directly to the CIJA Board advice on advocacy initiatives and participate in their implementation.

Mr. Silver continued, "On behalf of all the Federations and Regional Communities, I want to extend our gratitude to the members of the Israel Emergency Cabinet for the leadership they have provided through this challenging period. Their clear vision and commitment have given a blueprint for both preserving and enhancing our Community's interests."

The Founding Co-Chairs of CIJA were also announced today. **Brent Belzberg** of Toronto and **Steven Cummings** of Montreal will serve as first Co-Chairs of the new organization, which replaces the Emergency Cabinet. Larry Tanenbaum, Chairman of the Governance and Nominations Committee of the Emergency Cabinet, said, "Brent Belzberg and Steven Cummings have

demonstrated exemplary leadership and were among the driving forces behind the creation of CIJA. I know they will be excellent co-chairs as we move to consolidate and strengthen our non-partisan advocacy efforts as a Community."

"This is an important day for the Jewish Community in Canada," said Mr. Belzberg. "With this new organization, we are positioning ourselves to tackle a host of new challenges we face in the most strategic, proactive and effective manner possible. I am convinced that CIJA will provide us with the means to step up our efforts to build support, enhancing the Canada-Israel understanding, through both bilateral and multilateral fora, and moving swiftly to address public policy issues that affect Jewish quality of life in Canada. By creating CIJA, we are saying as an organized community that we are stronger together than we could ever be as individual groups. There is no question in my mind that creating CIJA will provide the critical mass and the representative voice we need to get the best possible results."

Mr. Cummings added, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of this important milestone for Jewish Canadians. The new organizational structure was developed in conjunction with and agreed to by the leadership of these Jewish Canadian advocacy groups and federations and community organizations from coast to coast. I am confident that it will allow us to mobilize much broader support. By leveraging a wider range of the Community's advocacy efforts while drawing on the advice, resources, expertise and active participation of members of the Jewish Community, we aim to strengthen our strategic outlook as well as our rapid response capabilities." CIJA will become a focal point for our collective efforts to address emerging priorities and build more consensus in the Jewish Community on the challenges facing us, and the solutions that need to be put in place. We are committed to having a real impact on Canadian public policy, and with CIJA, we are now organized to accomplish our goals."

CIJA will have a single volunteer Board of Directors to oversee the organization's policies and the performance of professional staff. These directors will be chosen as individuals, not on the basis of organizational affiliation. Directors will be drawn from the leading members of the Canadian Jewish Community and may also include prominent non-Jewish Canadians. In addition to playing a coordination, focus and resource allocation role with respect to the CJC and CIC, the new organization will help ensure the mandates for each group are clear. CIJA will foster cooperation to maximize the use of limited

resources, including through shared administrative and support services. In addition, CIJA will support other special-purpose organizations that have an advocacy component, including the National Committee for Jewish Campus Life, and the Canadian Friends for Israel.

Co-Chairs Brent Belzberg and Steven Cummings announced that **Hershell Ezrin** has been appointed as the founding Chief Executive Officer of CIJA.

New initiatives initially sponsored by the Israel Emergency Cabinet in the area of research on anti-Semitism and quality of Jewish life in Canada will be launched shortly through Canadian Jewish Congress, with the support of CIJA. These include a major symposium on "Civil Discourse in an Atmosphere of International Instability", a second Canadian conference on the issue of Jewish Refugees from Arab Lands, and an expanded dialogue on interfaith relations. Increased funding will also be allocated to support advocacy on provincial and local needs of Jewish communities across Canada, in collaboration with the Federations and regional organizations. Significant resources have been allocated to new education and seminar initiatives, expanded Israel visits programs and enhanced information flows. Professionals to support Jewish student life have recently been put on campuses across the country.

Those wishing to receive up-to-date information on Jewish Advocacy issues may do so by registering at www.cija.ca. They may also join as an active advocate by signing up as a member of CIJA-PAC. For a membership fee of \$18, as advocates for the Jewish Community in Canada, CIJA-PAC supporters can provide input into CIJA programs and initiatives.

For more information on CIJA or to purchase a membership through CIJA-PAC, visit www.cija.ca.

UIA Federations Canada

UIA Federations Canada is a national Jewish fundraising organization and planning body devoted to strengthening Jewish communities across Canada, in Israel and around the world. Over 60,000 Jewish Canadian families support the UIAFC, its affiliated Federations and Regional Community organizations.

For more information, contact:

Maxyne Finkelstein UIA Federations Canada 416 636-7655 Hershell Ezrin CIJA 1-877-CIJA-333

Biographical Notes:

Brent Belzberg

Brent Belzberg of Toronto, Ontario, is the Managing Partner of Torquest Partners Inc., a private equity fund manager. Prior to February 2002 Mr. Belzberg was President and CEO of Harrowston Inc. (an investment company). Mr. Belzberg is also a director of Four Seasons Hotels and O&Y REIT, and has served on the board of a number of investee companies.

Mr. Belzberg is an active community leader. He is a Director of Mount Sinai Hospital, and the Baycrest Hospital Foundation, and serves as an advisor to several faculties at the University of Toronto. Prior to 1979, Mr. Belzberg practiced law at Torys in Toronto.

Steven Cummings

Steven Cummings of Montreal, Quebec, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Maxwell Cummings & Sons Holdings Limited. He serves on the Board of Directors of several public and private corporations. In October 2003, Mr. Cummings was named to the Board of Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

Active in community affairs, Mr. Cummings is immediate past President of Federation CJA and served both as President of the Jewish General Hospital Centre Board and its Foundation Board. Mr. Cummings currently serves on the Board of the Canadian Jewish News. Founding Chair of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and Founding Co-Chair of PROMONTREAL, Mr. Cummings also served on the Board and Executive Committee of Solomon Schechter Academy and the *Musée des Beaux Arts de Montréal*.

Hershell Ezrin

Hershell Ezrin, the founding CEO of CIJA, is one of Canada's best known political advisors, public policy experts and strategic communications counselors and has served in senior executive roles, at both the federal and provincial levels of government, and in three multinational businesses. He was also a career diplomat in three overseas postings and served as Canadian Consul in New York and Los Angeles. Most recently, Mr. Ezrin was Chair and CEO of GPC International, one of the world's largest public affairs consultancies.

Among his current volunteer assignments, he is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, a member of the Board of the Governor-General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation, the Canadian Steering Committee for Atlantik-Brücke, and on the Program Committee of the Canadian Journalism Foundation. He is a Life Governor for the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Vice Chair of the Holy Blossom Temple Foundation and a past Vice-Chair of the Public Policy Forum of Canada.



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This merit scholarship to be awarded to a student from the Maritime Jewish community to study in Israel and is given once a year.

Application deadline for 2004 is May 31, 2004.

For further information please contact Marie Herschorn, Atlantic Jewish Foundation Administrator at 902-422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca.

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For further information please contact Marie Herschorn, Atlantic Jewish Foundation Administrator at 902-422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

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UJA Federations Canada Shoel Silver, President Maxyne Finklestein, Executive VP Dov Harris, Regional Director FRD February, 2004

Dear Supporter of the 2003 UJA Campaign,

Jon M. Goldberg Regional UJA Campaign Director e-mail: jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

Marie Herschorn UJA Campaign Administrator e-mail: mherschorn@theaic.ns.ca

It is my pleasure, as the Regional Campaign Chair for the Atlantic Canada 2003 United Jewish Appeal Campaign, to write this letter of thanks to all of you who made such generous contributions to this year's campaign. In a time of difficult economics in the Maritime Region, once again our donor population has stepped up and given extremely generously to this year's campaign. As you know, this money is very important for our local operations of the Atlantic Jewish Council and for the State of Israel.

In 2002 we ran a general campaign and also a special campaign. The combined total of both of those campaigns was approximately \$700,000 (regular - \$450,000 and special - \$250,000). This year, we wanted to make sure that we improved upon the 2002 general campaign and hoped to approach, as best we could, the combined total of the two campaigns of 2002. In 2003 we were very happy to raise over \$600,000 in our regular campaign for the Maritime region. This includes donations from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Jewish community of Atlantic Canada continues to meet the challenge of providing for our life as Jews in the Diaspora and for our brothers and sisters in the State of Israel.

My sincere thanks to the community Chairs, all our canvassers, our campaign staff at the AJC, Mr. **Dov Harris**, UIA Federations Canada, Director Financial Resource Development, and the Shaliachs from Israel who worked so hard to make this year's campaign a success.

I would also like to remind you as donors that we have a new option available for your gift. Our goal is to allow people to give their donations on a monthly basis using VISA. This will allow you to divide your donations over twelve payments, four quarterly payments, or whatever interests you, in order to decrease the pressure of having to find the money at the end of a designated year. We believe the use of the VISA card will serve two purposes. One, it will allow us to make giving easier as the contributions will be given monthly and should be less stressful to the overall personal budget, and two, we hope that as you realize you can give on a monthly basis, your total contribution will rise. For example, when it is difficult to find \$600 in November or December when you receive your call, it is much easier, I believe, to give twelve equal payments of \$50. It is our hope that by dividing it among twelve equal payments, we can possibly get that \$600 contribution to \$1000 a year or even more.

If the VISA approach appeals to you, please feel free to contact Marie Herschorn at the AJC office, phone: 902-422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca, and we can start deducting your 2004 contribution upon contact.

Please think about the VISA option, and once again, thanks to each and every one of you for your gift to the 2003 UJA Campaign. "There's a gift somewhere in each of us."

Sincerely, Howard Conter UJA Regional Chair



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