

# Shalom! שלום!

Summer 2004 Vol. 29, No. 2 KAYITZ 5764

## March of the Living

APRIL 14-28, 2004

Kathy Zilbert  
(Chaperone)



### March of the Living Participants

Left-Right: Rebecca Ferguson, Ben Mendleson, Daniel Washburn, Brendan Rosen,  
Jenna Conter, Josh Spatz, Sandra Rappaport, Eric Goldberg.

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### IN THIS ISSUE...

March of the Living – Personal Reflections  
Yom Hashoah Commemorations Throughout the Region  
and much more...

# שלום

## President's Message

by Mark Rosen

President: Mark Rosen

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As we approach summer, or some  
facsimile, Ethel and I look forward to  
our daughter's return from university and  
our son's graduation from high school.  
However, no sooner are we all home  
together than they are off to Kadimah. For  
the first time in our lives both are on staff,  
saving us camper fees – another milestone  
in a Jewish parent's life!

The past few months have been busy  
ones. Apart from numerous meetings and  
conference calls on Jewish affairs, there  
have been many community programs  
occurring throughout the region sponsored  
by the AJC – Purim festivals at  
synagogues; Yom Hashoah  
commemoration programs in each of our  
communities; Canada-Israel Committee  
symposiums on Israel advocacy in  
Moncton, Fredericton, Cape Breton and  
Halifax; a regional youth shabbaton and a  
program called "Shabbat around the  
World" held in Moncton.

In addition, the Asper Foundation trip  
to Washington for children in grades 8 & 9  
took place in May. This program continues  
to be an educational success and we thank  
**Aviva (Rubin) Schneider** for her work in  
preparing the students for the trip. The  
group was enlarged this year to include  
non-Jewish students from the Grammar  
School – a great example of outreach.  
Many thanks to **Mark David** who took  
time away from his busy practice to  
chaperone the trip.

Just recently eight of our youth  
returned from an incredible journey  
through Poland and Israel on the March of  
the Living. This program, generously  
subsidized by UIAFC, has been a mainstay  
in our program for youths 16-17 years of  
age and many of our children in the  
Atlantic region have been privileged to  
experience it over the years. This year the  
program was led by **Kathy Zilbert**. We  
thank Kathy for not only preparing the  
group for their trip and chaperoning our  
children, but in giving them the attention  
they needed during this emotional sojourn.  
One only has to hear the stories from the  
participants to appreciate this inspirational

learning  
experience.

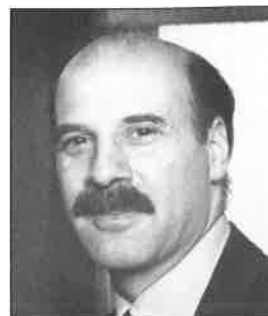
Congratulations

to the participants – **Jenna Conter,**  
**Rebecca Ferguson, Eric Goldberg, Ben**  
**Mendleson, Sandra Rappaport,**  
**Brendan Rosen, Josh Spatz and Daniel**  
**Washburn** and thanks again to their  
surrogate parent, Kathy.

During the past few months **Jon** and I  
have traveled to Fredericton, Saint John,  
Moncton, St. John's and PEI to meet with  
community leadership as part of our  
ongoing strategic review. Discussions have  
also been held with community leadership  
in Cape Breton. Despite dwindling  
resources, both in human and financial  
terms, it is always encouraging to hear  
what our smaller communities are able to  
accomplish, however, we can and must do  
better. At our recent Board of Directors  
meeting held in Moncton on May 30th, the  
Board discussed the report compiled by  
UIAFC's **Perry Romberg** and its  
recommendations. In order to address the  
realities of a new national structure (CIJA)  
and become a more effective advocacy  
body in the Atlantic region, the Board has  
determined that the AJC must concentrate  
on our strengths – Holocaust education;  
Israel advocacy; chaplaincy, fundraising  
(UJA/Bequest & Endowment); campus and  
Camp Kadimah, among others. We must  
emphasize our core activities and assist all  
communities, where possible, in areas  
better handled by them, such as youth and  
adult programming. Focusing efforts on  
our strengths will ensure that the funds we  
raise are spent efficiently in the region and  
will enable more funds to be directed to  
Israel. Your Board of Directors is  
committed to this process.

As I write this report we are saying  
farewell to two of our professionals. After  
performing admirably as our Youth  
Program Director for the past two years,  
**Michael Anthony** is returning to Toronto  
to enter into an education program at U of  
T. Michael has done exceptional work  
throughout the region during his term here

*continued on page 9*





## War & Remembrance

by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Today is June 4 – two days to go before June 6, 2004, which will be sixty years to the exact date of D Day.

Just ten days ago I had the opportunity to walk the Normandy Beaches. This was a culmination of plans made over forty years ago by my cousin, **Marc Goldberg**, growing up here in Halifax and myself. On May 22nd I landed in Normandy with my cousin Marc, now a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a friend of his, and my Uncle **Leonard Goldberg**. Leonard served in the RCAF Dental Corps as a Captain during WWII spending most of the war in England. At 85 years old this was his first trip to the actual battlefield and as a veteran had special significance for him.

You might ask why I write about this in Shalom Magazine. I do so because sometimes we must address the responsibilities we have as Canadian citizens and appreciate the history, sacrifice and hard work that has gone into making this country such a wonderful place for those of us of the Jewish faith to live, work and raise our families.

Upon our arrival in Caen, we were met by our French guide, a young woman in her mid-20's doing her Ph.D. in history, and for the next two days she was our constant companion and resource person in our wanderings through the Normandy countryside. Our first visit was to Juno Beach where 16,000 Canadians landed. I was surprised how close the seafront and the houses were to the beach itself. From there we went to the Juno Museum, which had just opened last year, and then to a cemetery for over 3,000 Canadian soldiers a few miles away. It was a beautiful Norman spring day. The cemetery was immaculate and seemed very still with a wind softly blowing through the tombstones. We couldn't help but notice Stars of David intermingled with the crosses and I wandered over to a number of graves and read the names. Among the Jewish tombstones were men from Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.



This photo was taken by Allan Lynch at a Canadian cemetery near Juno Beach.

We noted gravestones of many Nova Scotians and New Brunswickers who were killed on D Day or in battles that followed. Over the next two days we visited Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, the British Beaches and drove to the site of the Phalaise Gap, the famous battle where 80,000 Germans were captured. We visited another Canadian cemetery with over 3,000 graves and also the major American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach

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## The Youth Corner

by Mike Anthony, Youth Programmer

Wait a second? Hold on...is this seriously my last edition of the Youth Corner for Shalom Magazine? It honestly feels like I just wrote my first edition last week, but at the same time it feels as if it was years ago! I'm going to start

with my usual update of what's been going on in the Youth Corner, and then I'll get into my sentimental and sappy messages. Tov? Tov.

Let's start with Purim. The youth in Halifax had an awesome Purim Program, thanks largely to the hard work and patience of the committee, **Rachel Budovitch** and **Stacey Schwartz**. The program was a trip to Shushan where we visited the Esther's Quarters, The King's Throne Room, The Market and the Kingdom of Kush. At each stop, we collected items for our beautiful mishloach manot packages. At the end of the program, we were met by **Phil Alberstat**, **Shoshana Katz**, **Marianne Ferguson** and **Celia Fried** who were the recipients of these packages. It was great to see the generation gap bridged at the end of the program! Thank you to all who volunteered to help out with this program. Your help is always, always appreciated.

Yom HaShoah was a very meaningful day this year, as we held a six-hour reading of the names in Halifax's Victoria Park. During this commemoration, we read names of those who were murdered in the Holocaust. Many members of the community, Jewish and non-Jewish, participated in the program, with many bringing names of their own family members. I thank everyone who signed up and showed up to participate in this program. It received mass media coverage across Canada, and also made an impact on those who were simply passersby.

Now let's jump over to Halifax's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration: *Kulanu B'Yachad*. This program was months in the making, and had many people involved. I would like to thank the committee of **Victor Fineberg**, **Dawn Frail** and **Anna Fried** for their willingness to volunteer, their support, and for

putting up with my antics and ideas! I would also like to thank the cast for taking my play *Kulanu B'Yachad* and for doing such a great job of presenting it to the community. The cast put in a lot of work in our rehearsals, and on their own to make the characters come to life. I thank you all so much. I was very proud of what we did... that was the true meaning of *Kulanu B'Yachad*. I hope that everyone who came to the evening's celebration had as good of a time as I did!

In the next few weeks, Halifax has a barrage of youth programs ranging from a Rosh Chodesh Club to a Jewish Law Program to a Breakfast Club. We're going to have a busy time now to end off the school year!

I've been dreading to write this next segment for a few months now. I can't believe this is over.... it really seemed short. There have been many ups and downs, times where you couldn't get me to stop smiling and other times when you couldn't get me to crack a smile. I am happy to say that the good times outweighed the bad times. There are so many people to thank...so let's get on with it, shall we?

First and foremost, I want to thank all the AJC staff that have been working here during my term; **Marie**, **Bonnie**, **Ann**, **Rabbi Ellis**, **Yael**, **Angelica**, **Robert**, **Joanna** and **Marlene**. The bond in our office is truly wonderful and I thank you all for everything. I could not wish to work with a better group of people! I know some of you did not think I'd last at this, but I did and a lot of it is because of your support and guidance. A special thank you goes to **Mr. Jon Goldberg** whose confidence in me kept me going, and whose guidance I appreciate to no end. Thank you so much, Jon.

To the youth, this is the hardest part for me to write. Y'all have been my reason for being for the past two years. I have spent sleepless nights planning events, shabbatons, programs, and projects for all of you. I can only hope that you enjoyed and benefited from the ones that you attended. I thank you all for sharing your thoughts, ideas, stories and feelings with me. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you and I will miss each and every one of you!

*continued on page 8*



*Tamar Ellis, Rachael Goldberg, Joey Silburt, Sarah Hall, and Leah MacDonald with Celia Fried at the Youth Purim Program.*



*The Alpha Epsilon P. Frat's Dan Pink, Mike Anthony and AJ LeVine acting in "Kulanu B'Yachad" at the Halifax Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.*



*(l-r): Sarah Hall, Sue David, Darrell Pink and Casper MacAulay as the Woolf Family in "Kulanu B'Yachad". Not in picture is Hershel MacAulay.*



# Around the Region

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

Back on the road again, after a long winter when it was hard to get people out for events. But now I am getting around again, unfortunately for many funerals. But there are some positive things happening as well.

## THE P.E.I. JEWISH CEMETARY

In mid-May the community lost **Mrs. Violet Cohen**, after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. We troubled over what to do for funeral arrangements.

P.E.I. does not, of course, have a long standing Jewish community, such as the older ones around the region. Indeed, there were only a few Jews on the Island till 30 or so years ago, when several came there, sometimes for educational or retirement purposes. Those who did belong there affiliated with either the Moncton or Halifax communities for needs of funeral services.

But of late, there are many more Jews moving to the island. And many of them are beginning to say, that, with typical Island pride, "Hey, we're Islanders. I've lived here. I want to be buried here."

So thanks to the efforts of the community's president, Mr. **Winston MacGregor**, we took advantage of a fortunate situation. A Jewish doctor passed away many years ago on the Island and had ordered that besides for himself, there should be

a number of other plots reserved for Jewish residents.

So we were able to bury Mrs. Cohen in the new Jewish cemetery, within Floral Gardens Memorial Park, just north of Charlottetown.

There are some exigencies to be worked out. The cemetery is in transition of ownership at the moment. But Winston and his P.E.I. leadership should be able to work out the difficulties.

We would like to thank all who participated in the arrangements. **Aida Steifel** brought **Joan Mayer** and **Goldie Johnston** over from Moncton to show the women there how to do the preparations for a Jewish burial. **Rosalie Simeone** and **Evelyn Feldstein** were thereby assisted.

We would all extend to Violet Cohen's husband, **Errol** and her son, **Albert** all of our sympathies. We admire their efforts in caring for Violet over the many years of her illness. May they be comforted in their loss among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We had a very good turnout of late at the McConnell Public Library in Sydney, for the review of **Chaim Grade's** *My Mother's Sabbath Days*. This is not a new book—it has been in translation in English for nearly twenty years. But many are

*continued on page 14*

## War and Remembrance *continued from page 3*

with almost 30,000 graves. To see the ages of those killed – mostly 19 to 24 year olds and also many in their early 30's who were husbands and fathers, gave me pause to stop and think about how fortunate we were to have been born of the "greatest generation". There are good wars and I guess there are bad wars but those who fought and died did so for a just cause and as we know, June 6, 1944 was the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany. These soldiers along with the Russians eventually liberated the remnants of the Jewish population of Europe.

I found that in some way this visit related to the Yom Hashoah programs that we hold every year in Atlantic Canada. The wonderful work done by the

coordinators in Sydney, St. John's, New Brunswick, PEI and Halifax not only brings the Holocaust to the attention of the general public but particularly with our non-Jewish neighbours, ties in with their view of history and WWII for it was the liberators of Europe and their armies that put a final end to Hitler's attempt to destroy the Jewish people.

As I walked along the windswept beaches of Normandy towards the ferry boat back to England I felt a special gratitude, not only as a Jew but as a Canadian, to all the veterans, many of whom gave their lives so that we would live free and proud here in Canada.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer to all our readers!



Memorial on Juno Beach

Leonard Goldberg of Halifax, surveys Juno Beach

Jon Goldberg on Omaha Beach



# Jewish Student's Association of the Atlantic Provinces

by Joanna Grossman, JSA President



The JSA had a very successful year. The new JSA Bayit generously donated by the **Albert and Temmy Latner** Foundation in Toronto, has become a center for Jewish student activity in Halifax.

The executive has been active over the course of the semester planning events of all kinds. **Adina Herbert** and **Michael Glina** established the first ever JSA 3 on 3

Basketball Tournament which raised money for *The Right to Play*, an organization that funds organized sports in developing countries and just established a program in Israel and the Palestinian Territories to offer Israeli and Palestinian Children a means of relating to one another through sports.

With the help and support of **Rabbi Grunstein**, the JSA held its second annual "Just One Shabbos Program". In addition to a vibrant Friday night dinner, students came to Synagogue to play an active role in the services, reading torah, offering a d'var torah and getting to know the community at lunch following services.

This semester has also been a tremendous success for our Israel Affairs Committee under the leadership of **Daniel Rattner**. The semester started with a lecture from author and television personality **Irshad Manji** which was held at the University of King's College in conjunction with various other student organizations from the Dalhousie and King's Communities. This lecture also motivated a meaningful dialogue

between Arab and Jewish students which culminated in the screening of the movie *Promises*, sponsored by both the Arab Student Association and the JSA.

In conjunction with Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes, the JSA offered a student run Passover Seder which proved to be a huge success. **Blaire Wexler** worked tirelessly to promote the project and implement a meaningful Seder program for Jewish students. Home hospitality was also arranged, and tremendous thanks must be offered to all of the families who generously welcomed students into their homes for Passover.

The JSA would like to thank **Robert Dickman** for all of his help and guidance with programming this year, and we wish him luck in his future endeavors. The JSA could not have become what it currently is without **Jon Goldberg** who has been a constant source of support. We must also thank **Michael Argand** for becoming so involved with the JSA, coming to our programs and offering constant help and guidance throughout the year.

The JSA is looking forward to building on its success. **Sari Disenhouse**, a second year Dalhousie student, will be assuming the role of JSA President and is already beginning to plan new and exciting programs for the coming academic year. Sari will do a tremendous job and is very excited about assuming this new position.

On a personal note, as my term of JSA President comes to an end, I would like to thank the AJC and the Jewish community for offering so much support to the JSA and all that we have undertaken. It has been a tremendous experience, and I have truly enjoyed learning about and becoming involved in such a warm and welcoming community.

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## Honors for George T. Mencher, Ph.D., Halifax



The American Speech-Language Hearing Association, with a worldwide membership of more than 120,000, recognized individuals at their annual meeting who have contributed to the disciplines of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

In November of 2003, Dr. George Mencher was presented with the Honors of the Association for his lifetime of achievement. This award, the highest honor bestowed by the association, recognizes distinguished contributions. It was noted that throughout his 24 years as Director of the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech centers, Dr. Mencher had developed and expanded Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services throughout Canada as well as in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Also mentioned, were his achievements in education as a teacher, and the impetus behind the founding of the Dalhousie University School of Human Communication Disorders.

Dr. Mencher is an author with numerous published articles and scholarly texts, a speaker with significant contributions in the United States, and a leader of the American Association. Dr. Mencher is also a leader of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists where he served as President. He is noted for his efforts in international cooperation with many organizations including the International Society of Audiology where he has been President and currently holds the office of Assistant Secretary General and is Editor of their newsletter.

## Young people meet with award winning author, Karen Levine

by Elizabeth Pink

Young people in the Halifax community had an opportunity to meet with award winning author Karen Levine and discuss her book *Hana's Suitcase*. The event was held on Erev Shavuot in honour of **Hannah Kovacs'** recent Bat Mitzvah. Pictured are **Liza Hartling, Alison Asbell-Clark, Hannah Walt, Maya Kovacs, Karen Levine, Nathan Pink, Emma Pink, Rachael Goldberg, Hannah Kovacs, Ruby Quase and Jessica VanZaten**. Missing from picture: **Jana Weider, Helena Jockel and Marianne Ferguson**.



## chazak v'ematz

**Chazak V'ematz** — An outreach Jewish Support Group is being established for all amputees to receive Chizuk and to help potential amputees adjust to life.

*"Life is valuable after an amputation even though adjustments have to be made."*

Please join us if you fall in the category.

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# Shalom – Bat Mitzvah

by Joel Jacobson

It was a regular Shabbat service at Shaar Shalom Congregation in Halifax except that 10 female members took a step that most Jewish girls in non-orthodox North American congregations take at age 13.

The women, aged from 29 to 74, became b'not mitzvot.

But, for various reasons, they missed that experience at 13. Some were not Jewish at the time. Others grew up in orthodox congregations where girls were not called to the Torah as were bar mitzvah boys, "sons of the commandment." And some came from non-practicing families.

Two years ago, ready, willing and able, they began weekly studies at the Conservative Egalitarian synagogue, initially through an adult education program that taught liturgy and understanding of the prayer service, and latterly, aiming to celebrate their b'not mitzvot.

**Florie Fineberg**, 74, the oldest of the group, grew up in Montreal. Her family did not attend synagogue regularly. But when she moved to Halifax (to her husband Leonard's home town), the people of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue became like a second family to her.

As she became older, she says, she realized what she had missed as a girl. "I have learned a lot over the years," says Florie, choir director at the synagogue, "and this, too, is an important learning experience."

As B'not Mitzvot, the women will be able to lead religious services. **Molly Rechnitzer**, 68, a Montreal native who moved to Halifax many years ago and never had the learning experience as a girl, says leading Sabbath services is part of the commitment the women made when they decided to pursue adult studies.

"I attend services each Friday evening and Saturday morning. I can read and write (Hebrew) but studying for my bat mitzvah taught me why I'm saying the prayers I recite," says Mollie, a social worker in private practise.

**Donna Assh**, a psychologist, grew up in Quebec City. As chair of Shaar Shalom's adult education committee, she helped create this group.

"I've always had a strong sense of being Jewish," says Donna, "but in the (orthodox) synagogue where I grew up, women did not have an active role in services. Now, being able to participate more will cause me to show my Judaism more directly."

Even the "youngsters" of the group feel that commitment, having missed their b'not mitzvot as kids.



l-r: Donna Assh, Florie Fineberg, Joanna Mirsky-Wexler.

**Joanna Mirsky-Wexler**, 29, director of finance at the Atlantic Jewish Council, is the youngest. In her orthodox synagogue in Montreal, as in most orthodox communities, girls did not celebrate bat mitzvot. "Now my spiritual growth has developed to explore, take leadership and learn the liturgy, which is what Judaism is all about. What better way to explore than in the community of women about to have a bat mitzvah. I'm now ready for what I wasn't at age 13."

**Michelle Byers**, a professor of sociology and criminology at Saint Mary's University, was in a non-synagogue-attending family in Montreal. When she moved here, she found everyone at the Shaar welcoming and now attends regularly.

"As an academic, it was easy to learn (to read and understand Hebrew) fast, even starting from zero. Being bat mitzvah makes me feel more responsible for my choices as a spiritual and ethical person, makes me think about things and make informed decisions."

**Wendy Katz**, an English professor at SMU, and **Beverly Parsons**, a retired registered nurse, and marketing consultant, **Linda Law**, both of whom converted to Judaism, are also in the group.

**Heather Zitner**, a family doctor and medical advisor to the provincial Workmen's Compensation Board, says this is "a way of life I've practised for a long time (after converting). I made my kids go through this"

The women led services from start to finish, sometimes as a group, sometimes individually. They read the weekly Parsha from the Torah, considered by some the most sacred part of the service.

Michelle Byers adds proudly. "My dad and brother didn't have a bar mitzvah. I'm the first in my immediate family to be able to celebrate this. And they were here Saturday to see me."

## Youth Corner *continued from page 4*

To the Young Professionals. You have a lot of work to do to keep this program moving in the right direction. Stick to the plan, come up with ultra-creative program ideas, and everything will be successful. GOOD LUCK!

To all those that helped chaperone the youth programs over the past two years, I thank you. The youth have truly benefited from meeting you, and I never would have been able to do any of this without you. Thank you!

To those families and individuals who I can call friends: You have all made me really comfortable in a new community where I had no friends and little family (my sister, **Lisa**, was at Dal for one year and then went back to Toronto). I thank you for your hospitality and friendship. Keep in touch!

A special thank you to **Tibi, Isa and Lorena** for cholent on Shabbat, and many hours of Shabbat spirit and singing around the dining room table! I missed you very much this year!

So, I'm moving back to Toronto. I will be at University of Toronto studying to be a High School teacher. It's all pretty bittersweet as I'll miss the Atlantic Jewish Council very much, but am excited to move on to another life experience. You can always reach me at my personal e-mail address [xcentricity10@hotmail.com](mailto:xcentricity10@hotmail.com). If any of you need or want anything from me in the future, please feel free to e-mail me.

It's been a great ride. I can't say "thank you" enough.

Sincerely,  
Mike Anthony



# Estate Planning Expresses Your Will

by M. Jasmine Sweatman and Rachel L. Blumenfeld

Putting together an estate plan is not about death but about the future of family members and charitable organizations that you support. Age or marital status does not determine whether you should have a Will. Anyone who has assets – bank accounts, RRSPs, personal property, real estate or insurance policies – single or not – should have a Will. It is this document that will detail how you want your assets to be distributed upon your death.

It is equally important to seek the professional advice of a lawyer to guide you on the legal and practical implications of your estate plan. Important things to think about during this process are what are your assets and liabilities, who do you want to benefit, including the proper legal names of your beneficiaries, especially if they are charitable organizations, and who do you want to manage your estate.

Charities and not-for-profit organizations support the fabric of our community. Providing for them during your estate planning process allows you to support the organizations that directly affect your community.

## WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

### Gifts through my Will (Bequest)

Bequests are the most common form of planned gift and can be stated as a specific amount or a percentage of the estate. A bequest can also help reduce taxes on a donor's terminal return. Remember to obtain the legal name of a charity you wish to remember in your estate plans.

### Stocks and Securities

New tax incentives have made it very attractive to donate publicly listed stocks and securities that have appreciated in value. A donor can claim a gift of stocks or securities up to 75 per cent of net income, receive a receipt for the full value of the property donated and pay tax on only 25 per cent of the realized capital gain.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

A donor using a charitable gift annuity may benefit by receiving tax-free payouts for life, depending on the age of the donor. The charity typically uses a portion of the donor's contribution to purchase the annuity and retains the balance for immediate use in its work.

### Charitable Remainder Trusts

Create a trust, leave the remainder interest to your favorite charity and receive income for life. A trust gift funded with cash, securities or other investments, can provide significant tax relief for the donor today and provide a legacy tomorrow.

### Giving with life insurance

The donation of a life insurance policy offers an opportunity to leave a significant legacy to your favorite charity for a relatively small annual payment. The tax savings desired will dictate the structure of the life insurance donation.

### Transferring ownership of a new or existing policy to a charity

After ownership has been transferred, the charity can name itself as the beneficiary of the policy. If the insurance policy has accumulated cash value, the charity issues a tax receipt in the amount of the cash surrender value at the date of transfer which would offset tax arising on the transfer. Subsequent to the transfer, the charity issues a receipt for any premiums you pay following the transfer. (No receipt is issued for the death benefit that is paid to the charity as a result of your death.)

### Designating the charity as beneficiary

Alternatively, you may directly designate one or more charities as the beneficiary of the insurance proceeds, while you retain ownership of the policy. The donation tax credit in the amount of the proceeds is available to offset the often large income tax bill that arises as a result of death. Similarly, you may designate a charity as the beneficiary of an RRSP or RRIF and the receipt may be used in the year of death to offset taxes.

The proceeds of the insurance policy or RRSP or RRIF are not included in your estate for probate purposes, and are generally not available to most creditors of the estate. The proceeds go directly to the charity; distribution is not held up by estate disputes. When the donation is made in a beneficiary designation, rather than in a Will which becomes a public document once probated, you may keep the donation private, if desired. The beneficiary designation may always be changed if you have a change of heart.

For further information, please contact Dov Harris, Director Financial Resource Development, UIA Federations Canada, 416-636-7655, ext. 226.

## President's Message *continued from page 2*

and will be missed. As well, **Robert Dickman** will be returning to Israel with his family after working the last year as our campus professional. Robert worked at putting the bayit on the map, bringing advocacy programs to our university campuses in the region and assisting young adult programming. He has helped to create the base we must build on. We wish both Michael and Robert the best in their future endeavors. A change is also occurring within the JSA as **Joanna Grossman** departs as President of the student association after serving a two-year term. Joanna was instrumental in bringing the bayit project to fruition and she has worked continuously to enlarge the campus program in our region.

By the time you read this summer will be upon us and Camp Kadimah will be experiencing yet another banner season. Many thanks to our Kadimah co-chairs, **Victor Goldberg** and **Jim Spatz**, who, together with their committee, put in many hours to ensure the camp runs well. Kadimah continues to be a vital program in our service delivery and, noting the significant enrollment of campers and staff from outside the Atlantic Region, for Canadian Jewry. Mazel Tov to our Camp Director, **Marty Zatzman**, and his staff on a job well done.

Shalom,  
Mark

# SAR-EL – Thoughts

by Alice Keefe, Volunteer

Sar-El is a worldwide organization of Volunteers for Israel. It was founded by General **Aharon Davidi** in 1982. Sar-El is the Hebrew acronym for Sherut l'yisrael – service to Israel. Volunteers have the unique opportunity to meet and work with Israelis who are fulfilling their military service.

The above sentences were taken from the Volunteer's Handbook but this is my version of Sar-El after two weeks at Camp Chasis, an Ordinance Depot located near Tel Aviv.

We three Gentile women from Halifax arrived at Ben Gurion Airport to be met by the local Sar-El representative, a pleasant woman named **Pam**. We were introduced to some of the other volunteers who had arrived on earlier flights. We were two Americans, an Australian and seven Canadians. The Army bus took us to Camp Chasis, which was an interesting drive in the countryside. Our Madrichots greeted us at the barracks. I found this word (Madrichots) very difficult to pronounce so generally I called them by their first names, **Noi** and **Jasmine** or our "keepers". These two very capable young women were responsible for us and made a supreme effort to help us, keep us out of trouble and just generally be supportive. Both were nearing the completion of their two-year required service and had only one previous experience with volunteers. We were only the second group to work at Camp Chasis.

Our quarters were better than I had anticipated but hardly

palatial – attached units built around a quadrangle. A small kitchen was in the middle of the units and washrooms were a few meters away. We three "older" women were assigned one unit and despite protests from two of us, our third bunkmate insisted that the floor be scrubbed and walls dusted. There were limited cleaning supplies so this was accomplished by spraying soap on the floor, sloshing water over all and squeegee the water and dirt out the door as there appeared to be no mop or bucket available. However, this procedure worked very well. We were issued our uniforms which produced much laughter as fit was not a factor! Sheets and a blanket were issued for us to prepare our cots. We then waited in the quadrangle for a visit from the Camp Commander. This gave me time to assess each of these strangers and wonder how we would manage in the next two weeks, in not the best of circumstances. Little did I dream that before the first week was over, we were no longer strangers but family – Dad, Mum, Aunts, Uncles – and the three young people – the children and I, of course, was the Grandmother or Bubbie!

The Camp commander who was a Major arrived to speak with each of us individually. His English was limited but of course, better than most of us with Hebrew so the interviews were short, but his smile and manner clearly indicated that we

*continued on page 12*

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## New Direction For Partnership 2000 (P2K)

by Robert Astroff, UIA Federations Canada

Partnership 2000 (P2K) is an exciting program linking Jewish communities in Canada to the people of Israel's Galilee Panhandle. This past year marked a major turning point in the initiative for the Coast to Coast communities (Atlantic Canada, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Vancouver). As a result of the global economic downturn and the financial strain associated with its war on terror, **Israel has implemented unprecedented budgetary cuts to the country's social service sector, exposing needs that have not existed since the establishment of the state.** Given its geographic location on the periphery of the country, our partnership region has been profoundly affected.

The region's education system- once its pride and a model to the world- has been particularly hard hit: school days are being shortened, music and enrichment programs are being eliminated, hot-meal programs have been suspended, playgrounds requiring upkeep are being shut down, and teacher to student ratios are now at troubling levels. At the present time, **40% of grade six students in the region fall short of national literacy standards, and only 40% of Jews and less than 20% of Israeli-Arabs pass their high school matriculation exams.**

In response to this crisis, the Canadian P2K Steering Committee has traveled to Israel twice this year. Together with the leadership of the five municipalities in the Galilee Panhandle, we have redefined P2K. The program now concentrates on two primary areas: (1) the Education Initiative (EI); and (2) the Living Bridge program. The EI places emphasis on meeting the needs of children at risk, while the Living Bridge project aims to enrich the experience of normative students. The projects are complementary, presenting a range of options to address the unique needs of children in both Israel and Canada.

## Four Generations of MDs

Ellen Goldbloom is a fourth generation MD in the Goldbloom family headed toward a career as a pediatrician. Her great grandfather was Dr. **Alton Goldbloom**, Professor of Pediatrics at McGill University in Montreal. Her grandfather, Dr. **Richard Goldbloom**, is former Chief of Pediatrics at the IWK Health Centre and is Chancellor of Dalhousie University, Halifax. Her father, Dr. **Alan Goldbloom**, is CEO at Minnesota's Children's Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Ellen Goldbloom, 26, the newest graduate, will intern in Ottawa at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

## Daylight Savings Time

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

After a fairly harsh winter, I'm sure everyone is more than happy to turn off the heat and open the windows, and to stow their ski gear and bring out the barbeques.

Not long ago, G-d blessed Halifax with great Shabbat afternoon weather. All I wanted to do was to take a blanket, lay it out on the grass, and make the best of a combined "shluf" and tanning session, the first possible since winter officially and unofficially ended.

But alas, our custom is to learn a chapter of "Pirkei Avot" (Ethics of our Fathers) each Shabbat afternoon, and I hadn't done it yet. This Tractate of the Mishna is void of any positive or negative commandments and is devoted totally to the proper moral fiber we should conduct ourselves with each day of our life. Needless to say, as I started reading it, I couldn't help but think to myself... **boy, what a way to put a damper on the summer! Why devote a beautiful Shabbat afternoon to analyzing all that's wrong with us? Why not just enjoy the warm weather and the great outdoors, and leave the "inner-observations" or soul searching for winter, when we're cooped up anyway?**

Indeed, this proves to be an even bigger problem when Daylight Savings Time kicks in and the clocks are set one hour ahead of so that darkness comes an hour later. The chief purpose of this course of action is to save energy by reducing the evening use of lighting. For we Jews, the extra hour of light can serve to be a profound nuisance during these spring to summer days when Shabbat ends way after 9:00pm, and Mincha and Maariv are at a later and less convenient time. The peak of this annoyance was this past Pesach, when the clocks changed a mere two nights before the Seder, moving it past 8:00pm and ending it much later!

So allow me to ask the ancient existential question; is moving the clocks good or bad for the Jews?

Like many things, the answer can be found in the mirror image of the above. When November finally rolls around, and the clocks "fall back", the universal refrain broadcast over and over on that Saturday night is, "Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour and enjoy the extra hour of sleep." Our sages would cringe at the thought of sleeping an extra hour. Time is too precious to waste. Imagine a very rich financier who is caught and convicted of a horrible crime and sentenced to death. He is offered one extra hour of freedom before execution to do whatever he desires, if he were willing to pay the price. How much would he pay? Upon being set free for the last hour of his life, would he GO TO SLEEP?

Life was given to us to accomplish things. Time is a valuable asset not to be wasted. In Pirkei Avot it says: "One hour of accomplishment in this world is better than all of Olam Haba, The Next World." There is no mention of the next world throughout the Torah, but rather the constant refrain of "Kedoshim Tehiyu" / "Be Holy, makes every moment substantial."

With such long days, full of sunlight and great weather, it's far too easy to just "kill a little time"! But that's where the Ethics of our Fathers kick in, especially on those long Shabbat

*continued on page 30*

**SAR-EL** continued from page 10

were very welcome and he hoped that this would be a rewarding experience. We walked to the mess building for supper and then to our Meeting Room. We formed a circle and the Madrichots requested that we tear off a few sheets from a toilet paper roll and pass it on. In turn, we made one statement about ourselves, which allowed us to discard one sheet of the paper. A friend of mine stated that was certainly a good idea because if I had been first, then no one else would have had a chance to speak! This gathering certainly gave us not only knowledge but understanding of each other. Noi left early and when we returned to the quadrangle, found she had arranged candles to represent the Star of David, which we grouped around. Then in each our turn, we were called forward to receive our Volunteer "bars" which Noi put on our epaulets. It was a very pleasant time. I'm sure I was asleep before I got into my cot as it had been a long two days including the flight.

Each day was similar to the previous and the next. We were required to be in the "quad" by ten to eight each morning.

One of the Madrichots told us the Israeli version of the overnight news, which at the time included problems on the West Bank but the facts were more general than anything one would hear on CNN as "reporters", in my view, glorify bad news to make a story! We were then reminded of the Duty List for chores, (which included cleaning toilets), told of planned field trips and discussed any concerns. We walked to breakfast then proceeded to our work assignment location. Five of us were walked to a field full of what I called "Jerry Cans" – water cans which required that the outside be oiled to prevent cracking in desert heat, mouths washed and caps cleaned. It was a "no brainer" of a job but relieved soldiers for more complex duties and it had to be done as water is imperative to all, especially in the heat. I often thought about what a young soldier would do if he opened his water can, only to find it empty because the water evaporated due to the outside not being properly protected. However, we laughed, talked, sang songs and visited with the regular soldiers who came by on their way to other duties. The "regular army" chap was a fine young man who did his best to speak English, always made sure we had supplies to do our job, fresh water in the cooler and when he could, would "drive us upstairs" – his way of saying "down the hill to the Mess Barracks"! We worked from

9 AM to 4PM with a break for dinner at noon. We had time before supper to do required chores, wash clothes or whatever. After supper, we had an hour or so lecture in our Meeting Room, generally on some aspect of the Israeli Defence Force. Oh yes – forgot to mention, Israel does not have an Army but a Defence Force or the I.D.F. These lectures were presented by interesting knowledgeable young people who spoke good English and always had an extra story or joke to share.

Our Field Trips included a visit to a couple of Museums including the Air Museum. The one that truly stands out was the Haggana Museum which, of course, I had never heard of. It gave a rather condensed history of Israel from prior to Independence in 1948 and included the various wars. The tour guide talked about these wars including the Yom Kippur War in

1973 in which Israel faced overwhelming odds as invaded by four countries on all sides. This young female soldier smiled and stated that Israel had a secret weapon, the initials of which were N.O.C. standing for "No Other Choice"! So against all odds, the invading forces retreated but in order to establish peace, Israel was forced to return much of the territory that had been captured. We



*Alice Keefe (left) and friends.*

had free time on each of these trips and were taken to a Mall to eat and shop.

One of the most memorable experiences was a visit from General Davidi (referred to earlier) one morning at 7 AM. He is well over eighty years but visits every new group of volunteers. He apologized for the early hour but assured us that the days were just not long enough. He was very informative, particularly in regard to the history of Israel and concluded with his appreciation and the premise that we were in the Third World War so we must prepare.

On our last day, the Base had a barbeque for us and many of the soldiers that we had met and helped us were there. It was a wonderful feast and concluded with each of us being presented with our Sar-El t-shirt, hat, certificate and most important, special dog tags!

Everyone asked me before I left for Israel – why? – and most that I met while there asked – why did you come? My answer is the same to both questions.

First, I am a selfish person on a limited income. I had been in Israel in 2001 and knew the day when I left I had to go back because there is magic in the people who live in this incredible, beautiful country. So, the Sar-El program kept me during the week while on base and also offered the opportunity to meet

people that in normal circumstances a tourist would be denied.

Second, while I am not a religious zealot, I definitely believe in something greater than myself, which I call "God". I learned in Sunday School that the Israelites were God's chosen people and He had promised them their own country. It is incredible to me that centuries later, they are still struggling to obtain this goal! The people I met continue to do this with more grace, courage and joy of life than one regularly finds in our North American culture with all its glitz, SUV's, split entry houses, etc. Some will say that the program was geared to brainwashing me for Israel. I do not agree as I have the sometime unpopular habit of doing my own thinking which can be unacceptable! I was never in any danger on the Base or while on R&R even alone in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. Personally, I was far more nervous one evening recently in a parking garage on Hollis Street than I ever was in Israel.

Perhaps, I was extremely fortunate to spend time with such a great group as I know that I will keep in touch with

most and have hope that at least a couple or more will come to visit me. Along with that comradery, I will always have the sense of being part of history and reality, even if it was oiling cans, which many would call demeaning. I will never forget the hugs I received from folks of various ethnic origins – just because I came and it was an assurance that they did not struggle alone, as it had been so long. More than one person requested that I pray for peace, which I feel strongly is all that the average Israeli wants. A couple that we met in Tel Aviv on our last week-end told us that they had completed their twenty-first Sar-El program. The gentleman laughed and said "I am not coming back until the next time" and his smile spread like a blanket across his face!

I would suggest that if your grown children or family do not appreciate you or you feel that "there is not much point anyway", as life is so boring and without meaning, get yourself an application for Sar-El – an experience like no other, with rewards for a lifetime.

## Yom Hashoah, Halifax – 2004

On Sunday, April 18th, 2004 a memorial ceremony was held at Victoria Park where members of the community, throughout the day, read aloud the names of Jews mass murdered by the Nazi regime. On Sunday evening a memorial service, chaired by **Michael Argand**, was held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. **Dr. Dorota Glowacka** was the special guest speaker. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and spoke poignantly about her father's family's tragic story. **Linda Schroeder**, flutist gave a moving musical presentation. Last year's participants in the Asper Foundation trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. took part in the service and each received the "Memorandum of Personal Responsibility" certificate.

## REUNION IN ISRAEL – A MISSION FOR ATLANTIC JEWISH CANADIANS – PAST & PRESENT

**OCTOBER 10 – 19, 2004**

UJA of Atlantic Canada is pleased to announce a special one-week mission to Israel departing on October 10th and returning on the 19th. **Martin Chernin** of Sydney, Cape Breton and **Stanley Jacobson**, formerly of Halifax, now living in Toronto, will be leading this Mission, which will be staffed by **Jon Goldberg**.

It is guaranteed to be one of chevra and ruach along with learning and education. Former Halifax Rabbi, **Daniel Levine** will be our Scholar in Residence.

The price for one week is only \$3295 per person, double occupancy with a minimum donation to your local campaign of \$1000 per person. This is a subsidized mission.

For applications and a preliminary itinerary, please contact **Marie Herschorn**, Mission Co-ordinator at 902-422-7491, Ext. 24 or e-mail: [mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca).

Please note this Mission is only open to a limited number of participants and registration will close July 31st, 2004.

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**Around the Region** *continued from page 5*

unfamiliar with the book, and this is unfortunate, for it is one of the most eloquent books I know on the Holocaust.

Almost all of Grade's fiction is set in his native Vilna. Unlike most larger cities and capitols of Europe, which sometimes had many Jews but not much Judaism, the Lithuanian capitol was a major centre of Jewish life for many centuries.

Grade's novel is an account of Vilna at the end of the days of its Jewish community just before the Shoah. There is the vibrant interplay of the factionalized community of the day—among the religious and irreligious, Zionists, prospective Socialists, Communists, Bundists. He relates his personal exodus across the Soviet Union during the war to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to flee from the terrors of Europe.

The final segment of the book visits his return to Vilna after the war, to the destroyed community—centuries old synagogues in shambles, residences no longer identifiable, virtually no one left in the community. Grade asks questions in these pages about his personal fate and remembrances and also those for the larger Jewish community in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Many of his questions we are still trying to answer to this day.

I would thank **Theresa MacDonald**, of the McConnell Library for her help in arranging my program. The book arrived just a day after my presentation. Someone from the community is going to be dedicating the book to the library.

I would hope that we could make such arrangements around the region. Some communities have fine and active synagogue libraries, and we should certainly support and enhance their

activities. In smaller communities, we should make arrangements with them to see that important Jewish books are on their shelves, both for the Jewish community and readers in general. Though the library will have some Jewish books and a budget for such, we should be prepared, in this time of strained resources, to make our own additions, to see that Jewish knowledge and concerns are available to the reading public.

**PASSION**

Remember all the hubbub over **Mel Gibson's** movie, "The Passion of the Christ"? Well, it came to the Atlantic Jewish Council a few months back. The office had received a number of calls from news groups and individuals, wanting to know what we thought about it.

They were aware the **Simon Wiesenthal** Centre and the Anti-Defamation League had approached Gibson with serious reservations about his movie, with perceived overtones of Christian anti-Semitism and portrayals of Jews as Christ-killers.

**Jon Goldberg**, our Executive Director, told me that he was not an expert in Christian theology and scriptures and that I should answer any questions to the media and the public about the movie. (Jon was being modest – he actually was quite well informed about the movie himself.)

So I went to see the movie at its first showing at Park Lane Cinema, just outside the door of the A.J.C., knowing that I would be called by several news outlets later that afternoon. It was the first time I have paid to see a movie in at least twenty years (I don't watch many movies; those I do see are usually old time ones, readily available on video at the Halifax Library.). I



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had been reading hundreds of book reviews, editorials and guidelines to the movie.

So what did I think of it? It was interesting to watch the movie. Some of the dialogue was in Aramaic, which, from Biblical and Talmudic studies, I am familiar. Therefore, unlike anyone else there, I did not have to read the subtitles.

There was a lot of what the late philosopher **Walter Kaufmann** a generation ago called "gerrymandering the Bible." Politicians carve up the election districts to assure a certain outcome, leaving some constituents in and keeping others out. So rabbis and ministers, intellectuals and sages, revolutionaries and crusaders—and now film makers—selectively cite the Bible to prove their points. Gibson's selectivity was a particularly gory one, based on an atavistic Christian view of suffering not held by the Church anymore. This observation was made by Father **Gerald Caron** of the Atlantic School of Theology, whose comments on the movie were to the point.

**Anne Appelbaum** of the Washington Post, one of the best columnists of our day, noted that the movie had numerous distortions of history. This is critical in our times, she noted, when many people no longer have proper understanding of history, relying upon movies and documentaries for their information.

So what was the outcome of it all? My final conclusion was based upon my Talmudic experience. There are often debates in the Talmud where there are many positions entertained theoretically. However, for a guide to acting, a choice must be made, some path chosen, others rejected.

I believe the movie should have been shown as it was, and

we can live with it. It was also good of Jewish groups such as the **Wiesenthal** Center and the A.D.L. to make their strong dissents regarding the movie. But to censor certain portions, as they proposed, would not have been wise. It is better to let controversial films and presentations become public, allowing our freedom of press and public debate take the full course on all sides. We as Jews must be fully informed and prepared to contribute to these discussions.

#### FIDDLERS ON THE STEEPLE?

No, it was *Fiddler on the Roof*, the movie and play with which we are very familiar.

But it was done just over a month ago at the Bedford Baptist Church. I attended the first of four showings they put on.

Bedford Baptist has a number of talented singers and actors. They put on some musical or play every year.

We learned about it from an article in the Daily News. Their production, in the words of their junior minister, Rev. **Kevin Haggarty** (who played a remarkable **Tevya**, accent and all) was specifically intended to call attention to the spate of anti-Semitic acts taking place of late within Canada, which are antithetical to our nation's values.

We salute Reverend Haggarty and his entire community for their production and their outspoken opposition to and call to awareness of the violence and hatred we have seen of late, especially in Montreal and Toronto. Let us hope that others will take up the same voice, to make sure that bigotry, prejudice and anti-Semitism receive no forum in Canada.

I am looking forward to a good summer and hope to see everyone around the region.

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# Around the Region...

## Hold this Date...

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Youth Shabbaton, 2004



Reading of the names of victims of the Holocaust in Victoria Park, Halifax, April 18, 2004.



CIJA – Israel Advocacy Workshop in Fredericton, Spring 2004.



Sam Kohler, son of Jerry and Marcia – two years old and enjoying Shalom!



Headed for the slopes – AJC Youth Shabbaton Winter, 2004.



Children celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, 2004.

Hyla Silburt, Abby Suissa and Maya Budovitch with Marianne Ferguson at the Youth Purim Program.



Jonah MacDonald, Jacob Suissa, Eli Dickman and Zare Brown with Phil Alberstat at the Youth Purim Program.



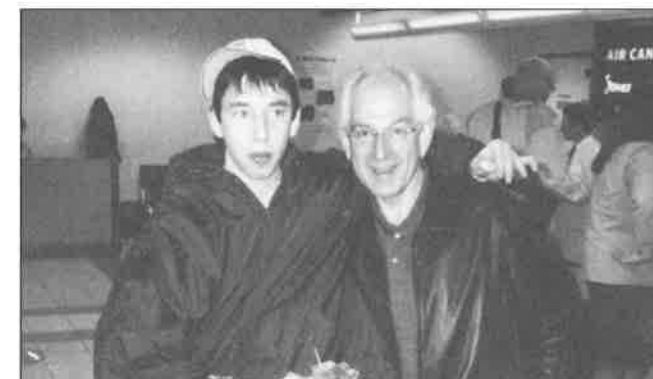
Aviva Rubin accepts an award for the Asper Foundation Program presented by Partners Against Racism, Halifax, Spring 2004.



AJC VP Jim Spatz rappelling down an office building in Halifax for charity (this is NOT Spiderman!)



Preparing for Purim in Halifax, Spring 2004.



Father and son – Josh Spatz departs for March of Living, 2004.



Mark David and Aviva Rubin with Asper Foundation participants on their way to Washington.

# March of the Living... A COLLECTION OF EXPERIENCES...

## My March of the Living Experience

by Eric Goldberg, Participant

Last April a group of nine Jewish teenagers from Halifax and Saint John embarked on a journey that would have lasting impressions on each one of us. Landing in Warsaw, Poland we had little idea of what was to come, having an itinerary subject to change and having only heard small details from past *Marchers*. However, the voyage quickly got under way, as we immediately visited cemeteries and towns that portrayed the richness of the Polish Jewish communities prior the war. Our group was astounded to hear that in 1939, 500,000 Jews lived in Warsaw, and over 3 million in the entire country. Today the number has diminished to the point where the local synagogue struggles to obtain a minyan on Shabbat. Yet, our small group of nine, along with 7000 of our brethren from around the world, traveled across the country, proving to spectators that we live on, *Am Yisrael Chai*, and Hitler had not achieved his goal. Never was this idea so instilled into our hearts as it was during the *March of the Living*, when the entire group silently marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau, waving Israeli flags and walking with pride and sadness through the gates of the Concentration camp where so many had been lost. As we reached the site of the destroyed crematoria in Birkenau, a ceremony was held to not only mourn those who had perished, but celebrate those who had lived, and teach those who had come to learn. The message was clear and consistent for Jews from Canada, Mexico, Australia, and all other countries from around the world- the keys to preventing such

tragedies from happening again were to speak out against hatred, educate those who are ignorant, and most importantly, always remember, *Zachor*.

Arriving in Israel after such an emotionally draining week in Poland was not only a joyous occasion, but also a relief. After walking through the sites of the most devastating period in the history of our faith, we were able to ensconce ourselves in the historical and religious wonders of our homeland. From swimming in the Dead Sea, to climbing Massada, and visiting the Temple Mount, our group experienced quite a bit in our extremely short visit.

Nonetheless, as I stood at the top of the Golan Heights and gazed over the wonders of the Land of Israel, I thought to myself, how can a place so beautiful be entrenched in such a bitter and frightening conflict? Soldiers only months older than myself guard the borders and patrol the streets of Jerusalem, with M-16s hanging over their backs and faces beaming with a nationalistic pride. We as Jews of the Diaspora must all become aware of the sacrifice these people make not only for their country, but also for the Jewish race. Whether it is educating people about Israel, donating money, or traveling to Israel, we were informed constantly that we have to continue to help our homeland. Thus, we remind ourselves that united in struggle, united in remembrance, and united in life, we will protect the Jewish people, and prevent such atrocities as the Holocaust from occurring again. /M



# My March of the Living Experience

by Josh Spatz

On April 24th, 2004 myself, seven friends and one incredible chaperone left for the trip of a lifetime – a trip known to most as the March of the Living. For those who do not know, the March of the Living is a Holocaust remembrance trip. This means that the trip's focus lies both in understanding why the Holocaust occurred, and learning what we can do to prevent it from happening again. The trip itself took place in two entirely different, yet incredibly connected places: Poland, a country embedded so heavily in Judaism's past, and Israel, a country that marks its future. Many would even go as far as to argue that Israel's mere existence, lies predominantly, if not entirely on the occurrence of the Holocaust, an event that occurred largely in Poland. With this in mind, it was more than fitting that our trip included both of these places. During our time in Poland, we visited sites marking the prosperity of Jewish culture and existence in Polish society. We visited the graves of Jews unaffected by the horrors of the Holocaust; Jews, who like their gentile counterparts, lived wonderful, full lives. After witnessing this, the terrors of the Holocaust became even more apparent. This terror could be seen even as we walked the streets to and from our hotel. Where were the Jews? The simple, and tragic answer was, there were none. With such a storied Jewish history, this void was truly disturbing.

These feelings, however, were all but extinguished upon our arrival in Israel. Our joy upon landing was so great that following tradition, we couldn't resist kissing the ground. And so, bags on our backs, and that grungy taste in my mouth from 4 hours of drooling on myself in a plane, we got down and kissed that dirty, filthy, disgusting Israeli runway. And boy did it feel great! After so much horror, finally we were home. Not in Halifax, shockingly enough, but in Israel. We went on to spend a week longer in Israel, touring the country's numerous historical and religious sites. On Friday night, we had Shabbat Services at the Kotel (Western Wall) where all layers of Jewish existence came together in song, dance, and prayer. Later we visited the Golan Heights where we learnt about the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and took part in remembering the soldiers who fought. Among our many other stops were the Dead Sea, Massada, Yad Vashem, Mount Herzl, a Bedouin Tent, etc. Though many parts of the trip were exhausting, both physically and emotionally, it was an unforgettable experience, one that I am forever thankful I was part of. Even though I arrived at the airport parentless and unable to formulate comprehensive English sentences due to my exhaustion, in the back of my mind I knew that I had just come home from one of the greatest experiences in my life. /N



## My March of the Living Experience

by Brendan Rosen

I recently returned home from an amazing trip that took a group of Jewish High School students from Canada through Poland and Israel. During our travels we experienced a roller coaster of emotions that took us from the sadness of the concentration camps to the joy of Jerusalem and the Western Wall on a warm **Shabbath** night. It was an incredible journey that I will never forget and I hope that Jewish youth continue to have this opportunity, and take it, for many years to come. /N

## My March of the Living Experience

by Rebecca Ferguson

The March of the Living was a wonderful experience. I loved it. It really left a lasting impression on me. I met so many wonderful people and saw so many things – horrible things from our past that are important to know about for the present and future, and then wonderful things in Israel from even further back in the past. I loved Israel. It is beautiful and I can't wait to go back. Poland is also very beautiful but with an ugly past.

This trip has made me think about a lot of things in different ways and question the ways of people. It was a very important journey that I am glad to have been a part of. /N



# My March of the Living Experience

by Ben Mendleson, Participant

Recently our small group of 8 went on the March of the Living. I think I can speak for all of us when I say it was an experience we will never forget. On the trip I think everyone was on an emotional low in Poland and on a high in Israel. Poland was a very depressing place so I shall write about my experience in Israel.

Israel is an amazing country. In the north you can go skiing and in the south you have the desert. The 1st day we were there was the best day of my life – the best food – it was a breakfast and it was such a change from the food we had in Poland. We went to the Dead Sea which is such a fun place. I really did not believe that you float in the water till I actually got in it. We also went to a Bedouin camp where we rode camels, and ate supper. It was so good. On the 2nd day we climbed Massada. We learned about the battle with the Romans. It was very tiring especially coming down on the snake path. That night we went to the Western Wall for Friday night services and it was pretty amazing. In the next few days I

got to see my brother who I have not seen since my Bar Mitzvah. I was pretty excited to see him and his wife. That night a bazaar came to the kibbutz. The next day we went to Yad Vashem, where there was a monument to honor the children who died in the Holocaust which felt like nothing compared with Poland. The next day was Yom Ha' Atzmaut. We went to mini Israel (a miniature model of Israel). It was really fun. The next day was our last day and we went to the Mediterranean. The water was very warm. After the beach we went to the MOL closing ceremony where thousands showed up. Then it was time to leave Israel. We flew into Montreal where we said our last good byes and we were back home.

I have to say the Poland experience felt like a year and when we were in Israel it felt as long as it took you to read this article. It went by very fast. The March of the Living was amazing and I'm very glad I went on it. I would like to thank the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, for helping to make this trip possible for me. /M



# My March of the Living Experience

by Jenna Conter, Participant

My experience on the March of the Living is one I will never forget. With the trip being cancelled for my first attempt two years ago, I was more excited to be part of the March this year. With the knowledge that I have acquired from school, family trips to Washington, and my own queries into my past, and the past of my people, I thought I was prepared for what horrors lay ahead. However, with the stories that I have heard for so many years matched with my own eyes seeing the where they occurred, my feet following their footsteps in the dirt, I was sadly mistaken. For the first time we had the chance to see our past in color. The tall miserable trees in Auschwitz, the brown barracks in Birkenau, and the green grass at Majdenak all spoke to us with a reality that struck hard.

Never again can we allow this terror to come upon our people. We must make a stand against racism and eliminate indifference. This trip was a rude awakening to what could have been the end of the Jewish race.

In Israel, we were assured that that was not the case. We

were surrounded by a sense of Judaism and freedom that made us feel right at home. Having been to Israel once already, it was a different feeling. Not only was its beauty just how I remembered it, but the sense of pride, having just come from the lowest point in Jewish history to our highest, our Holy Land, was almost overwhelming. Never had I felt so proud to be a Jew than when I stood at the wall on Friday night, surrounded by friends.

The March of the Living was honestly a life-altering journey. Coming from a person who mocked all the people who warned me of this before I left. The combination of the people you are with, the history you not only learn but also see, and the memories you make will last a lifetime and I will cherish them for the rest of my days. I have already made plans for my next trip to Israel, May 2005. I hope that Israel will be safe to travel for many years to come and that its people, of all races and color, can make that a part of their future to make up for their troubling past. /M

## My March of the Living Experience

by Kathy Zilbert, Chaperone

What a privilege it was to chaperone eight young people from Atlantic Canada on the March of the Living trip in April. The participants will report on their experience but from my perspective it was a tremendous journey. The week in Poland resulted in every emotion imaginable. But to be part of the official March of the Living with 7000 young people from 42 countries and walk together from Auschwitz to Birkenau with Israeli flags flying remembering those who perished was a positive and powerful experience. Then seeing Israel through the eyes of so many young people arriving for their first time was uplifting and started a fantastic though brief stay. There is no doubt that March of the Living is one of the best programmes UIA sponsors and I hope many teens have the opportunity to participate for years to come. *M*

## My March of the Living Experience

by Sandra Rappaport, Participant

The March of The Living Trip was the most indescribable thing that I have ever had the opportunity of doing. There was no way for anyone to prepare or inform you of what would be seen over those two weeks. Poland was nothing that I pictured. Actually it was the complete opposite. The trees were in full bloom, the weather was warm and everything was so colorful. It was extremely hard to picture something as horrific as the Holocaust happening there. So after a very long and emotionally draining week we boarded a plane for Israel. Words can't describe how beautiful Israel is. The first morning we were there I was in amazement over the view. Israel was everything and more then I expected and I can't wait to go back. I made some amazing friends and had some amazing experiences and hope that everyone is at some point able to have this wonderful opportunity. *M*

*Thank you, Atlantic Jewish Foundation for making the March of the Living possible for me to experience. It was truly an incredible journey.*

*Daniel Washburn, Participant*



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# Massada News

by Shirley Burnstein

Our last Massada meeting for the season was held at Northwood on May 20th. We had reason to celebrate – and we did. **Bessie Rinzler** and **Max Fishman** had their 90th birthday and to the tune of “Happy Birthday”, they cut the cake. Best wishes Bessie & Max!

Dr. **David Zitner** was our guest speaker. We were certainly attuned to the topic “Meds and Seniors”. A most informative presentation followed by a question and answer period. Thank you again, Dr. Zitner.

**Ralph Garson** has decided to retire from his position as President of Massada. He has held this office for three years and we thank him for his superb efforts. We know we can rely on his help as he assumes the role of Past President.

**Barbara Alberstat** has consented to take over as President and having been such an ardent executive member over the years, will fit into her new role with ease. The Executive members and Past President wish her the best and will continue to support Massada.

Our closing dinner will be held at Dofsky's on June 13th at 5 p.m. and is open to seniors of the community.

Through the kind efforts of **Lloyd Newman**, a number of tickets have been made available to Massada to attend the final performance of “Cats” at Neptune Theatre on Sunday, June 27th at 2 p.m. This will be the closing of our Massada season – “until we meet again” – have a safe, healthy, warm summer.

“June is busting out all over” (so the song says)



Barb and Phil Alberstat, Massada, May '04.



Happy 90th Birthday Bessie Rinzler, with Max Fishman at Massada, May '04.

Dr. David Zitner speaks at the Massada Meeting, May '04.



Dr. David Zitner and Ralph Garson at the Massada Meeting, Northwood, May '04.



Bessie Rinzler, Joyce Gordon, Shoshana Katz and Jean Zlatin – 90th Birthday Party at Massada, May '04.

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# News from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

The seasons seem to fly by at an increasingly rapid rate; as soon as one Jewish holiday is over yet another event or holiday requires planning. The children of the community achieve important milestones and some of our parents pass the ultimate one. Such has been this past spring.

Pesach came with its usual flurry of ordering, inviting, cleaning and rejoicing. Soon after, we held our Holocaust memorial service at the Holiday Inn due to a general strike involving school maintenance workers. The hotel provided an excellent venue for our guest speaker, **Frank Dimant** of Bnai B'rith. The expertly planned programme, chaired by Dr. **Barbara Grandy**, was attended by over 300 people. In addition to Mr. Dimant's main address we listened to **Charlotte-Ann Malischewski** play a piece by **Ernest Bloch** on her violin and watched a particularly wrenching scene from a local production of *Cabaret*, directed by **Terri Andrews**. Awards were presented to local Holocaust educators including Dr. **Gerhard Bassler**, recently retired from Memorial University, Mr. **Keith Samuelson**, a teacher at Prince of Wales Collegiate and to Mr. **Ernest Condon**, a retired educator from Labrador and, like Mr. Samuelson, a former Holocaust and Hope participant. The fourth award was presented posthumously to Mr. **Joseph Coffey**, a liberator of Bergen-

Belsen during World War II. The certificates were designed and framed with typical Israeli artistic creativity by **Inbal Koubi**, a young member of our congregation. Also featured at the memorial was a selection of poems on the Holocaust by former Newfoundland writer **Irving Fogwill**. These poems were recently published by our member Dr. **Robin McGrath**.

One week later our community held a full-day event. In the morning **Marra Messenger** of CIC came to do an Israel Advocacy workshop which was very professional and worthwhile. In the evening we continued with a Yom Ha-atzma'ut celebration. One week later we tried to organize a community first – a Lag Ba-Omer bonfire on Topsail Beach. Unfortunately high winds (not unusual in this part of Canada!) prevented our great intentions and a substitute fire of crepe paper and ingenuity was designed by our capable and quick-thinking Areiva, **Adi Varon**.

On May 16th **Mark Rosen**, President of the AJC, and **Jon Goldberg**, Executive Director of the same travelled to the Rock to discuss the regional services survey and the community needs with the executive. This was followed by a general community meeting and brunch. We look forward to these visits which only serve to cement our ties to the rest of

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## Learning From the Past: In Memory of the Holocaust

by *Kristen Williams, student at Prince of Wales Collegiate, St. John's, NL*

*Kristen won the SWW Journalism Award for Top Student Journalist in Canada (highest marks for this article.)*

During the dark years of World War Two, hatred and racism empowered Adolph Hitler to annihilate over twelve million innocent people while the world watched in silence. Six million of the victims were Jews, one and a half million of them children, and the others included disabled people, gypsies, homosexuals, Slavs, Communists, Catholics and political opponents. On April 25th 2004, the city of St. John's joined with hundreds of cities around the world to commemorate the tragedy of the Holocaust, in the hope that remembrance and reflection will keep a crime of this magnitude from ever happening again. The solemn and dignified Newfoundland Holocaust Memorial Day Service was conducted by the Hebrew Congregation of Newfoundland and Labrador and attended by hundreds of people of varying ages and from diverse cultures.

The service honored the victims of the Holocaust through a variety of reverent readings, respectful prayers and riveting performances. The Mourner's Kaddish was recited in Hebrew and the Memorial Prayer In Memory of the Six Million was presented in its' original Aramaic language. **Charlotte Malischewski**, a student violinist, played the hauntingly beautiful "Vidui" (Contrition) from Three Pictures from Hassidic Life. This emotional piece was composed by **Ernest Bloch**, who fled Europe in the 1930's in fear of persecution. A

scene from the highly acclaimed musical 'Cabaret' was also performed during the service. 'Cabaret' is set in Nazi Germany during the 1930's and explores the social climate of the time. The scene that was performed deals with a young woman who is afraid to marry her Jewish fiancée for fear of persecution. It was very appropriate to the reflective tone of the service and provided one heartbreaking example of the effect of tyranny on the personal lives of innocent people. Guest Speaker **Frank Dimant**, Executive Vice-President of B'nai Brith Canada and the head of its Institute for International Affairs and League for Human Rights, gave a riveting and thought-provoking speech on "The New Anti-Semitism and Echoes of The Holocaust." The son of Holocaust survivors and one of the first children born after the war, Mr. Dimant reflected on the massacre of innocents and how no one was willing to respond to the terrible injustice perpetrated against defenceless people. He spoke passionately about the new Anti-Semitism, which is rampant in many Canadian cities and around the world today. The burning of books, proliferation of racist graffiti and desecration of graves are reminiscent of Nazi Germany. His message was very clear. We must take expressions of hatred or threats against any group of people very seriously. "Remembering alone is

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the Atlantic Jewish population. On May 24th we were honoured to host approximately 20 members of the St. John's Muslim community following our visit to the Mosque earlier in the spring. At the mosque we were given a tour and a short introduction to Islam followed by a generous tea including the province's best baklava and homemade halva. We presented the members of the mosque with an original sculpture by our member, **Bonnie Leyton**, a well-known local artist and gallery owner. Their return visit to the Shul also started with a welcome by our president, **Dr. Michael Paul**, a short lecture on the history of this community by Dr. Robin McGrath, and a powerpoint presentation on basic Judaism by yours truly, **Claire Frankel-Salama**. After a sumptuous tea including including homemade strudel, mandelbroit and the yummiest of blintzes, **Dr. Haddara**, president of the Muslim community, made a presentation to our congregation. This particular programme grew out of an interfaith women's group and subsequent joint visits of our Areiva, **Adi Varon**, and a young Muslim student, **Soraya Karrim**, to various classrooms across the city.

During the past few months we have also welcomed members of the Salvation Army as well as our good friends from the Foxtrap Pentecostal Church. Our latest programme, which was arranged by Adi, was a wine-tasting and presentation by this country's only entirely Kosher winery, **Rodrigues Wines** of Newfoundland. We sampled a number of fruit wines made from Newfoundland blueberries with iceberg water, cloudberries, pear, blackberries (from Nova Scotia) and lingonberries. The strawberry wine was definitely one of the



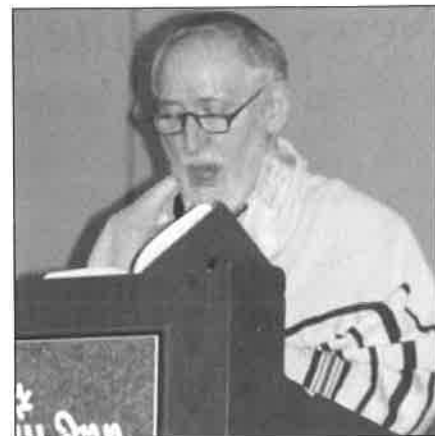
*Barbara Grandy, Michael Paul, Keith Samuelson, Ernest Condon, Gerhard Bassler – Awardees.*

### **Memory of the Holocaust** *continued from page 23*

insufficient" he said, "We have a responsibility to the victims not to repeat the mistakes of the past." He also gave us a stern warning about the threat of terrorism: "When Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah tell you that they're going to do something – believe them!"

During the service, four Newfoundlanders were honored for their outstanding contributions to Holocaust education and awareness in our province. **Joseph Coffey**, one of the Canadian Forces soldiers who liberated the notorious Bergen-Belson prison camp, was awarded his certificate posthumously. His grandson proudly accepted on Mr. Coffey's behalf. Mr. Coffey was well known for his informative presentations, especially his eyewitness account of the horrors of this particular concentration camp. He always said "Tell anyone who denies that the Holocaust ever happened to come

favourites. We then had the pleasure of sampling a special cake baked by Inbal in honour of her husband's graduation from Memorial University. **Sharon Koubi** who hails from Ashkelon, Israel, received the Captain Bartlett Prize for Science after appearing on the



Dean's List and representing the University at several international Computer Science competitions. He is now working on his Master's degree here.

Other important graduations in the community include **Miriam Noel**, daughter of **Ruth** and **John Noel**, who graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Nutrition from Acadia. Miriam will be interning in several Toronto hospitals this coming year. **Arielle Salama**, daughter of **Claire** and **Messod Salama**, is graduating with a BSc in Cell Biology and Anatomy and is coming back to St. John's this fall to study medicine at Memorial. **Daniel Salama**, who is graduating from Prince of Wales Collegiate, has been selected to become a page at the House of Commons this year, and will study Political Science and History at University of Ottawa (look out, **Paul Martin!**).

Another important milestone will take place next week. **Jacob Klein**, son of **Ken** and **Anne Klein**, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah here in St. John's. We fondly remember his birth and the celebration after his bris only a short time ago, it seems. The next thing we know, he'll be grown up and we will be wondering what happened to the years.

As our younger members joyfully come of age, still others leave us. Unfortunately, I mourn the passing in Toronto of my beloved father, **Elias Frankel**, on April 27th. **Bonnie Leyton** (née Averbach) lost her father in Vancouver this past week. As the Memorial service reminds us, our days are like a passing shadow, and we must appreciate every minute and thereby attain a heart of wisdom.

and talk to me!". Dr. **Gerhard Bassler**, professor Emeritis in Memorial University's History Department, developed and still teaches the university's first specialized Holocaust course: "the Holocaust in Historical Perspective". **Ernest Condon**, former Burin Peninsula School Board supervisor, taught about the Holocaust for many years after becoming the first teacher in our Province selected to attend B'nai Brith Canada's Holocaust and Hope Educators' Tour of Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and Israel.

My English teacher attended what turned out to be the last Holocaust Educators' Tour in the summer of 2000. **Keith Samuelson** was honored for his extensive work as a speaker and Holocaust educator, but especially for his leadership in establishing a learning resource, which is a model for Holocaust and Human Rights Education. The P.W.C.



Holocaust Project [www.pwc.k12.nf.ca/projects/holocaust](http://www.pwc.k12.nf.ca/projects/holocaust) continues to be the subject of Mr. Samuelson's presentations to students and teachers provincially, nationally and internationally. He says that "Howard Gardner has stated that if students studied only three topics in school – Darwin's Theory of Evolution, Mozart's Marriage of Figaro and the Holocaust, then they would develop all intelligences. I also believe that it is virtually impossible to teach empathy and achieve the most important educational outcome – humane global citizenship – without learning the lessons of the greatest catastrophe ever inflicted upon any group of people and applying them to what's going on in the world around us".

Moderator **Elliott Leyton**, quoting **Elie Wiesel**, said "There is a level of truth so deep that it can only be conveyed through silence". It was in the midst of a somber yet rejuvenating silence that six candles were lit in memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. We should also remember that Wiesel said that memory is a powerful weapon that can protect us against future attacks. Memorial services provide an opportunity for us to honor those who were victimized and slaughtered. They must also inspire us to act so that more recent hate crimes are never repeated.



Barbara Grandy, Michael Paul and Gerhard Bassler



Daniel Salama and Kristin Williams



## Muslim-Jewish Friendship; It's About Time

by **Ashley Kapoor** (Editor's note: Ashley Kapoor is a student at Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's, Newfoundland)

It's about time that we stop focusing on all the negative things that are going on in the world and start paying attention to the positive. For instance, at Prince of Wales Collegiate we were recently privileged to have two young people speak to us about their new, "unusual" friendship. **Soraya Carrim**, a young Muslim girl born in Newfoundland, and **Adi Varon**, a young Israeli exchange student who is visiting Newfoundland for the first time, met at our local mosque and immediately became close friends. They would probably not have become friends had they met in another country where there is animosity between people of their ethnic and religious backgrounds. It's really quite ironic that we live in a world where you have to travel to the other end of the earth to become friends with the people who are actually closest to you. Still, in a way it's a good thing for us. In Canada, most of the time we live blissfully ignorant lives when it comes to understanding people of different nationalities and beliefs. And that is so very important. It is an absolute necessity to be influenced and surrounded by different types of people from various backgrounds and cultures in order to become well-rounded, complete individuals. Soraya and Adi made me feel thankful that I live in a country that supports multiculturalism and encourages individuality.

The personal chemistry, playful humour and genuine warmth of these two people is inspirational. Their incredible presentation taught us a great deal about Islam and Judaism as monotheistic religions with many common beliefs. For example, both religions emphasize ethical behaviour, respect for all people and caring for the poor. Anyone who expresses hatred or incites violence is a traitor to their religion and a

disgrace to their people. One must only use as much force as is necessary to defend oneself. Adi told us about her life in Israel and how it is part of her culture to serve in the Israeli army for two years. Also, she explained how different it is here in Canada where there are no security guards in front of every store checking through your bags to make sure you're not a terrorist. Her life in Israel is so different from anything we, as Canadians, have ever experienced. Sorayah spoke about her experiences growing up in St. John's and how she often felt very different from her peers. She spoke about how difficult it was sometimes to fit in with her friends while still being true to her culture. She told a story about her decision as a high school student not to wear the traditional hijab that Muslim women wear because it drew too much unwanted attention. She decided that it was not right for her and that St. John's was not a place that was ready for overt displays of multiculturalism. Speaking from my own experiences as a visible minority, at times it's hard to feel as though you fit in. Sometimes you do feel isolated. But something we all have to remember is that underneath the colour of our skin and behind our faiths, we are all members of the human race and should learn to accept each other.

**Ivan Morgan**, Educational Co-ordinator for the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Association, is very committed to bringing human rights issues into Newfoundland schools. He accompanied Sorayah and Adi and spoke to us about multiculturalism. According to Mr. Morgan, over the years the term has gone through many transformations, from being referred to as "tolerance", then

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"acceptance", and finally, "peace". The words may change as often as people want them to, but in the end the message is still the same. If you have a positive attitude towards people no matter what their nationality or circumstance, you will develop understanding, and with understanding comes peace. With that being said, yes, our society isn't "perfect", but that just means that our generation needs to change our belief system to that of peace, understanding, tolerance or whatever you want to call it. In the end it all boils down to the fact that we all live in the same world so we must accept that which we cannot change and strive towards peaceful coexistence. It's about time that Muslims and Jews get together to promote world peace through personal friendship. Sorayah and Adi have provided a model in our classroom, which political leaders should emulate on the world stage.



Soraya Carrim and Adi Varon speak to a class at Prince of Wales Collegiate, St. John's, Newfoundland.

## Yom Hashoah 2004 – Cape Breton

by Sylvia Allen



Holocaust Remembrance Convenors with George Scott –  
(l-r): Shirley Dubinsky, Sylvia Allen, George Scott, Betty Shore,  
Shirley Chernin, Fran Morrison and Evy Druker.

On April 18th at 2:30 p.m., our fifth annual Holocaust Memorial Service was held at the Temple Sons of Israel Synagogue, and featured our guest speaker, **George Scott**, a survivor of Dachau concentration camp. Of the nearly 300 people who attended, approximately 90% were non-Jewish. Sylvia Allen, who organized the service, thanked the audience for their tremendous support over the years. We received a congratulatory certificate from M.L.A. **Manning MacDonald** recognizing the Holocaust memorial service, and the outstanding contribution the Jewish community of Cape Breton has made to the island over the years.

During the ceremony, seven administrators from area high schools lit candles in remembrance of those who perished during the war. Six candles represented the 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust and the 7th candle was lit to recognize the righteous gentiles and to represent the other minority groups who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Our guest speaker had a connection to the community because he spent several months in Glace Bay as a teenager, when he first arrived in Canada after the war. In spite of what happened to him in his youth, many in the audience commented afterwards about his positive attitude toward life.

Vocal selections were performed by the **Dubinsky** family, and ended with "We Rise Again" which has become our theme song for this service. Simple refreshments were served, giving the audience a chance to mingle and talk to Mr. Scott directly. He visited three high schools and encountered close to 2000 students in his appearance at the Synagogue.

This event would not be possible without the wholehearted dedication of our committee consisting of:

**Sylvia Allen**  
**Shirley Chernin**  
**Evy Druker**  
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# Cape Breton Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar 2004

by Evelyn Davis

The Cape Breton Chapters of Hadassah-Wizo have held their 36th bazaar – their most successful bazaar yet. With the help of **Shirley Chernin's** collection of past bazaar photos, **Ethel Webber**, Publicity Chair, arranged for an almost full page in the Cape Breton Post. The most innovative publicity took place when **Ian MacNeil** of Information Morning, spoke to the Canadian Hadassah Wizo's representative in Israel, **Debra Malki**. Debra highlighted the **Nina Cohen Day Care Center** for Jewish and Arab children, which is supported by the Atlantic Provinces chapters. She told about the serious economic conditions in Israel that make it important to have schools such as Hadassim and Nahalal that provide boarding house facilities to help disadvantaged youth.

We want to thank former Cape Bretoners and their friends in Halifax and Toronto who convened with **Joan Elman** and greatly contributed to Joan's Boutique.

**Maura Lea Morykol**, the project coordinator of "Stopping Bullies Together", a program for the Cape Breton Regional Police Services and Cape Breton School Boards, came to the bazaar with the winning artwork, which was displayed in every room at the bazaar. Maura is seen here with co-coordinator, Betty Shore.



Super salesman Sam Mendleson!



Betty Shore, Co-Convenor, with the Basket of Plenty.



(l-r): Brenda Campbell, Margaret Karrel, Whitney Karrel, Etta Chernin



(l-r): Fred Blufarb, Charlene Cohen, Betty Shore, Brendan Yazer. In front: Whitney Karrel, Suzanne Winsor



The Morrison family came to help – Diane, Fran and Jennifer



Betty Shore and Maura Lea Morykol

## Jewish Culture on Display in Cape Breton

The Historica Fair 2004 was held at the University College of Cape Breton on May 14th. The annual event was sponsored by Cape Breton's Victoria Regional School Board.

The interactive workshops were offered to the elementary and junior high students as an enriched learning experience about different cultures.

**Betty Shore, Shirley Chernin** and **Sylvia Allen** were invited as workshop facilitators to represent the Jewish community of Cape Breton.

There were three visual displays set in the classroom. These displays were of the Sabbath, Chanukah, and Passover festivals. Sylvia Allen did narration and there was a great response from the students, as they had many questions.

It was evident that these students would now have a better

understanding of Jewish traditions and customs celebrated over the past 5000 years by Jews from all over the world.



## Dateline Halifax

Mazel Tov to **Bessie Rinzler** on reaching 90 YEARS YOUNG!! Biz a hundret und tzvanzik. Love your family in Moncton, Fredericton, Toronto and Houston, Texas. (Son, Son-in-law, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, Niece, and many friends).

Mazel Tov to **Barrie** and **Bette Ross** on the wedding of their son, **David Ross** to **Kitty Molnar**, daughter of **Tom** and **Susan Molnar** of Toronto, which took place in Toronto on May 16, 2004.

Mazel Tov to **Genevieve** and **Sheldon Lipkus** on the engagement of their son, **David** to **Paula Gaum** of Toronto. Wedding will be in Toronto on October 24, 2004. Also on the engagement of their daughter, **Heidi** to **Daniel Meirovitz** of Toronto. They will wed in Halifax on July 17, 2005.

Mazel Tov to **Hannah Kovacks**, daughter of **George** and **Sandy**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah on May 15, 2004.

Mazel Tov to **Benjamin Burgar**, son of **Donna Assh** and **Rodd Burgar** on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Hannah Rubenstein**, daughter of **Gary** and **Jennifer**, on the occasion of her Bat Matzvh.

Mazel Tov to the Shaar Shalom B'Nai Mitzvoh class: **Donna Assh**, **Michele Byers**, **Florie Fineberg**, **Wendy Katz**, **Linda Law**, **Beverly Parsons**, **Elizabeth Pink**, **Molly Rechnitzer**, **Joanna Wexler**, and **Heather Zitner**.

Mazel Tov to **Janet** and **Alan Stern** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Madelyn Rebecca Stern** on February 27, 2004, daughter to **Adam** and **Debbie Jacobson**, a sister for **Gabriel**.

### GREEN JAIN

**Barrie M. Green, CA**  
**Rakesh C. Jain, CA**  
**Bruce MacInnis, CA**  
**Nancy Murray, CA**  
**Jennifer Nicholson, CA**  
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Mazel Tov to **Matthew McKnight**, son of **Lea McKnight** and grandson of **Marianne** and **Lawrence Fergusson**, who graduated from the N.S. Institute of Technology with a certificate in Systems Management and Networking.

Mazel Tov to **Leslie Gaum** and **Dov Bercovici** on the recent birth of their son **Matthew**. Proud grandparents are **Karen** and **Simon Gaum**.

Congratulations to **Sarah Goldberg**, daughter of **Lorri** and **Paul**, granddaughter of **Miriam** and **Leonard**, on receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from McGill University. Sarah will be attending the Bachelor of Education program at Queen's University in the Fall.

Congratulations to **Chara McIvor**, daughter of **Tamara** and **Paul**, who graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Education degree.

Congratulations to **Michael Stern**, son of **Mary Kanner**, upon receiving his B.Sc. from Dalhousie.

Congratualtions to **Ian Epstein** upon graduating from the Dalhousie School of Medicine. He will be staying on at Dalhousie as a Resident in Internal Medicine.

Congratulations to **Eric Goldberg**, son of **Judith** and **Victor**, on being elected Head Boy at the Halifax Grammar School.

Congratulations to **Ben Goldberg**, son of **Lorri** and **Paul**, on being elected Head of Finance at the Halifax Grammar School.

Condolences **Lois Block** on the recent passing of her mother, **Sophie Sherman**.

Condolences to **Cara Tax** on the recent passing of her father, **Marvin Nordman**.

Condolences to **Ruth, Steven, Ronald, Joel** and **Darrel Pink** on the passing of their husband and father, **Irving**.

Congratulations to the following high school graduates:

**Jenna Conter**, daughter of **Karen** and **Howard Conter**. Jenna will be attending Queen's University.

**Brendan Rosen**, daughter of **Ethel** and **Mark Rosen**. Brendan will be attending McGill University.

**Eric Abrahams**, son of **Joanne** and **Ron Abrahams**, will be attending Dalhousie.

**Yolana Wassersug**, daughter of **Jana Weider** and **Richard Wassersug**. Yolana will be attending University of King's College.

**Rebecca Ferguson**, daughter of **Jamie Ferguson** and granddaughter of **Lawrence** and **Marianne**. She plans on going to Israel to do an Ulpan Program.

**Renee Zatzman**, daughter of **Steven Zatzman**. Renee will be attending the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

**Elana Zatzman**, daughter of **Steven Zatzman**. Elana will be attending Laurentian University.

**Mark Merovitch**, son of **Marty** and **Sam Merovitch**, will be attending Dalhousie. Mark won a "Talk About Canada" Scholarship.

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

# Shalom Report for Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

The City of Moncton recently announced that Queen Street East will be renamed Rabbi **Libba Medjuck** Street. The Moncton Times-Transcript reported that "Medjuck was the spiritual leader of Moncton's Jewish community for nearly 40 years. Respected by adherents of all faiths, Medjuck advocated ecumenism."

On March 28 Rev. **Andrew Richardson** of Allison United Church was the guest speaker at a brunch held at Tiferes Israel synagogue. More than 60 people came to hear Rev. Richardson's interesting and thought provoking talk on anti-Semitism. This brunch was intended to be the first in a series of Sunday brunches.

During the brunch a plaque was presented to **Joan Sichel** in recognition of the work being done by a group of volunteers led by Joan who prepare sandwiches for "Mobile One", Moncton's soup kitchen on wheels.

Joan Sichel once again organized the Holocaust Memorial service. Moving prayers, poems, speeches and songs were followed by guest speaker Len Rudner's interesting address "Where Do We Go From Here." Mr. Rudner spoke of how there are "villains afoot who seek to destroy or confound the memory of the Shoah." He said it is the task of his generation to fight against this and keep the memory alive, while at the same time making sure we "remember in such a way that violence is not done to the memories of those that remain – and the memory of those that do not."

In preparation for Pesach the shule basement was turned into a matzah bakery. Children were invited to come and learn about the laws of Passover and to make their own matzah. On the first night of Pesach the second annual community seder took place in the shule with a nice turnout of about 40 people.

The community celebrated Lag B'Omer with a picnic and barbecue which was held on mother's day. All mothers in attendance received a rose. Entertainment was provided by **Dan Maloney** a comedic musician who played a special rendition of "If I Were a Rich Man."

In May the shule held a family Shabbaton. The guest speaker for the Shabbaton was Rabbi **Yamin Bennaroch** from Montreal. At Shabbat dinner on Friday night Rabbi Bennaroch spoke about the joy of celebrating shabbat. At lunch on Saturday morning he talked about the necessity of caring for and respecting other members of our community even if we don't always agree with them. There was also a workshop on raising Jewish children in small communities given by **Lisa Appleton** of Wolfville. On Saturday night several long-time members of Moncton's Jewish community talked about the "good old days."

Congratulations to all of our graduates: **Aviva Cohen**, daughter of **Ivan** and **Nancy**, and **Aaron Murray**, son of **Scott** and **Linda** are graduating from high school. They both plan to continue their educations at universities in Halifax. **Rhonda Rubin**, daughter of **Adelle** and the late **Norman**, will soon be receiving her PhD. **Colleen Coppel**, wife of Joel and mother of **Ashley** and **Chelsey** received her BSc. in Nursing from the University of New Brunswick. Colleen has accepted a position at the Moncton Hospital. **Leyla Attis**, daughter of **David** and **Margie** received her BSc. in Therapeutic and Recreation Therapy from Dalhousie University. **Rachel Alpern**, daughter of **Leah** and **Mark** earned her Bachelors degree in Architecture from the University of Manitoba. **Marissa Attis**, daughter of **Sandy** and **Roz Attis**, has graduated from Dalhousie with her BSc. Mazel tov to **Jack Haller**, husband of **Nicole Druckman**, on being called to the Bar.

Tiferes Israel preschool recently held its graduation ceremony and among the graduates were **Rivki Stiefel**, **Madison Rubin** and **Sarah Ruach**.

Mazel tov to **Ivan Cohen** who was this year's recipient of Mount Allison University's **Herbert and Leota Tucker** Teaching Award in recognition of his excellence in and dedication to teaching. Ivan was presented with the award during the Mount Allison's spring convocation on May 10.

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

## Jewish-Canadian Youth Model United Nations

by Alyssa Byers-Heinlein, Fredericton, New Brunswick (AJC was pleased to help sponsor Alyssa as a participant.)

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a Jewish-Canadian Youth Model United Nations conference in Montreal. There were approximately 150 delegates who ranged in ages from grade 9-12. Some were from as far away as British Columbia and New Jersey, and others from as close as Quebec. Some students had previously been to many model UN conferences, while others, such as myself, had never been to any. We were divided up into different councils, such as the Security Council, and the Council for Illegal Drug Trade and Corruption, which was the council that I was on. It was three days filled with passionate debate and intriguing discussion within our different groups. The Council was conducted as if it were a real UN conference. All of the UN rules and procedure

applied including having to dress in the appropriate attire. Within each Council, different countries drafted and created resolutions. Each delegate was assigned to represent a different country (I was Pakistan). We all learned a lot about the United Nations and how it works. When meetings were not going on, there were plenty of activities and fun things to do. I met many new friends, who I still keep in touch with. I was the only participant from the Atlantic Provinces. All the other participants were with a group from their school or from another Jewish organization. Still, they made me feel very welcome, and I had an amazing time! It was an awesome experience to have shared with Jewish teens from across the country, and I would recommend it to everybody for next year.



# The Jewish Diet Strategy

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

One warm spring day, my 6 yr. Old son, Mendel, decided to sell Kool Aid to all those passing our home. As he and his 5 yr. Old sister were manning the Kool Aid stand, a reporter from CBC Radio passed by and subsequent to inquiring about the Kool Aid stand, the reporter asked Mendel if he could interview him live. It took a slight bit of persuasion on my part but in the end Mendel agreed.

**Reporter:** What are you selling?

**Mendel:** Kool Aid

**Reporter:** How much are you selling it for?

**Mendel:** \$.25 for a small cup and \$.50 for a large cup.

**Reporter:** How's business today?

**Mendel:** It's going well. I already made \$7.00 (Mendel was quick to add) and %10 will be going to charity.

**Reporter:** Oh really! Which charity?

**Mendel:** The hospital

**Reporter:** May I purchase a small cup? (The reporter drinks his small cup) Wow, this is really exceptional Kool Aid, did you make it yourself?

**Mendel:** No, my mother did. And do you know why it's so good?

**Reporter:** No, please tell me.

**Mendel:** It's so good because it's "kosher" Kool Aid.

Watching all this transpire I wonder, "is kosher food really better?"

Last weekend the news headlines read as follows "Global diet strategy adopted by the world health organization"! We are living in an era where the world is big on physical fitness, but some Rabbi's say, "We are satisfying our bodies & starving our souls"! Since "we are what we eat", they say part of the solution is a unique diet of foods, which for 3500 years has been our source of spirituality.

Recently, one woman was telling me that what she thought would only be a short lived feeling, still exists, her home actually has felt holy ever since the time she changed her kitchen to a kosher kitchen. It is a feeling that was hard for her to explain, it is almost like her home just glows! People walk in and know that it's a kosher home!

If we want to give our children, who are the next generation, a feeling of continuity, a feeling of what's important – and this is something that we should all want to do – then we create that kind of a home and the children feel it, and they follow in our footsteps. If we want to maintain that Jewish tradition, then we need to start in the kitchen.

It is well known within the food industry, that there is an increasing popularity of kosher foods. These days there are so

many foods that are kosher it makes keeping kosher simple.

Recent studies show that more than 6 million people today are eating kosher foods. 10 years ago in America there were only about 1,000 certified kosher products. That number has now bloomed to more than 18,000 kosher U.S. products. Just look for one of these recognized kosher symbols, such as; OU, OK, COR, MK, or Chof K. They mean a Rabbi carefully supervised its preparation and the product is 100 percent kosher.

Far from being clued out, the modern kosher kitchen has all of the latest conveniences, and it is also exceptionally clean. More though than just a friendly centralized place used for storing preparing and cooking food, it is also the spiritual center of the Jewish home. When you set up and keep a kosher kitchen, you follow what are known as the laws of Kashrus. Milk & meat are kept totally separate, and never eaten together. Meat meals are served on separate dishes, cooked in separate pots & pans, and cleaned in separate areas. And the same is true for meals composed of dairy products.

Certain foods are never allowed into the home "or your body"; Pork, meats from aggressive animals, shellfish such as lobster & shrimp, and a few other categories listed specifically in the book of Deuteronomy. All fruits & vegetables are kosher, as well as natural grains & certain meats & poultry.

Kosher animals must be slaughtered in the most human manner. A specialized Rabbi known as a Mashgiach then carefully examines the meat and internal organs. He is to be certain that the animal is truly wholesome and healthy. If there is the least bit of suspicion that the animal is not healthy, that animal is not kosher.

Even though kosher food is as pure as possible, and free of most additives and chemicals. It's not the fear of trichinosis and unsanitary conditions which should compel us to keep kosher. Just as the other commandments, keeping kosher is a Mitzvah, one of the 613 found in the Torah. The word Mitzvah doesn't mean good deed, as many people think. It means connection. A connection with G-d that you make, and should think about every time you eat.

All kinds of special diets have been linked to a better life and to better health for society. Optimistically: we can make this age of fitness usher in an age of enlightenment! Our Rabbi's say, we have ignored our soul's needs for too long. They say eating foods, which are holy foods, which are part of G-d's diet, can make a big difference. We have been told for 3500 years now that this food is really better. This diet strategy makes us who we are and it creates that uniqueness about us. Try it!

## Daylight Savings Time *continued from page 11*

afternoons, as we delve into these and other lessons that instruct us to utilize our life upon this earth to its fullest. So when everything seems perfect, when the weather is just right and business is doing fine, that's the most appropriate time to delve further and think how we can do it better.

Indeed, it was just in the middle of such pastoral summers that both Temples were destroyed and to this day we commemorate these tragic events with the Three Weeks of Mourning each summer. The Jewish nation thought all was right and in place, and failed to see all that was wrong and needed to

be constantly fixed and rectified. Each summer, as we mourn this terrible loss, it is a great time to step back and reflect on our own utilization of time.

The challenge of these "Daylight Saving" periods is to do just that; to utilize each moment for something substantial! A suntan is great from time to time; long naps in the outdoors can be a great "energizer". But to make it a constant habit is killing, not saving time or those precious daylight hours. It only takes a minute to save a precious hour. Thank G-d that we have the extra sixty!

# Fredericton News

by Marlene Unger

**I**Never Saw Another Butterfly was presented at the theatre of Le Centre Communautaire Saint-Anne in Fredericton. Under the umbrella of Theatre Fredericton, the play was directed by **Helen Morag McKinnon** and **Cheryl Wiesel**. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* is a most poignant and disturbing play about the extreme that hatred leads to—Holocaust and genocide. While the Holocaust was occurring in Europe at the hands of the Nazis, Hitler was asked at one point, how do you think you can get away with this and his answer was who remembers or even cares about the Armenian genocide. Actors, ages nine to nineteen years came from various ethnic backgrounds as well as from different communities (Harvey, Fredericton, New Maryland, Oromocto and Geary) As a result of participation with this production, many have become committed to being champions for human rights and tolerance.

The Canada Israel Committee hired GPC International, a Public Relations Firm in Ottawa to conduct extensive polling in order to determine what Canadian Gentiles think and feel about Israel. **Marra Messinger** and a team from GPC and **Jon**

**Goldberg** met with the Fredericton Community on April 28th to give them the results of the polling and to outline a new Israel Advocacy strategy. The workshop was very well received.

The Fredericton Hadassah-Wizo annual Brunch and Youth Aliyah fundraiser was held on Sunday, May 29th at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue. The guest speaker was **Rochelle Levinson**, National President of **Hadassah-Wizo** Organization of Canada.

The community was saddened by the death of **Julius Israeli**, although Dr. Israeli died in Newcastle, he was buried in Fredericton. His daughter, Dr. **Anne Israeli** and son-in-law **Neil Brown** live in Fredericton and his wife **Sylvia** will be moving to Fredericton to be near her daughter.

Mazel Tov to **Harry Chippin** who recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Mazel Tov to **Marilyn** and **Seymour Kaufman** who recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to **David** and **Anita Adilman** who recently celebrated their 30th wedding Anniversary.

## Fredericton Holocaust Commemoration

by Sydelle Grobe

**S**ally Wasserman, a child survivor of the Holocaust, was guest speaker at the Annual Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial Observance Service at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

Ms. Wasserman told members of the greater Fredericton community that she owes her life to the bravery of a Christian family. In the summer of 1943 as the Polish ghetto in which the family had been living was about to be liquidated, Wasserman's 33 year-old mother took a desperate chance. She approached a man she hardly knew and implored him to shelter her eight year-old daughter. During the presentation, Wasserman read the poignant letter her mother sent to a sister in Canada, relating her heartbreaking decision and sharing her hopes for Sally's future.

Guests of honour at the service included Lieutenant - Governor **Hermenegilde Chiasson**; MP **Andy Scott**, who brought greetings from the Government of Canada; Mayor **Les Hull** and members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Dr. **David Bessner** read a selection from the Book of Joel that praises the virtue of bearing witness. "Hear this, ye old man, and give ear. All ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell ye your children of it, and let your children, and their children another generation." **Rabbi Zisook** recited the Mourner's Kaddish, a Jewish prayer in praise of God.

**Cheryl Wiesel** and **Larry Finkelman**, lead participants in a recitation of the 23rd Psalm. Seven candles were kindled. Six

candles honoured victims of the Holocaust and members of the Canadian armed forces who lost their lives in World War II. Holocaust survivors Dr. **Israel Unger** and Sally Wasserman; **Irina** and **Andre Milchenko**, recent immigrants from Israel; **Joe Rideout**, President, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #4, **Kimberly Morin** and Rabbi Kenneth Zisook. A seventh candle, in hope of a bright future for all young people was kindled by **Alyssa Byers-Heinlein**, a student at Fredericton High School. Rabbi Zisook sang the haunting hymn *Ani Ma'amin*, "I believe," a confirmation of faith which death camp victims sang on their way to the gas chambers. The Rabbi closed the service with *Kael Molai Rachamim*, a traditional memorial prayer. "Exalted, Compassionate God, grant perfect peace in your sheltering presence among the Holy and the Pure to the souls of all our brethren; men, women and children of the House of Israel, who were slaughtered and burned."

Following the service, the Jewish community hosted a reception in the social hall of the synagogue. "Jews had believed at the end of the war that the horrors of the Holocaust would have put an end to anti-Semitism and hatred," said Dr. Israel Unger, Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Observance Committee.

"Unfortunately, events around the world as well as in Canada demonstrate this is not the case. By teaching our children to be tolerant, we give them a tool to make the world a better place and, thereby, mend what anti-Semitism, hatred, bigotry and violence have broken."

# IN SERIOUS TIMES,

## JEWISH PEOPLE TURN TO UNITED JEWISH APPEAL



Our family in Israel is suffering an economic crisis unmatched in its 55-year history. Unemployment, domestic violence and suicide rates are up. Your dollars help to fund 80 supportive community programs serving 11,800 elderly; and 151 projects reaching more than 60,000 at-risk children and teens. Other programs are helping to develop the human, social and economic capital in 100 municipalities. More dollars are needed. Please help.

Give generously to our United Jewish Appeal Campaign, 2004, coming to your community in September.

AND THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL TURNS TO YOU



**United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada**

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