

Shalom! ! שלום

Winter 2005 Vol. 29, No. 3 CHOREF 5765

14th Biennial Convention, November 2004, Hfx

Award Recipients: l-r: Joseph Naylor (accepting for Inge Blackett in memoriam), PEI; Evelyn Druker, Sydney, NS; Leona Freeman, Halifax, NS; Marilyn Kaufman, Fredericton, NB; Joanna Grossman, Jewish Student Association



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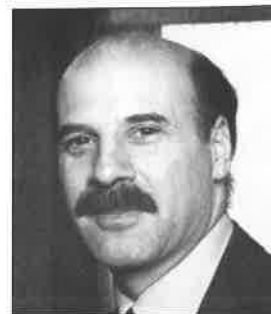
Convention Highlights



שְׁלוֹם

President's Message

by Mark Rosen



President: Mark Rosen

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As I write this report, the festival of Chanukah is upon us. When we light the candles we commemorate the Maccabee's hard-won victory over their oppressors 2000 years ago and we are reminded of the miracles that come to those with the faith and courage to stand up for what is right. Current events in the Middle East suggest an opportunity has arisen which, hopefully, may lead to greater peace and security for Israel. Cynicism aside, any opportunity which benefits Israel and the Jewish people must be taken advantage of and the fact that it is occurring at this time of year may bode well for its success. Israelis have struggled hard in the war against terrorism and just as we support their courage in dealing with the "situation" these past four years, we pray for the success of any overtures that might ultimately lead to acceptance of Israel as a Jewish state within secure and universally recognized borders.

The Atlantic Jewish Council recently completed a weekend of thoughtful deliberations on a variety of topics which not only serve to enhance our Jewish lives, but which are crucial to our work on behalf of Israel and our communities in the region. Those who attended our Biennial Convention heard **Judy Feld Carr's** inspiring story of her assistance in saving Syrian Jewry over a 20-year span and attended sessions focusing on the situation in Israel, our efforts as Canadians to lobby politicians here in Atlantic Canada and in Ottawa as well as sessions on anti-Semitism and small communities. **Bernie Farber's** emotional presentation of his return to Poland to visit the village where his father and uncle were the only survivors of Hitler's final solution was heart rendering and brought tears to many. The weekend events also honoured the work of community volunteers as well as highlighting the important work of our primary funding

agency, UJA. Many thanks to our AJC staff – **Jon, Marie, Bonnie, Sarah and Joanna** – for their hard work in organizing a top-notch event. A special thanks to our Conference Chair, **Rachel Budovitch** – kol ha'chavod on a job well done!

At the convention we elected a new Board of Directors who will serve our region for the next two years. Certainly, I would like to thank all of those who served on the Board during my first term as your President and I look forward to working with the new Board during the next two years as we move forward in our agenda. In my remarks at the closing of the convention I noted that we must remain vigilant in the face of increasing expressions of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment – most of which is becoming synonymous and I encourage you to become engaged on both the local and national scene to ensure that our voices are not only heard but listened to. During the past year the Board undertook a review of our affairs in an effort to determine our strengths and weaknesses so that we could concentrate our modest resources on programs we do well. This is a work in progress and I look forward to continuing these efforts with the incoming Board.

I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosen



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Welcome to our Winter Edition of Shalom! As I sit here and write this article, 2005 has just begun. 2004 was a busy year for all of us at the AJC and within these pages you'll see and read about our 14th Biennial Convention and the wonderful Mission, which I took to Israel in October.

There were 16 Mission participants plus myself. Most of us had known each other anywhere from 25 to 45 years. Add Danny Levine as our Scholar-in-Residence, and I assure you there were no ice breakers needed. The Mission was billed as "Marimers and ex-Marimers". From Halifax were **Norman and Sharron Ross** and **Andrew and Louise Wolfson**; from Cape Breton, **Martin and Gail Chernin** and from Toronto former Marimers, **Stanley and Sharon Jacobson**, **Arnie Ein** and his young son, **Spencer**; **Frank Cappell** and his wife, **Barbara**, **Jamie Levitz** (formerly from Newfoundland) and his wife, **Doreen** and two friends of Jamie's from Windsor, **Barbara and Bernard Lyons**.

Our travels took us from Haifa to the Galilee Panhandle to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Massada and the Dead Sea. One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to Alei Giva School in the Galilee Panhandle, which is part of our P2K Project. Atlantic Canada has an ongoing relationship with the area including support of this particular school through individual projects such as upgrading computer labs, our gift card program for the English library and I was able to hand deliver English books in person which had been donated by members of our Halifax community. The reception we received from these children – the smiles on their faces, their laughter – will be remembered by all of us for a very long time. While in the North our group was taken to Mevoot Hermon, which is a school for the mentally and physically challenged. Because of the current budgetary crisis in the country, certain areas of government support have been withdrawn and our group was so taken with the need in the Hydrotherapy Centre that they, amongst themselves raised enough money to provide the equipment to keep the unit open.

Time and space won't allow me to detail the entire program except to say that this Mission worked on two levels. It allowed the long-time friends to rekindle relationships and provided the



Maritime Mission to Israel 2004 participants at the Mount Herzl National Cemetery.

spark for all participants to strengthen their particular connection to the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff for their support and efforts over the past year; in particular, **Marie Herschorn**, who just completed her 10th year (*time flies*). Marie is not only talented and personable but provides a sense of continuity to this organization, which is key to our functioning on a day-to-day basis in the region. I would also like to congratulate **Mark Rosen** on his re-election as President. We are very lucky to have a volunteer such as Mark who is prepared to give his time, his energy and most important, his heart to the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada. I offer special thanks to all members of the Board of Directors for their support over the past year. I bid *shalom* to those who are leaving and I say *shalom* to those that are joining us. I'm also taking this opportunity to thank **Howard Conter**, Regional Chair of United Jewish Appeal for the time and effort he put into our campaign this past year. Together with the community Chairs he has helped bring our campaign close to the \$600,000 mark.

Well my friends, I think I've rambled on enough. My best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 2005. May the New Year bring peace for Israel and for all mankind.



Alei-Giva School Band.



The Ross's and friends – Alei-Giva School.

See page
43 for
more
photos
from The
Mission.

Around the Region

by Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain

I have made the familiar journeys around the region during the last several months – to Sydney for the High Holidays and Sukkot, to Saint John for Simchat Torah and Remembrance Day and other places in between. As always, it is a privilege to celebrate holidays and keep up with everyone around the region.

Recently, I did something completely different. I made the trek to Newfoundland just a month ago. Although it is in my “diocese,” its community being affiliated with the AJC, I had just never made it up there.

My visit was a most enjoyable one. I do not believe any place in the region has such a pool of talented people in such a small community.

Certainly, no one, including myself, has such a marvellous collection of rare holy books, many several centuries old, as Dr. **Michael Paul** has. **Messod Salama** is an old style *Sephardic chacham* and has written significant articles on the Sephardi tradition. He and Mr. **Ernie Mauskopf** gave marvellous d'rashas on Shabbat morning. **Rob Ritter**, a recent Newfy via Ottawa, led the Canada-Israel committee for many years and is still active in its proceedings. Mr. **Arnold Bennett** has made an award-winning film documentary. **Robin McGrath** has published several books. **Elizabeth Guy** has a journal of her years in Israel, which has not been published but is definitely worthy to be.

In short, I was very impressed with how a small and remote community can keep so much in touch with Jewish life. It was a great privilege to visit there, and I am looking forward to doing so again.

Special thanks to Michael Paul and **Barbara Grandy**, the **Salamas**, the **Noels**, the **Inbars**, the **Bennetts** and Robin McGrath for their hospitality to me during my visit.

On Sunday Shopping

Many of you even outside of Nova Scotia know that there was recently a vote on the Sunday shopping issue in the province. Despite a lack of funding among groups opposing it and an intense campaign by its advocates, Sunday shopping was decisively voted down.

Did I have anything to do with it? Maybe.

I submitted the following article to the Chronicle Herald and the Cape Breton Post. The former had a plethora of submissions and probably did not have room for my contribution. But the Post published it.

I received a tremendous response, entirely positive, from persons in Cape Breton who saw the article. I am sharing it with the rest of you around the region.



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Let's Keep the Sabbath an Island in Time

(The following is a personal opinion and does not reflect the view of the Nova Scotia Jewish community, which has no official position on the issue, pro or con.)

How should the Jews of Nova Scotia look at the Sunday shopping issue?

I have done no official survey, but I imagine that many might be in favour of it. After all, for our community, Sunday is not our day of rest. Technically, for us, it is just another weekday. Thus in Israel, where the Jewish majority prevails, Sunday is a weekday, with all businesses and schools in operation, and Saturday is reserved for our Sabbath.

So it might surprise you that I am in favour of continuing the prohibition on Sunday shopping and hope that Nova Scotians will vote next week to keep the status quo.

My reasons are in line with my Jewish tradition. Sunday became traditionally over the years an acknowledged day for rest in Western countries. The origins may have been from the Christian church, who borrowed the concept of the Sabbath from the Jews but then changed the day to Sunday, for their reasons. But the sense of a communally shared day of rest has an importance transcending its sources.

Within my experience, I recall the years I was privileged to live in Jerusalem, to see a whole community of people who made a break in their lives, who left the daily workaday world to find a new perspective on things. Stores shut down. Roads are quiet. The day-to-day dominance of things is set aside for rest and renewal.

Many of these same values came to Western countries by the Christian observance of Sunday as a day of rest. However

religiously one chose to observe the day, it was a day set aside, potentially available for ennobling endeavours and leisure.

It has pleased me to have lived the last seven years in Nova Scotia and to see it as a place where one day of the week has a special status community-wide as a day of rest. I have lived in many other places in North America, where I have seen the commercial and other utilitarian interests assault the Sunday quiet. Thank goodness I live in one of the very few places which has not joined the almost universal onslaught.

But now it is coming here. We are hearing the voices and interests, many of which are not from Nova Scotia, urging us to abandon this Nova Scotia heritage.

I lived in Moncton when I first came to Canada some years ago. Then Sunday shopping was only allowed from Labour Day through New Year's. But then, the various parties kept chipping away, and now Moncton streets and stores, when I was last there several months ago, hum away on Sunday just as on a weekday. It was a privilege to move to Nova Scotia, where Sunday peace, until recently, was intact.

All of the commercial arguments for Sunday shopping are spurious. Many of them have come from the merchants in Amherst, who claim that they are losing Sunday business to people who drive to the malls in Moncton. But this is surely false. Were the Zellers and Canadian Tire in Amherst to open on Sunday, they would still not have business. People would drive to Moncton because of the variety offered by a larger city and its shops and retail markets.

Again, regardless of the religious observance of Sunday, there is no question that the ban on Sunday shopping now levels the

continued on page 15

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Jewish Students' Association

by Sara Wilner, Director of Campus Services

It has been my pleasure starting this New Year as Director of Campus Services for the Atlantic Jewish Council. Since my first day of work at the AJC, the JSA of the Atlantic Provinces has been relentless in creating diverse programs to ensure the participation and involvement of as many Jewish students as possible. With **Sari Disenhouse**, the **JSA president** as well as the **JSA executive**, leading the way, we have had successful

programming and remarkable turn out to all of the JSA functions. I must commend the JSA executive for all of their hard work and dedication, which has been imperative to the success of the JSA. Everyday I am amazed at the true caliber of the Jewish students in Atlantic Canada and the motivation and passion they have towards creating a viable Jewish student life.

The JSA executive of the Atlantic Provinces include:

Sari Disenhouse, President

Blair Wexler, Vice President

Heather Socken, Head of Programming

Michael Glina, Head of Social Events

Carly Prusky, Treasurer

Wendy Breuer, Head of Grad Students

Eliane Dreyfus, DASSS Representative

Josh Perelman, Head of the JSA at Acadia University

Michelle Masters, First year representative

Mordechai Walfish, Community Liaison

Hayley Fisher, Head of Publicity

Valerie Kizell, Co-head of Israel Advocacy

Jared Goldlust, Co-head of Israel Advocacy

Avi Cole, Campus Media Watch; Atlantic Outreach

Jason Goldlist, Head of the Jewish Student Services at University of New Brunswick

JSA Hannukah Celebrations Around the Atlantic Provinces



The JSA Bayit, which was generously donated by the **Albert and Temmy Latner** Foundation in Toronto, has been the focal point for all of our events. It has also become a house where Jewish students feel comfortable just coming in and 'hanging out'. We started off the year with a BBQ, which had all of the new Jewish students at Dalhousie University come out and enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs. We also had a Rosh Hashanah dinner for those students who needed a home cooked meal for the first night of the New Year. Also, with the help of **Lauren Bercovitch** a student at Acadia, Jewish students at Acadia were able to break the fast of Yom Kippur together. Fast Action took place on Dalhousie campus, and lead by **Blair Wexler** we were able to raise money for the Metro Food Bank during the fast of Yom Kippur.

Among the events this past semester, we had Sukah building and activities in the Sukah, as well as various Shabbat dinners, including a 'make your own sushi' Shabbat dinner. We had guest speakers on campus, including the world-renowned author **Dr. Michael Oren** speak about new revelations of the Six Day War. With the help of **Wendy Breuer** we created a JSA for graduate students and had a wine and cheese party for older students to get to know each other. We also had Israel advocacy training for members of the JSA.

The JSA is most proud of organizing the first ever Holocaust Education Week at Dalhousie University. With the incredible work of **Michelle Masters**, heading the Holocaust education committee, the JSA was able to create a week of events on campus educating the greater public about the horrors

of the Holocaust. The week started with a showing of the movie "Europa, Europa" at the Oxford Theatre. It continued with a talk given by Holocaust survivor, **Philip Riteman** at Dalhousie University where hundreds of students came to listen to his story. An exhibit was also on campus describing the events of the Holocaust, another movie was shown on campus and **Elena Makarova** spoke at St. Mary's University about Art in the Ghetto Theresienstadt. It was a very successful week of programming and events which would never had happened without the hard work of **Michelle Masters, Mordechai Walfish, Carly Prusky, Rebecca Orbach** and **Jonathan Lear**. We hope to repeat this important educational week next year.

Finally, a number of students all over the Atlantic region celebrated Hannukah this year. **Jared Goldlust** and I traveled through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to the University of New Brunswick, Mount Alison University and Acadia University to meet with the students and join in their Hannukah festivities. Lastly, I would like to wish those Maritime students going on a birthright Israel trip in January a fantastic time! We have many more activities planned for next semester including a ski trip Shabbaton for all students of the Atlantic region, the visit of IDF soldiers to different campuses, and an Israel week on campus.

I would like to thank **Jon Goldberg** and the AJC for all of their help and assistance. On a more personal note I would like to thank the president of the JSA **Sari Disenhouse** for everything that she has done. She has either created or helped in every program that the JSA has run, and her energy and enthusiasm never ceases to amaze me.

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Leap Year Blues

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

This coming year is a challenging one for our healthy disposition. Instead of a 12 month Jewish year, we are in the midst of a Leap year; The one Month of the 30 day Adar will turn into two summing up to 60 days, and therefore we'll celebrate Purim at the end of March and Pesach at the end of April. The gap between the solar and lunar calendars obligates us to sometimes have a leap year so that we always celebrate Pesach in the Spring month of April.

A year of superfluous months [13 instead of 12] results in a rather long [and here in Atlantic Canada – a rather cold] period of about 14 weeks void of any real celebration [except Tu Bishvat] from Chanukah till Purim.

So how do we survive it? Hibernate like the Bears or fly south like the Birds?

Maybe this is the reason that there is such a vast market today for mood-enhancing pharmaceuticals. Major companies are competing for the attention of doctors who dispense millions of doses of spirit lifters annually, not to mention the uncanny upswing of natural healing products, where the desire to avoid anti-biotic and other chemical solutions created all kinds of maladies from simple headaches to serious illnesses like cancer and heart disease.

The Torah dealt with this issue thousands of years ago. Depression, lethargy, sadness and dejection are external symptoms of internal dissatisfaction. In other words, the one who feels deprived ["Why don't I get all that I deserve" and such comments] gets depressed.

The Sages teach a natural solution. Work on your humility. Conceit and arrogance make one feel that he or she deserves

more than one has – no matter how much one has accumulated. One who is humble expects nothing and never feels cheated. In a natural winter climate in this region, this proves easier done than said; We spend most of our days and nights in our homes. Rather than want more, let's zero in on what we have and appreciate that! [Obviously, this does not include the many that suffer from depressions caused by chemical and genetic causes beyond their control that require serious therapy and pharmaceutical treatments].

Another remedy is purpose. One must believe that he or she was created with a specific goal as a member of G-d's army of soldiers and that G-d – the Heavenly General – has allotted to each trooper all that one needs to get the job done. "If this is all I have – then this is all I need" can help one overcome the nagging sense of dissatisfaction that can drain one of the drive it takes to succeed in life. Your success is dependent on your attitude. "Get up and go" is driven by a knowledge of where you are going and a clear understanding that you have all that it takes to get there.

As we have so much "quality time" this Winter void of the special celebrations that spice up the day, we can utilize the time for working on our humility, yet not negotiating our purpose.

In Hebrew, the leap year is called a "*shana meuberet*" – A pregnant year. Just like one that's expecting, let's use the extra time to think of our purpose with what we have. Let's set aspirations like we do for the un-born yet. Let's change the Leap year blues to the Leap year Ball!

An Undercover Mother, Grandmother, Shul President and Secret Agent

by Joel Jacobson

A news story in 1971 is how it all began," says **Judy Feld Carr**, seemingly a mild-mannered housewife, mother, grandmother, music teacher.

But this woman, Superwoman to so many Syrian Jews, had a second life. After reading the news story, which described how 12 desperate Syrian Jews were destroyed in a minefield while trying to escape their country, she became determined to help the Jewish community of 5,000 people escape the bordered prison to which they were confined.

Judy Feld was living a simple life in Toronto in 1971, married to Dr. **Ronald Feld**, the mother of two children, a music teacher with a bachelor and masters degrees from University of Toronto.

But, when she saw the Syrian story, she wanted to help the community sealed from the world. Syrian Jews lived in terror, unable to travel more than three kilometres from their homes, unable to operate businesses unless a Syrian was a partner, unable to have advanced education. Their mail was opened, phones tapped.

"I got involved because I am a Jew," she said in a Halifax interview, while attending the Biennial Convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council. She spoke for 45 emotional minutes at a Friday night dinner.

"Certain things happen in spite of yourself. You do things you're not trained to do, but you know you must do it," she said. "I wasn't an expert in international intrigue then, but I certainly am now."

A tiny woman, maybe five foot three and 110 lbs, with wide eyes behind dark rimmed glasses, this 64-year-old grandmother looks at least 10 years younger. She speaks quickly, both in public presentations and private interviews.

Judy Feld Carr, subject of a 1999 book titled "The Ransomed of God", written by **Harold Troper** (Malcolm Lester Publishers) has been recognized worldwide. She has received honorary degrees, the Order of Canada, and been celebrated by religious and secular organizations, governments, universities and agencies throughout North America and Israel.

Why?

Simple answer.

Between 1977 and 2001, Judy Feld Carr was personally responsible for removing 3,228 Syrian Jews from oppression. There were 4,500 Jews in Syria when she started her mission, about 10 percent of the number living there at the end of World War II. During Judy's campaign, some Syrian Jews escaped on their own. Others died. But she paved the way for 3,228 with chutzpah, money and a will to win their freedom.

"I saw this article and knew I wanted to do something to help the Jews of Syria," says Judy. "Ron and I formed an organization to draw attention to their plight. We called a meeting, inviting every Member of Parliament. We drew a huge crowd, but not one MP, not from Ottawa, not even from the Toronto area. But we were kids (both about 33) and what did we know? We didn't know how to start."

However, the initial meeting received media coverage because a couple of Palestinians in the crowd asked, loudly, about saving Palestinians.

That coverage kick-started the campaign to assist Jews in Syria. It took many hours, but Judy placed a phone call to Syria in early 1973, seeking to speak to a Rabbi, a school, anyone from the Jewish community. She was told by a Syrian operator that the Jewish community was incognito. The line went dead.

For three weeks, phone lines between Canada and Syria were shut down. But Judy tried again and "I can't figure out why, maybe it was fate, I was connected to a Jew in Syria. He gave us a Rabbi's name, the name of a Hebrew school, phone numbers and the line went dead."

Judy decided to send a telegram to the Rabbi in French (the second language of Syria), asking if he needed any religious books. Ten days later, she had an answer and she sent books and religious articles.

Within a few weeks, Ron Feld, 40, died from a sudden heart attack and Judy's thoughts were elsewhere. She remained silent for four years. In 1977, her synagogue started the Ron Feld Fund for Jews in Arab lands. Judy, with a few friends, began speaking and handing out pamphlets to raise money. As the fund grew, Judy became active.

"I never did a fundraiser, never held a dinner or tea," recalls Judy. "It was just word of mouth. Money came from all across the country. No one asked what I was doing with it."

For 24 years, Judy worked to free Syrian Jews. "They had to find me," she says. "I couldn't take a chance on getting caught by making initial contact. Often, I'd get calls from someone already in freedom who heard I could get his (relative) out. Then the process would start."

She worked through arranged phone calls – none that she placed, only calls coming from Syria to her – coded telegrams and mailings, and personal contacts. The money in the Feld Fund, rumoured to be at \$1 million over time, paid for bribes to Syrian judges, police and prison officials to enable the release of Jews from their hellish situation to foreign countries.

Many went to Israel, the majority to the United States, and some to Latin America.

Judy also smuggled out religious artifacts, now warehoused at the National Library in Jerusalem.

She rarely met the people she arranged to be smuggled out. "I didn't want them to know me. I didn't want the chance to be exposed," Judy says today.

She met a few because "I wanted to know what happened on the escape routes and at airports, the general lay of the land."

Many knew her as Miss Judy. She was known as the lady in Canada, but with no specific city or address. Very few knew her last name (she remarried in 1976 to lawyer **Donald Carr**, also widowed).

"I had worked out a network where everyone thought they were unique," says Judy. "But their neighbour could have been part of it."

All through her campaign, Judy carried on daytime duties as a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and community worker. In the early 1980s, she was president of Beth Tzedec Synagogue, which, she says, is the largest congregation in the world with 8,500 members.

Her effort for Syrian Jews ended in 2001 when she brought out a family of seven. The remaining 38 Jews in Syria are old, and want to live the rest of their days where they are.

"In 2001, I felt the time had come to let it go," Judy declares. "In May 2004, on the anniversary of Ron's death, I closed the fund. That was emotionally hard to do."

Today, dozens of Syrian women are named Judy after their saviour, or that of their parents. The granddaughter of the chief Rabbi of Syria (Judy extracted him) is named Judy. And there are many who can't tell her they've given her name to offspring because they don't know who she is.

She has been invited to bar mitzvahs and weddings in the States and Israel.

"As a Jew, after six million were killed by the Nazis, I felt I owed something to our people," she reasons when asked why she got involved. "This was my payback."

She also says a neighbour in her hometown of Sudbury, Ont. was a Holocaust survivor who lost her children in the war. One would have been Judy's age.

"As a kid, I told her I'd make it up to her. I guess I have."

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Shalom – AJC Service Honorees at 14th Annual Convention

by Joel Jacobson

“Humbled. Honoured.”

With those words, Jewish women of Atlantic Canada received the prestigious Atlantic Jewish Council Community Service award at the Biennial Convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council in Halifax in November.

Marilyn Kaufman, Fredericton, **Leona Freeman**, Halifax, **Evelyn Druker**, Sydney, and the late **Inge Blackett**, Charlottetown, were bestowed one of the highest honours the AJC presents.

Also celebrated were the accomplishments of **Joanna Grossman**, a Dalhousie University student instrumental in the promotion of Jewish student life on Dalhousie's campus and in the growth of the regional Jewish Students Association.

Marilyn Kaufman was pleased with her nomination for the service award. “I’ve received many awards from the non-Jewish community in my life. But this is very highly valued, coming from my peers in the Jewish community.”

Leona Freeman, Halifax, echoed those sentiments. She was presented her award by grandsons **Daniel** and **Jonathan Freeman**, who flew to Halifax from Boston and Montreal, respectively, to be with their grandmother.

Leona's major involvements have been Hadassah-WIZO, which she has served locally as a chapter president and on the national board, and Youth Aliyah.

“Youth Aliyah is very gratifying because it helps the education of disadvantaged children, ensuring they can fit into Israeli society.”

She said it's important Hadassah find young people to fill the void of senior members leaving the organization. “I’ve never had a problem getting people to take a list and make calls on behalf of Hadassah, but I know we’ve lost potential members to other Jewish activities.

“I guess I’m just jealous that we can’t get them into Hadassah. The most important thing is that these women are involved somewhere in Jewish work.”

The late Inge Blackett was recognized for her active participation in the small Jewish community on the Island. A Holocaust survivor, she was president of the Prince Edward Island Jewish community in 2001, participated in all Jewish

community activities, and was involved in many general community groups. She was largely responsible for the Prince Edward Island Legislature being the first in Canada to enact recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Evelyn Druker established the first occupational therapy department on Cape Breton Island. After visiting Dachau concentration camp in 1962, she threw herself into Jewish activities. She became a devoted member of Hadassah and chapter president, and was president of the synagogue sisterhood. She has spearheaded Holocaust education in the Cape Breton school system. An avid letter-to-the-editor writer, she has been published in the Halifax Chronicle Herald, Globe and Mail, and Macleans and Newsweek magazines.

Leona Freeman has a storied career in volunteer work for Jewish causes. She taught Sunday school at Beth Israel Synagogue as a newly-married woman in the 1950s. Hadassah has been her passion since the late 1940s, serving her Halifax chapter as president, moving up to regional chair of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. She is still a national executive member. Recently honoured by Hadassah WIZO for her work with Youth Aliyah, Leona is involved in non-Jewish organizations such as Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Children's Hospital Auxiliary and Nova Scotia Association of Health Care Authorities.

Marilyn Kaufman is a life member of Hadassah-WIZO, serving in many roles with her chapter as well as a national vice-president and board member. A past president of her synagogue, Marilyn is an elementary school teacher who has been involved in myriad community and education groups.

A physical education graduate of University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, Marilyn was recognized by the provincial Interscholastic Sport Federation for her coaching contribution in schools. She was recognized by the N.B. Heart and Stroke Foundation for her implementation of the school Jump Rope For Heart program. She was a founding member and chair of the New Brunswick Elementary Drama Festival. She has also been a strong advocate for human rights, president of her local Teachers federation and on the provincial board.



Joseph Naylor, PEI, accepting for Inge Blackett, in memoriam; Mark Rosen.



Joanna Grossman, Past-President JSA; Mark Rosen.



Jonathan Freeman, Daniel Freeman, Leona Freeman (Halifax Awardee).

Atlantic Jewish Council Sending Aid to South Asia

In the wake of the catastrophic tsunamis that have devastated parts of South Asia, the Atlantic Jewish Council has set up a fund through our Atlantic Jewish Foundation (AJF) and is accepting donations to assist in the recovery effort.

Funds collected through the AJF will be directed to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) via UIA of Canada, which is coordinating a non-sectarian Tsunami Relief fund. Through this special emergency fund, JDC, on behalf of North American Jewry, will partner with established non-governmental organizations on the ground to deliver services in the most efficient manner.

"This is one of the most catastrophic natural disasters we've ever seen," said Steven Schwager, JDC's executive vice president. "Our 90-year-old organization has an outstanding track record of providing timely relief in the wake of disasters worldwide. Our prayers go out to the people of South Asia; on behalf of the North American Jewish community, JDC will do everything it can to help them in their time of need."

The JDC serves as the overseas arm of the North American Jewish community, providing relief, promoting Jewish renewal and in rebuilding Jewish communities in 60 countries around the world. As well, the JDC has been involved in non-sectarian disaster relief activities for over 60 years.

Tax Receiptable Contributions can be made by Visa to the AJC via telephone to Joanna Wexler at 422-7491 ext. 225 or by cheque payable to:

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Toronto, ON M2R 3V3
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Mark Rosen
 President, Atlantic Jewish Council

Howard Conter
 UJA Atlantic Campaign

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 Wolfville, NS B4P 1T5
 Phone: 902-542-7498

MONCTON, NB

ADDITION:

Schelew, Lillian

96 Portledge Avenue
 Moncton, NB E1C 5S7
 Phone: 506-855-1329

SAINT JOHN, NB

ADDITION:

Washburn, Bruce

110 Central Ave.
 Saint John, NB E2M 4C7
 Phone: 506-672-1011

FORMER MARITIMERS:

ADDITIONS:

Budovitch, Lillian; e-mail:

mordicaivrom@hotmail.com

CHANGE:

Cohen, Morton Allen; e-mail:

mordicaivrom2005@yahoo.com

2004 AJC Conference Excites Communities

by Joel Jacobson

It exploded from the starting gate.

By the time, the 2004 Atlantic Jewish Council Biennial Conference reached the top of the stretch, it was still flying and raced across the finish line a winner in every respect.

With more than 80 delegates cheering every move, and upwards of 100 encouraging it at its peak, the Halifax conference filled every hope and dream of its organizers but one. There could have, and should have, been more people to see it in its moment of glory.

From the start Friday evening, when AJC Board president **Mark Rosen** welcomed everyone at a Shabbat dinner at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax, until he thanked everyone for being there Sunday afternoon at the Lord Nelson Hotel following a stirring UIA Federations Canada luncheon, the conference raced through an agenda that left its attendees panting with excitement.

At the first turn was a passionate, informative, at times unbelievable, and heart-wrenching speech by **Judy Feld Carr** of Toronto. She addressed more than 100 people at Shabbat dinner about her clandestine, James Bond-like adventures in bringing more than 3,200 Syrian Jews out of their home country, in which they had lived decades in persecution, to freedom in Israel, and North and South America. (see full story elsewhere in Shalom).

On the backstretch, Atlantic Canadian Jews heard panel discussions on the current situation in Israel and working for Israel in this region, plus a session on anti-Semitism in Atlantic Canada.

At the final turn to home, Toronto's **Darcie Richler**, a Dalhousie University graduate and now working in Ottawa with the Canada Israel Committee, pleaded with a Sunday morning audience and discussion group to take a positive role in informing people with anti-Israel feelings of the good things about the homeland.

Bernie Farber, Executive Director, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, captivated the conference with his "could-hear-a-pin-drop" story of returning to Poland to honour his father, who survived the Holocaust, and the members of his family who didn't.

As the conference concluded, re-elected president Rosen promised to "turn the organization back to the communities, to ensure we are bringing them programming from themselves forward, to enable them to develop their own programming to suit their needs."

He said the next two years will be dedicated to working better with the communities and providing them with what they need.

"It's not an easy task," he said. "We have a small office which tries to reach out to a large region. We get lots of requests and we try to do what we can, but we can't be all things to all people. We have to focus on what we do well."

That includes fund raising, education, specifically in holocaust education, and being involved in national programs.

"There are a number of us (on the management committee and board and in the communities) who are on national boards," he continued. "That ensures we have a voice, that we are taken seriously and that there's a real partnership with the national bodies and the AJC. It's important we stay involved nationally because that's an important part of our agenda."

Turning his attention again to the communities within the region, Rosen stressed the roles of the community representatives

will be enlarged by redefining them. "We want to be more project-oriented, and this means enlarging the volunteer base in the communities."

He added, "There is a dire dearth of leadership in the small communities. We can't rely on the same group (of people) year after year. We need a base for the future."

It's important to leave the convention with a desire to work in our own communities," he stated. "We all work out of love. We're all volunteers and we do what we can."

Members of the AJC Board include:

Mark Rosen, Halifax, President

Kathy Zilbert, Halifax, 1st vice-president

Howard Conter, Halifax, 2nd vice-president

Michael Pink, Halifax, treasurer

Francis Weil, Moncton, secretary

Sheva Medjuck, Halifax, past president

Victor Goldberg & Jim Spatz, Halifax, Camp Kadimah Co-Chairs

Gail Rudderham Chernin, Sydney, Honorary Legal Counsel

Marlene Unger, Moncton, Chair Holocaust Education Committee

Members at large are: **Michael Argand**, **Rachel Budovitch**, **Linda Law**, **Shulamith Medjuck**, **Louis Wolfson**, **Barrie Carnat**. Community reps (chosen by their communities) are: **Irwin Lampert**, Moncton, **Warren Cohen**, Fredericton, **Nathan Davis**, Saint John, **Garson Lecker**, Cape Breton, **Sol Feldstein**, PEI, **Shari Ritter**, Newfoundland, **Victor Fineberg**, President Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, **Philip Belitsky**, President Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax.



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Renewal and Remembrance

Trip to Latvia and the Baltic States – July 2004

by Boris Tsinman

Last Summer **Laura** and I made a trip to the Baltics in the company of 17 of our close friends. The catalyst for this trip was my return to Riga, Latvia, the place of my birth and childhood.

I left Riga in December of 1979 and hadn't been back since. I settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia where I found my wife **Laura**. We have two children **Ava** and **Shira**, true Haligonians and both of university age. I also found a wonderful Jewish community in Halifax and a great circle of friends. One of them, **Arthur Zilbert**, took upon himself the active role of travel agent a year ago and *voila* the trip back to Latvia materialized.

It was decided by all that to visit one country would be not enough so our group decided to take a 14 day Baltic cruise with a full day stop in Riga. We flew to Stockholm, Sweden where embarkation took place and our very first stop was in Riga, across the sea approximately 480 nautical miles away.

The ship sailed into the mouth of the Daugava River at 9 am and I was standing on the deck looking at familiar landscape and city lines. The day was bright and sunny so the city looked very fresh with a few puddles of water from recent rain. I had arranged a 21 passenger bus with the help of some old Latvian friends, who were waiting for us at the pier. I had not seen this couple for 25 years and I was nervous about the possibility of not recognizing them amongst the passengers and others at the pier. I was also certain that they would not recognize me. After all, I was 24 when I left Latvia and had a full head of hair then. In the crowd I saw our friend **Ojar** who was looking for me. He was older now but still looked great. The last time I had seen him was in the car in which he drove me and my brother **Ilya** on our way out of the Soviet Union. Now, 25 years later, Ojar was the first person to meet me upon my return...it felt very strange.

After ferrying us in his Volvo to our tour bus in small groups, we traveled to the street where I grew up. Much has changed over the years, new buildings, a fresh coat of paint and modern cars, but the courtyard in front of my apartment building was the same, except for the lonely tree that had grown much taller.



Boris and Laura Tsinman in front of his apartment building.

All 19 of us were standing in front of the apartment building when the window below opened and an elderly lady asked me who we were and what were we doing there. She was our old neighbor one floor below our apartment. I said that I used to live there but at first she could not place me, I guess for the same reason...I was older and my looks had changed. I started to tell her about my parents **Elsa** and **Simon**, about my

brother and myself and then she suddenly remembered and asked me, "Are you one of the boys who played hockey in the apartment when your parents were out?" That would be me. She said "I used to complain to your mother about you making noise upstairs".

After having a wonderful lunch with our Latvian friends we toured the city and went to visit a monument for one of the largest synagogues in Riga. Then we went to the remaining synagogue where we had a wonderful conversation with one of the caretakers of the building. The story of the Latvian Jewish community is very similar to many Jewish communities of Europe. Totally devastated by the Nazis during the war, the community returned to Riga from far away places, mainly from Soviet Russia, where a few of them had fled. The majority however had lost their lives in the killing fields of Rumbula and Salaspils. My family did not survive except for my parents, my aunt **Rita** and my uncle **Solomon**.

After buying few souvenirs from street vendors and saying goodbye to Riga we boarded the ship again and sailed to Helsinki. The experience was very emotional for me but warm. I feel that I would like to take my daughters back to Riga to visit, now that things have changed there.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all our friends who shared this tremendous experience with Laura and myself, namely:

Jay and Toby Abramsky
Dan and Nancy Boland
Howard and Karen Conter
Victor and Judith Goldberg



Synagogue in Riga

Jon Goldberg
Richard and Cheryl Kizell
Mark and Ethel Rosen
Steven Zatzman and Shirley Caspin
Arthur and Kathy Zilbert

It was tremendous to share this moving experience with all of you.



Talking with the neighbour in Riga.



Boris in front of his apartment, Riga

Minister of Justice Appoints Part-Time Commissioner of the Law Commission of Canada

OTTAWA, November 19, 2004 – Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, today announced the appointment of **Sheva Medjuck** as part-time Commissioner of the Law Commission of Canada.

Dr. Medjuck will join the Commission while maintaining her current position as Dean of Arts and Science at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. She brings extensive multidisciplinary academic experience, both in teaching and research, to the position.

Dr. Medjuck received a PhD in Sociology from York University in 1978. She has held increasingly senior positions during a distinguished academic career spanning more than 25 years in the fields of sociology anthropology and women's studies. She has made important research contributions with numerous scholarly publications and presentations on gender and ethnicity. Her non-academic background includes a former role as Commissioner of Nova Scotia's Human Rights Commission (1999-2001) and several Chair and Committee positions with a variety of organizations examining ethnicity and the advancement of women.

Dr. Medjuck's appointment is effective immediately. The Law Commission of Canada is an independent federal law reform agency that advises Parliament on how to improve and modernize Canada's laws. The Minister of Justice may also refer questions to the Commission.



Our group in front of the restaurant in Riga.



Mark Rosen, Howard Conter, Arthur Zilbert and Boris Tsinman in front of the monument to the Big Choral Synagogue.

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Around the Region *continued from page 5*

playing field for the small entrepreneur. They will all be put under pressure by the larger chains, who can easily wipe them out by their resources. It would be a shame for Nova Scotians to vote for this Walmartizing of our commercial sector.

It is pitiful to hear proponents of Sunday shopping lament the alleged business boom of one or two cruise ships, which Halifax and Sydney have supposedly lost of late. I would reply that most people on a cruise ship are not looking to go to Sobey's or the Superstore but to restaurants, and these are allowed to be open. Most tourists are interested in tourist places and would not spend vast sums in any local shops.

And most tourists are tourists because they come to see something distinctive, not like the place they come from. Isn't it nice when they come somewhere with a little Sunday sanctity still left, unlike most places they live, and where they can still shop six other days a week.

So, though I am not eligible to vote in Canada as yet, were I so I would cast my vote as a Jew against Sunday shopping in Nova Scotia. I am proud to live in a province, which, in an indirect way, testifies to its own version of the Jewish Sabbath. It should remain such.

A Jewish writer once called the Sabbath "an island in time." Just as people have had romances about a special island in space, Jews and others who have borrowed from our tradition have found this "island in time" away from the daily routine. Just as environmentalists rightly argue that certain pristine settings in nature should not be exploited commercially, so I would say parts of time should be set aside from economic considerations.

I should issue a caveat. I am able to maintain what I have said because Saturday has also tended to become a day off from work in North America. Therefore, keeping the Jewish Sabbath has become much easier. It was not always so, however, in times when people worked six days, and Sunday was the acknowledged day of rest. It was hard for many of my community in those days to observe our traditions properly. I do believe there should be a provision in the law that if someone closes their business on a bona fide day of rest according to their religion – a Jew on Saturday, a Moslem on Friday – that such persons should be allowed to open their business on Sundays, in compensation for their loss.

As for the "convenience" of Sunday shopping, for myself, especially, who cannot work or shop on Saturday due to my religious obligations? It is a small difficulty. I learn to shop weekday nights. As the days grow shorter, I am able to shop on Saturday nights after dark, when the Jewish Sabbath has ended. What minor conveniences Sunday shopping would bring are far more offset by the losses.

We are told in the Bible of the story of Jacob and Esau. Esau was the first-born but sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage to allay his hunger.

Let us hope that Nova Scotians be Jacob and cast their votes for a birthright of their province which has come from preserving the Sunday heritage. May the Esaus, who would sell this birthright for a few commercial bucks, go down in defeat.

I will keep in touch during the winter and hopefully get around to see everyone – hopefully, only for simchahs.

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Halifax Hadassah-WIZO meets at Government House

by Bette Ross, Event Chairperson

Canada's oldest seat of monarchy, Government House of Nova Scotia, was the site of Halifax Hadassah-WIZO's opening meeting on October 25th 2004. Her Honour, Lieutenant Governor **Myra Freeman**, welcomed our guest speaker, National President **Rochelle Levinson** to Halifax on her first visit to the Province. Approximately 70 members listened intently as Rochelle spoke about the many needs of our projects in Israel and how our money is allocated. She also told us of the formation of the organization and how best to raise the necessary funds. She enthused us enough to get us planning to regroup to better serve the needs of today. Bette Ross presented Her Honour with a certificate in appreciation for her warm hospitality. Her name has been inscribed in the Book of Life at Canadian Hadassah-WIZO **Nina Cohen** Atlantic Provinces Day Care Centre.

Following the meeting we had a delightful social hour in the magnificent dining room at Government House and many of our members enjoyed a tour of this national historic site. This beautiful evening promised renewed enthusiasm for our organization.



L. to R. Rochelle Levinson, National President; Myra Freeman, Lieutenant Governor; Bette Ross, Event Chairperson; Leona Freeman, Regional Co-ordinator.

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An Adventure in the Holy Land

by Nathan Zilbert

Editor's Note: Nathan Zilbert, son of Kathy and Arthur, Halifax, is a 4th year science student at McGill University.

This summer I had the pleasure of spending ten weeks in Israel. After 13 summers in the Camp Kadimah system I made a big decision and chose to return to the Jewish homeland rather than my traditional home away from home. It turns out that I made a terrific call and had the time of my life.

My primary motivation for spending such an extended time in Israel was that I wanted to give myself a new perspective on the country. I have had the good fortune to travel to Israel three times prior to this summer. The first was on a family trip to my cousin's Bat Mitzvah in 1995 and the second two were organized trips in 2000. (March of the Living and Biluim Israel). All three of these were incredible experiences, however they naturally resulted in a skewed view of the country. My intention was to see Israel outside the bubble that trips such as these are in.

When I participated in Biluim Israel we bumped into a number of my former staff from Biluim Canada the summer before. They were spending the summer in Israel and had volunteered on a program with Magen David Adom (MDA), the organization that provides national ambulance service throughout the entire state. This was the first I had heard of such program but for some reason it stayed in my head over the next couple of years. Last summer two of my good friends at McGill participated in the program and after hearing about how much they enjoyed themselves I was convinced to apply myself. Through the Jewish Agency, MDA offers students from abroad the opportunity to come to Israel and volunteer for five or six weeks. The program that I signed up for began on June 1st; a full month after my semester at school was to end. With this in mind I decided to go to Israel a few weeks early and take some Hebrew language classes.

I'm sure that I do not need to convince the readers of this publication that after eight years of afternoon school at the Beth Israel in Halifax that my Hebrew skills were far from adequate. Although, my friends told me that one could participate in the program without the skills in Hebrew, they said the more you knew the better your experience would be. I began to search the Internet for Ulpan programs and ultimately ended up contacting a woman who ran a private Ulpan in downtown Jerusalem. I spent about three weeks living within a 20-minute walk of the Western Wall and had intense classes every weekday. I learned a lot in a short amount of time and despite being far from fluent my teacher and I were both pleased with my progress. I had the opportunity to explore Jerusalem in great depth as well as travel to Ra'anana on a few occasions to spend Shabbat with the **Ludman** family, formerly of Halifax. As well, I was able to meet up with current Kadimah staff **Amy Mendleson**, **Noah Zatzman**, and **Shira Goldberg** who was on a Canada Israel Staff Training program. Overall, my time in Jerusalem was a real pleasure. I learned a lot, saw a lot and definitely gained a new appreciation of the city.

On June 1st I moved out of my downtown hostel and traveled to a new one in the neighbourhood of Bayit Vagan

where our MDA training course was held. Thirty-seven of us from all over the world (but mostly Canada and the USA) gathered for our weeklong introduction to first aid and the MDA organization. Most of us in the group meshed pretty quickly and instant friendships were born. Our week was relatively intense as we were exposed to a lot of material in a short amount of time, and if anyone failed the final exam it would mean they could not volunteer afterwards.

Notwithstanding, some organizational problems and some questionable course content (Did they really expect us to see a lot of hypothermia and frostbite?), the course provided wonderful experiences. After every course the participants are divided and sent to various ambulance stations all over the country. I went to Haifa, which was my first choice because I had never been there before and it is very close to the beach. As well it had the advantages of a larger city and a busy ambulance station (no one noticed if you took a day off!) Eleven members of our class were put up in the luxurious *Abu-Hushi* absorption center, the residence provided by the Jewish Agency to new immigrants when they make Aliyah. Three of us shared a two-room apartment that had not been touched since its construction, which my architecture-student roommate estimated as being as late as the 1960s. Two of us shared one room with two beds while the third person shared his room with our kitchen and bathroom. There was no air conditioning, which made things a bit uncomfortable as the summer progressed. At the end of the day we made do and somehow managed to survive the 40-degree heat.

The actual volunteer experience was really great. We worked side by side with Israeli employees and volunteers, typically on the 7:00 AM-3:00 PM shift, which was convenient as it left the rest of the afternoon free. Most of the calls I went on dealt with elderly individuals with breathing difficulties or heart problems, minor car accidents, or injuries at the work place. Less often we had suicide attempts and seizures. For me all of this was a very positive experience. After years of



Nathan working at the technion.

lifeguard training and work with the McGill First Aid group there were so many conditions I had learned but never saw. As well as seeing how the stereotypical Israeli attitude translated into work on the ambulance was quite interesting. Here is a typical example: We would arrive at a car accident and see the patients holding their necks. Now both protocol and common sense would suggest that these people should be back boarded and taken to the hospital but so many times the Israeli ambulance drivers would command people to walk into the ambulance!

Working with the Israeli drivers was an experience itself. Many of them made a real effort to help the foreign volunteers and were happy to speak English with us or suffer through our (mostly) poor Hebrew. Others could not have cared less that we existed and ignored us until it came to something or someone to be lifted. I think that division on the ambulance mirrors the general attitudes that Israelis have towards Jews in Diaspora. They either are so happy to have you in the country and give unwarranted attention, or they resent the safe and comfortable life you lead elsewhere and give you unwarranted attitude. I certainly learned a lot about the differences between Israelis and other Jews. An upbringing at Camp Kadimah might convince you that all Zionists are members of one family and that except for where we live we mostly have a lot in common. I would now take issue with that claim. Even the most amicable interaction with an Israeli my age has the undertone of the fact that he just finished his three year tour in the army while I took a university break to volunteer on an ambulance. Contrast this with peers from North America, who would treat us like heroes for traveling into "harm's way" in the Middle East. Coming to these realizations is what I came to Israel for. I do not think it is cynical or negative to say that a North American Jew cannot be considered equal in the eyes of Israeli society without having served in the army. You cannot appreciate this on a short mission or a camp trip.

Another thing I came to realize is Magen David Adom and its value to the Israeli Society. Most of us North Americans know very little about this organization. I think that one of the merits of the program I took part in is that as it becomes more popular more people end up hearing about the organization. One of my goals in writing this article is to educate you on the merits of MDA and the fact that it needs our support. I would encourage all of you to look at their website www.cmdai.org to learn more or consider giving them your support.

Overall I had an amazing experience in Israel. I hope that I was able to convey this to you.

Kadimah Alumni gather in Atlantic City in August, 2004 to celebrate long-time director, Sheldon Cohen's 60th Birthday.



Sheldon Cohen and Jon Goldberg shown here appearing on the set of The Apprentice at the invitation of Donald Trump.



L-R: V. Goldberg, M. Druckman, M. Ostroff, S. Cohen, J. Goldberg, M. Soberman.

Continuity in Teaching the Holocaust

The Cape Breton Holocaust Education Committee recently invited Dr. Israel Unger to address High School teachers at one of their in-services, about the importance of teaching the Holocaust within the school system. He gave them two addresses. The first was about his own experiences during the Holocaust and the second was about hate on the internet. Both were extremely well received and followed by numerous questions.

The same evening, he addressed the clergy of various churches who had gathered at the Temple Sons of Israel. Over the years he has had an abiding interest in promoting tolerance and understanding between Christians and Jews and hopes to become affiliated in some fashion with the Cape Breton Council of Churches. Once again, his words were received by an enthusiastic audience.

Since Holocaust survivors are on the decline, we feel strongly that it will soon be up to the teachers to keep Holocaust education alive.

Sylvia Allen, Shirley Chernin, Evy Druker, Shirley Dubinsky, Fran Morrison

Rose Schwartz Park opens in New Waterford

by Matt Hunt Gardner – Special to The CJN

NEW WATERFORD, N.S. — “This is the **Rose Schwartz Park**,” said Bram Schwartz, pointing with his cane.

The 72-year-old Schwartz was standing on a piece of plywood – to protect the newly laid sod in front of the green and purple band shell built in his mother’s name – at the park’s opening in mid-July.

Rose Schwartz’s great-granddaughters – **Ella Rose Feiner, 4, Rose Schwartz Rubinoff, 4, and Rose Lucy Noskwith, 2** – cut the ribbon to officially open the park.

On the site of the former Schwartz family clothing store, the park is one of the clean, grassy areas in downtown New Waterford.

“She would have been really happy today,” **Bram Schwartz** said, between handshakes with those who knew or knew of Rose.

He said that some time ago **Carl Getto** of the New Waterford and District Economic Renewal Association

asked him if he would donate land for a park.

“I said, ‘I won’t give you a little piece of land – I’ll give you it all, all ten lots of it, if you make it a memorial to my mother.’”

He added that his mother “never forgot how her family was received and allowed to prosper. She loved this town, and to do something for this town would have been what she wanted.”

His mother, born **Rose Claener** in Russia in 1900, immigrated to Canada with her parents and four siblings in 1913.

Addressing the nearly 300 people who attended the park’s opening, Bram Schwartz’s daughter, **Heidi**, said that her grandmother wasn’t allowed to attend high school in Russia because she was Jewish, despite scoring top marks on the school’s entrance exam.

At age 21, Rose Claener married **Abraham Schwartz** and they opened the first of several Schwartz family stores in New Waterford.

The Schwartzes soon earned a reputation for being kind-hearted, because they allowed striking or out-of-work miners and their families to buy groceries on credit at their store.

In August 1932, during the Depression, Abraham Schwartz died, leaving his wife pregnant with their sixth child, Bram.

With no business experience, Rose Schwartz took over her husband’s clothing store. It prospered, with people coming from all over Nova Scotia to shop there. She worked in the store until she was well into her 90s.

She managed to send all of her children to university and was the first inductee into the Maritime Women’s Hall of Fame.

“This is much more emotional than I ever thought it would be,” said Rose Schwartz’s daughter, **Ruth Goldbloom**, a speaker at the park’s opening.

“She loved the town of New Waterford above any other place. The way she talked about it, you’d think it was a combination of Paris, London and the Rivera.”

She said her mother refused to convert her home from

coal to oil in the ‘70s, “because she knew coal was the lifeblood of this community.”

Goldbloom gives her mother credit for her own drive and determination. Goldbloom is recognized across Canada as a fundraiser, volunteer and philanthropist and has worked extensively with Halifax’s Pier 21 Society. (From 1928 to 1971, almost 70,000 Jewish immigrants are known to have arrived in Halifax at Pier 21. Since 1999, it has been a national historic site.)

Goldbloom’s three surviving brothers operated the Schwartz family businesses.

Bram ran the clothing store in New Waterford with his mother, while his older brother **Harold** took charge of several family clothing stores in Sydney. **Irving Schwartz**, who has been inducted into the Order of Canada, operated the Schwartz furniture stores and started an organization that trains dogs to find landmines.

“New Waterford welcomed her (Rose Schwartz) when she wasn’t welcome in Russia. She never forgot that,” said Bram Schwartz. “I know that because of this park, New Waterford, and her family and her great-grandchildren, will never forget her, either.”



Rose Lacy Noskwith, 2, middle, cuts the ribbon to open the Rose Schwartz Park in New Waterford, N.S. With her are Ella Rose Feiner, 4, left, Rose Schwartz Rubinoff, 4, Heidi Schwartz and Bram Schwartz.

Asper Foundation Trip to Washington – May 2004

Editor's Note: The AJC is pleased to participate as a sponsor in this excellent program.

My Asper Foundation Trip to Washington

by Hyde Jochelman, Moncton, NB

While in Washington I saw and learnt many things? The first day that we were there we spent the day at the Holocaust Museum. I was extremely amazed at the security at the museum because the security seemed to be tighter going into the museum than going into America.

Once we were in the museum we were all given ID cards of members of the Holocaust and then we entered elevators bringing us to the top floor, which is where the exhibit started. As soon as the elevator doors opened the first thing that we saw was a blown up picture of bodies' – lots and lots of bodies! The atmosphere of the first floor was dark and quite cold – not in temperature but emotion. There were movies on anti-Semitism and discrimination. Shorter movies were also shown throughout the floor. This floor mainly concentrated on the events leading up to the Holocaust and early stages of it.

After you were finished the first floor, there was a glass bridge that would take you to the second floor which was much more intense. There was a model of a portion of a train in which the prisoners of the Holocaust were transported to the camps...approximately 100 people would be fit into one of those portions...really only about 10 to 20 people could fit comfortably! There was a glass room where you could go and sit and listen to statements of those who have experienced the Holocaust and lived to tell about it. The room next to it was a skeleton of a barracks, which held two bunks. Each bunk would be occupied by approximately six people. In the room was also a short movie on the chemical experiments done to some of the Holocaust prisoners. At the back of the room there was a sculpture that showed people lining up on the steps to the gas chambers, the people in a sort of waiting/undressing room, the men, women and yes, children being gassed. This sculpture really showed us the pain these people must have felt! Finally the sculpture showed the bodies of the deceased being brought to the crematoriums and being put into the ovens.

By then the majority of us were more than happy to leave that floor. Nothing could be worse than that right? Wrong! Thinking that the worst was over, nothing could prepare us for what we saw next! Shoes – more shoes than anyone could imagine. There were casual shoes, dress shoes, shoes of all styles and sizes! I don't think this would have bugged us so much if we hadn't stopped to really look at them because in the corner, at the end of the shoe pit there was a pair of shoes that belonged to a baby. The shoes could not have been more than 7 or 8 centimetres in length. There was a shoe pit on either side of us and we had to walk on a bridge-like path through them. On the bridge we met up with a supervisor, from Ottawa I believe, when one of the students from Nova Scotia stated that she couldn't understand what kind of "monsters" could do something like what was done during the Holocaust. The supervisor just looked at her and at first didn't quite know what to say except "it wasn't a monster – it was a man...many men, with normal lives, and normal families. I don't know how they could do it but they did and we can't change that but we can

stop this from ever happening again". She was right, we can. All that has to be done is to educate the public and let them know what happened and why this should never happen again! As we moved down the hall there was a blown up picture of all the hair shaved off of the victims' bodies. And just a little bit farther down the hall was a surgical table on display which was used for chemical experiments...the table still had blood stains on it.

That brought us to the final floor and that's when we realized the worst was actually over! This floor was the final stages of the Holocaust and the aftermath of this tragedy. There was a re-creation of a monument that was made from gravestones from some of those who died in this horrific event. There was also another movie...I didn't have time to watch it but I believe it was interviews with survivors and other victims of the Holocaust. From what I saw, which wasn't very much, it looked very interesting! That brought us to a wall with drawings that children drew before, during and after the war, these drawings showed that even when there seemed to be no hope, there's always a light at the end of the tunnel! Right beside this was a case with toys and pictures, teddies, and other valuables that people either kept with them or had to leave behind during the war. That was pretty much the end of the exhibit except for a few quotes on the wall! There were quotes throughout the exhibit but there were a few that stuck in my memory. For example, the quote that was at the end of the hall by the doors leading out of the exhibit. That quote said, "for the dead and the living we must bear witness!"

Once you left the exhibit there was a "reflection room" where you could go and think back on the past few floors.

There were also a few not so permanent exhibits such as the exhibit of "Daniel's Story" which was very similar to the novel that we read. I was really surprised about the way that the scenes from "Daniel's Story" were laid out. It was exactly how a reader would picture the scenes from the book's details. The layout was sort of like a maze and it was hard to figure out where the exhibit started and finished. I also found it very easy to miss areas of the exhibit and repeat others.

On the lower level there was a section on the medical experiments – deadly medicine, and creating the master race. I did not get a chance to go through this exhibit extensively because we had to go and listen to Helen Luksenberg speak about her experiences during the Holocaust. It turns out that Mrs. Luksenberg met her husband at a Concentration Camp and they wed after the war. Now both Mrs. Luksenberg and Mr. Luksenberg work at the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

After we left the museum we took the bus back to the hotel and went to our rooms to have a discussion with one of our supervisors about the museum. Following our discussion we went downstairs for supper and were told that we would be going to the mall and see sights and monuments for our evening program.

The next day we got up and went out for some more sightseeing. We went to the Smithsonian, Potomac Park,

memorials, and we saw **Einstein, Lincoln, and Roosevelt.**

The final day we heard Congressman **Tom Lantos** speak, and then it was off to the zoo and then back home!

I had an amazing time in Washington! It was everything I had hoped it would be and more. I met up with my cousin **Rachel** from Calgary; saw some friends from Camp Kadimah

and Shabbatons, and made quite a few new friends! It was a great experience and I would recommend it to whomever could get the chance to go!

I thank the Asper Foundation for this tremendous opportunity and I hope that someday I can visit Washington once again.

The Holocaust: What I Learned in Four Months

by *Ethan Macaulay*

After completing an extensive educational program about the Holocaust and human rights initiatives, our group of nineteen students in the Holocaust and Human Rights Awareness Program went to Washington, D.C., on Sunday, May 2, 2004. The next morning, we went to the Holocaust Museum. The museum was ghastly. We saw pictures of charred bodies; the shoes of the Jews who survived the death marches; a cattle car that the Jews were piled into; videos of **Hitler's** speeches; and other details, some too horrible to try to remember. Although we experienced the museum for four hours, most of us still needed more time to see it. This museum was the culmination of our studies, but nothing we learned could have prepared us for this. Six months after going to Washington, I am still shocked by the images.

The rest of our stay was decidedly more cheerful. The same Monday afternoon, we were sent to Pentagon City Mall, where we could marvel at all of the goods that never seemed to get to Canada. The next day, we went to the Smithsonian Institute, with all of the museums and lots of gift shops to spend some more money. Then we saw a play called "Shear Madness", a strange, but funny, murder mystery. Throughout it all, we saw a variety of memorials, from the **Lincoln** to the **Jefferson** to the **Einstein**. On Wednesday, we returned to the Holocaust Museum to hear **Tom Lantos**, a Holocaust survivor, speak. Then we went to the zoo, with giraffes, giraffe masks in the gift shops, and people wearing giraffe masks to scare

giraffes. Upon saying goodbye to some more memorials, we flew back to Halifax at midnight.

I am proud to have gone on this trip. Some of the pictures in the museum were tough to walk by, never mind inspect. The architecture of the museum was effective, and had much symbolical meaning. I was moved by some of the pictures of starved survivors. The elevator to the top floor was designed to remind people of the cramped cattle cars. On one floor of the exhibit, there was a cattle car to pass through, but for those who could not stomach the idea, there was another way around. The names of the communities who were touched by the Holocaust were written on the walls of a tunnel; the list was very extensive, and evocative of the nearby Vietnam Memorial. As I walked out of the exhibit, I thought, "This should never happen again," but I know it has, many times over. It is sad to ponder the inhumanity of the human race sometimes.

I spent the rest of my trip thinking about the museum. I could not stop thinking about all the pictures I saw and the sounds I heard. I wish I could have been there the entire trip, for the other museums were dull compared to it. Eventually, I got tired of all the other museums; however, I still thought it was a great pity that we could not go to the museum another time. If I ever go back to Washington, D.C., I will return, and I will not forget.

My Trip to Washington D.C.

by *Jacqueline Soicher*

Before I begin telling you all about my amazing trip to Washington D.C. I would like to thank a few people. Thank you to the Asper Foundation, to the organizers, to the chaperons for making this trip possible but most of all, thank you to the participants who made this trip so much fun!

All but a few of the participants in my group knew each other very well before this trip, therefore it would have been very easy for them to enjoy themselves without me. So I thank them for accepting me and welcoming me with open arms!

The second day of our trip was a very important day. We visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and it was amazing. I learnt so much about how the Holocaust started and how it affected not only the Jews but also political opponents, gypsies, mentally ill, physically ill and so many more. The museum is very well divided into three sections, before the Holocaust, during the Holocaust and after the Holocaust.

The most moving section is the second section, during the Holocaust. In this section they show in detail how the camps



(Me, Meredith, Angela, Ari, Jess, Riley, Jen and the Giraffe) first day of our trip, before even getting to Washington, that we went from being strangers to being very close friends. It was very fun and easy to bond with this awesome group of individuals!

worked and how brutally people were killed. During the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the Jews refused to die without a fight as the Nazis intended them to do. Their slogan was: "Let us all be ready to die like human beings". I think this shows how brave the Jews were. It is such a shame that so few people got to die like human beings during this period of time. These people, of the Warsaw ghetto, at least realized their fate and knew they had

Around the Region...



Mark Rosen with Rob and Shari Ritter overlooking Cape Spear, Nfld.



Mark Rosen addresses the Board of the St. John's community, fall 2004.



Frank Medjuck leading the IDF into action – SAREL, October 2004.



Jon Goldberg, Executive Director, speaks in Moncton at the Menorah Lighting Ceremony, December 12, 2004.



CIC Symposium on Israel Advocacy, Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, May 2004.



Howard Center, Regional Chair of UJA, chats with members of the Moncton community at a parlor meeting, May 2004.



L-R: Leigh Lampert, formerly of Moncton; President of Israel; Attorney General/Minister of Justice of Canada, Irwin Cotler in Israel, December, 2004.



Rebecca Loonin and Lynne Bessoudo at the Multicultural Association Festival, June 2004, Dartmouth, N.S.

Scenes from the 14th Biennial Convention...



Asper Foundation Trip

by Ari Silburt

This Asper Foundation trip was a very intense experience. When I first stepped into the Halifax Airport, I had no idea that I would be returning a changed person. I found this trip to be very emotional and moving, and I will never forget it.

Before the trip, I spent quite a bit of time reading articles about anti-Semitism, racism, and the Holocaust, and answering questions. This helped me to get a good understanding about the Holocaust before the trip. Nothing, however, could have compared to the experience of actually seeing the artefacts and displays of the Holocaust Museum first hand.

The first night, we had a little banquet type dinner in the hotel to meet all the people participating in the Asper Foundation trip. Also, at each table, we talked about anti-Semitism, and racism and I learned more. I knew that other people experienced anti-Semitism, but I was surprised that so many other people have experienced the same type of racism that I have. Things like Jew jokes from guys on the hockey team, or friends from school cracking other types of racist jokes. Even though not all the racist jokes were aimed at me, I couldn't laugh whenever they said them, no matter what sort of punch line they had.

Some people on my hockey team thought that they were such good friends with me, that they could crack some Jew jokes and get away with it, and maybe even squeeze a little laugh out of me. In one case, a guy made a Jewish joke, and when I told him to stop, he said that being Jewish is the same as being "A Newfie" (Newfoundlander) which he was, and that if people crack Newfie jokes, then they can crack Jewish jokes. He is one of my friends, but I don't always know how to respond to that. Just knowing that other Jewish kids are going through the same thing gives me hope.

The trip through the Holocaust Museum was very moving. Unlike other museums where you get bored quickly, this one kept me interested from the beginning right through till the end. One thing that I couldn't stop staring at was the shoes. There was one room, which had a big tub with about 100 pairs of shoes or so in it from the Holocaust. Jews from the Holocaust had worn those shoes, and most of the shoes' owners didn't survive, but the shoes managed to. They were really worn down and beaten up, but it's important that we keep all these shoes, because in about 10-20 years, all the Holocaust survivors will be gone, and all that will be left from the Holocaust will be things like those shoes.

Another room I spent a lot of time in was full of candles. Above the candles were signs labelling the major death camps. It was so well set up, and it had so many candles, that I just stood there for a long time staring. The candles were to remember all the people who died. It really made me think about all those people, and how if even one more were saved, it would have brought so much more life into the world. There were about 400 candles or so with a big one in the middle. Even if one candle represented one death, that would still be too many.

I really like how lots of people on the Asper Foundation trip were not Jewish. The way to stop the Holocaust from happening again is to educate others. Whether it will be your children, or non-Jews, it doesn't matter. I think if everyone on my hockey team had gone on this trip, they would think twice about making racist jokes, if not just Jewish jokes. I can't tell you that they wouldn't do it anymore, but they would know that what they were doing was wrong, and maybe then they would stop.

My Trip continued

to do something about it. So many people, unlike them, were unaware of their fate walking through the gates of Auschwitz. "I knew...that a couple hours after their arrival there, 90% would be gassed", said **Rudolf Vrba** an escapee from Auschwitz.

A few things were lucky though and avoided the horror of the Holocaust. The shoes for example, that are on display at this museum, state: "We are the shoes, we are the last witnesses. We are shoes from grandchildren and grandfathers from Prague, Paris, Amsterdam and because we are only made of fabric and leather and not blood and flesh, each one of us avoided the hellfire."

The owners of these shoes however, 11 million people, 6 million Jews, were not so lucky.

We were fortunate enough to meet one of the few lucky survivors of the Holocaust, **Helen Luksenberg**, who spoke to us in a moving speech about her story and how she met her husband during the Holocaust. She taught us to speak up against racism, anti-Semitism and injustice. **M. Tom Lanthos**, a US Congressman, who also spoke to us, taught us to go farther than speaking by acting!



Hyde, me, Helen and Riley

During our stay in Washington we also got to see the many memorials and monuments that stand proudly throughout the city. The **Lincoln**, the **Roosevelt**, the World War II and the Vietnam memorial are just a few of the many we saw. We also visited three of the famous Smithsonian Museums, the national zoo and of course the HUGE mall!

Even though the preparation, the volunteer hours and this essay were difficult and time consuming, it was very much worth it! I loved meeting so many new people and learning so much about so many things! I encourage all who are thinking about participating in the future to do so because it is one trip I will never forget!

Allen M. Ruben, Q.C. Honoured

His Excellency **Lennart Alvin**, Swedish Ambassador to Canada hosted a reception at Old Government House in Fredericton on August 3rd, 2004, in honour of **Allen M. Ruben, Q.C.**, Honorary Swedish Consul for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

His Excellency conferred upon Mr. Ruben the distinction of Knight of the Royal Order of the Polar Star.

King Frederik I instituted the Swedish Royal Order of the Polar Star in 1748. Since 1975, the Royal Order of the Polar Star is reserved for foreign nationals in recognition of meritorious personal service to Sweden.

His Majesty **King Carl XVI Gustaf** is the Grand Master of the Order and decisions on the conferment of this distinction are made by him on the recommendation of the Swedish Government.

Shown in the picture from left to right Allen M. Ruben, Q.C., His Excellency Ambassador Lennart Alvin and **Rhona Levine Ruben**.



High Holidays on the Rock

by *Claire Frankel-Salama*

As we catch a breath between the Yamim Nora'im and Sukkot/Simchat Torah, we move from introspection to an appreciation of G-d's creations. We appreciate nature's bounty through the harvest, and G-d's gift of the Torah as the centre of our faith. This year, unfortunately, we had a larger number of mourners including **Ernie and Randi Mauskopf**. **Ida Levitz Mauskopf**, a member of this congregation who was born in St. John's, passed away this summer after a long illness. Several other members lost loved ones this past year, including **Bonnie Leyton**, who lost her father, **June Mercer**, who lost her mother, and myself, who lost my father. At the end of Yom Kippur, we were re-energized by the virtuoso Shofar blowing of our newest member, **Shimon Wilansky**, who has come home again. We welcome Shimon and **Lynn** back to the Rock and to our valiant little community.

This past summer we bade farewell to **Adi Varon**, our volunteer teacher and community animator. The formal goodbye took place at the year-end barbecue which was held in Paradise (really!) at the home of **Bonnie and Elliott Leyton**.

Adi presented us with a copy of the community cookbook she had compiled as well as a photo album of this year's activities. We also held an Oneg Shabbat in honour of **Tanya and Leonid Shulkin** and their boys, **Michael and Daniel**, who moved back to Texas. Other summer activities include a bonfire at Middle Cove to mark Lag Ba'Omer. As with many great ideas in Newfoundland, this one had to be modified due to high winds and rain that evening. A modified « bonfire » was held instead in the Social Hall in the synagogue.

During the summer we had several visitors including **Judy, Dr. Douglas and Ruth Wilansky**. They are working with **Dr. Robin McGrath** to try and organize a *Kum Ahaym* within the next two years. We also met several couples who have purchased oceanfront property for summer homes. We hope that they will become part of our community during their seasonal visits.

On Sunday, September 12th, we held our fourth annual Shacharit service at Cape Spear. The weather was glorious (honestly!) and the dozen who attended were treated to the



These two pictures show the service and subsequent Shofar blowing at our Fourth Annual Shacharit service at Cape Spear, the easternmost point in North America!

*Shofar blowers are **Shimon Wilansky** and **Messod Salama**.*

Shofar blowing of Shimon Wilansky and **Messod Salama**. Shortly afterwards, three magnificent whales made their appearance just off the Cape. A coincidence? – That's for you to decide. The service was followed by a delicious potluck brunch at the Shul. We then moved en masse to the Cemetery on Blackmarsh Road for our annual pre-Rosh Hashanah memorial service. Prayers and visits were made to the graves of those who receive few or no visits during the year. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on this matter.

We were pleased to welcome several guests at Yom Kippur including the Fish's, the Lipshitz' (newly of Tors Cove) and **Mrs. Frankel** (my mother). We were particularly happy to see **Miriam Noel**, who has spent the summer working in St. John's awaiting the start of her internship in Toronto. Miriam will be training as a nutritionist in several downtown Toronto hospitals. We thank Ernie Mauskopf, Messod Salama, **Michael Paul** and Shimon Wilansky for their amazing davening and Shofar blowing. The communal breaking of the fast after Yom Kippur took place in the synagogue again this year. Highlights included **Sharon Koubi's** soup and **Ruth Noel's** Challah.

Report from The Rock

by *Claire Frankel Salama*

Oy, Chanukah, Oy Chanukah..... I can't get the song out of my head. Not that I want to, of course. It all started last week when I opened up the CD-DVD sent to us by Rabbi **Garelick** from New York. Rabbi Garelick was marooned here on September 11th, 2001, and since then he has sent us all manner of holiday items from travelling Chanukiyot to Shemurah Matza. This year we received a digital Chanukah show including an adorable choir of little boys singing that very song. Then, this morning, I put on CBC radio, and what do I hear? Well, the same song, in Yiddish, by **Theodore Bikel**. And this evening we had our annual Chanukah bash. We had over 50 in attendance at one of our most successful parties in years! Organized by **Inbal Bahar**, who is in her ninth month of pregnancy and who is writing final exams at university, and by **Barbara Grandy**, a very busy doctor in St. John's, this party was fantastic! It started with the candle lighting, a children's

Other events included a lecture/seminar entitled, *Empowering Women*, sponsored by the Moslem Community held at Memorial University on October 10th. We were well represented by Dr. Robin McGrath. We are preparing for our usual Simchat Torah bash, hoping that the Sukkah will stand up to a few more hurricane *remnants*. So far, so good, but we have learned to use plasticized decorations for the most part, as they are best suited to our Atlantic weather. We are really excited about two new babies expected in the Ruach and Koubi families. We have not had any births in this community for a while, so this is very good news indeed!

Unfortunately, our outreach activities and educational activities have been severely curtailed by our lack of a teacher/volunteer. We have been in close touch with **Maxyne Finklestein** and the Jewish Agency, but we are still awaiting good news on this front.

To Shalom readers in the Atlantic region and elsewhere, we wish you health, happiness, prosperity and lots of fish, oil and natural gas in the new year. May we live to see the growth and strengthening of our respective communities.

choir, and a play cum raffle starring **Hannah** and **Ruth Rivkin** and **Charlotte-Ann Malischewski**. We were then treated to a magnificent recital of Klezmer music played beautifully by Charlotte-Ann. Such talent! Such poise!

After a fine meal of salads and latkes, we had the pleasure of a *frehlich* concert by a local musician, **Dan Rubin**. And he played...well you guessed it! I think that we are all well fortified musically for the coming month.

Besides partying, we have held several more serious events. In November we were pleased to welcome **Rabbi Ellis** to Newfoundland. He spoke at a Pentacostal church in Foxtrap that is extremely supportive of Israel, and gave a Dvar Torah at our Friday night service after dinner at the home of Dr. **Michael Paul** and Dr. Barbara Grandy. Successfully surviving my first attempt at Cholent, he went to a community gathering at the home of **Nancy** and **Arnold Bennett** where he explained the difference between *Halachah* and *Agadah*. On Sunday he gave several lessons, and on Monday he visited our senior citizens and was given a tour of the city.

This past fall has been busy for several other members as well. As we have no Areva this fall, **Ruth Noel** and **Shari Ritter** have been visiting schools on a regular basis to do some of the valuable outreach activity normally done by our teacher-volunteer. In addition, Dr. Paul, Dr. Grandy and Inbal Bahar did a presentation to a Cub group. Both **Ruth** and **Shari** are heavily involved with a women's interfaith group that meets regularly, and with the local Human Rights Association. Much of the good will that exists between our community and the local Muslim community certainly emanated from their highly appreciated efforts.

On November 9th, in recognition of Kristallnacht, **Terry Rielly** debuted a play he wrote about one family's escape from Belgium as the Nazi invasion was about to take place. Terry



Dan Rubin, the entertainer, and Ernie Mauskopf, singing Chanukah songs.

chose Prince of Wales Collegiate as the site to do a reading of his new play and to perform a few of the songs he has composed about the Holocaust. This particular high school was chosen because of the work the students and their teacher, **Keith Samuelson**, have done in relation to the Holocaust, human rights and UNESCO's International Decade for Peace. Mr. Samuelson is now planning to take students to visit the Holocaust museum in Washington.

As Chanukah comes to an end, we will miss the little candles that brighten up this period of short days and long nights and that remind us of the plucky lights of freedom still struggling in various parts of the world. We look forward to the lengthening of days and to the visits of our expatriate children from "the mainland" and wish all Shalom readers a very happy holiday season.



Charlotte-Ann Malischewski and the children's choir.

Chanukkah

My favourite holiday 8 days long
We sing and dance and sing happy songs
About what happened so long ago
Nes Gadol Haya Po
A great miracle happened there
And now we have the story to share
It started when the Syrian Greeks
Came and invaded Israel, the little geeks
They wouldn't let us study the Torah
Or let us do the hora
They were so cruel and mean
That we hid in the caves so we wouldn't be seen
When they came to see if we were leaving
We would play with the dreidle and watch it turning
But one day we said, "enough"
And mattisgaho and his sons said it is time to get tough
They organized a courageous troop
And voted on what to call the group
Mi Chamocha Balim Hashem?
Who is like you O God?
And with this thought in mind
They went out to beat the Greeks one last time
They attacked at night and not by day
Hoping to scare the Greeks away
But the Greeks did something completely irrelevant
They brought in a bunch of elephants
The Maccabees were very brave
Because they have many lives, they were going to save
Finally they drove the Greeks back

And went to Jerusalem to see what they lack
They cleaned up the temple and to their horror
They found a pig on the alter, what a dishonour
They cleaned away all the soil
Then looked for some pure olive oil
They searched and searched but it was in vain
And it resulted in nothing but pain
And just as they felt they would give up this task
They found one small flask
It would last only one day
So the Jews started to pray
And Shalom Aleichem, a miracle occurred
The flame burned for 8 days and was not blurred
"Hallelujah", the people shouted
Everyone danced and no one pouted
Even now so many years after
We remember the miracles with much laughter
We eat potato latkas fried in oil
To remember the miracle and our toil
We play dreidle with chocolate gelt
Hoping as we play it will not melt
Chanukka is our favourite time of year
We light our Menora without fear
We put it in the windowsill
To publicize the miracle
8 candles standing tall
With the shamash head of them all
Even though it comes just once a year
To us it is very clear.

by Tamar Ellis

Editor's Note: Tamara is a 14-year-old junior high student in Halifax.

KlezKanada: An Unforgettable Experience

by Charlotte-Anne Malischewski, 13 years old St. John's, NL

Last spring, after having found the web page of KlezKanada on the internet, I applied for a scholarship in order to attend the festival by filling out a form and sending in a tape of my violin playing. I must admit that when **Sandy Goldman** called to offer me a scholarship, I did not quite know what to expect. What it turned out to be far exceeded all my expectations.

KlezKanada is the only summer festival of Yiddish/Jewish music and culture held each year in a rural setting in North America. Many of its faculty are pioneering figures in the klezmer renaissance. According to its mission statement, it has as its prime commitment and activity to bring the treasures of a 1000 year Yiddish/Jewish culture to both the young and old of today. Out of the ashes of the Holocaust KlezKanada harnesses this accumulated wisdom of the past, couples it with the dynamic creativity of today and presents a living Yiddish/Jewish culture. Through a carefully devised program of music, dance, language, literature and history this festival provides an opportunity not only to learn, but also to experience the ties which bind the past with its contemporary, creative and innovative cultural renaissance. This assures the promise of a future.

On August 23rd, my mother, who also attended the festival, and I went to the international arrivals of Trudeau Airport in Montréal. There, we found people speaking a variety of languages and carrying an even greater variety of instruments (violins, violas, basses, *tsimbels*, guitars, mandolins, accordions, etc.). We soon (alright, not that soon; we were on Jewish time.) boarded a bus to take us to KlezKanada which is held for one week at the end of August at the B'Nai Brith Camp in Lanthier, Québec, a lovely location in the Laurentian Mountains. Sitting next to us were a man from Holland and another from New Zealand, speaking Yiddish. This was a true introduction to our week with musicians from all over the world (Holland, England, France, Switzerland, Argentina, Uruguay, New Zealand, and Eastern Europe).

Over the week, I attended many hands-on workshops (violin technique, klezmer technique, singing, and dancing), while others attended lectures (for example, "History of the Bagel – Revisited" and "'Bronx Express' Off Broadway: Reading Yiddish Theatre Aloud for Fun") We all attended the fabulous faculty concerts, the late-night dancing, and the Klez Kabaret where participants in the festival performed. Since there were many workshops during any 90-minute slot, I had to make difficult choices.

My mornings began at 8:00 a.m. (before breakfast!) with a violin-technique warm-up session with **Yaela Hertz**, a marvellous violinist who is also the concert mistress of the McGill Chamber Orchestra and the violinist in the Hertz Trio. Yaela believes that you cannot play klezmer without excellent violin technique, which she believes is best developed as soon as you get up in the morning. I am sure she is right, as klezmer is technically demanding music. After breakfast, the first period of the day was devoted to klezmer technique. On

Tuesday, I went to "The Soul of Pedutser" with **Steven Greenman**, who is not only one of the finest violinists in the traditional East European Jewish music style, but also the co-founder of "Khevrissa" and a gifted composer of traditional klezmer music. On Wednesday, I attended "Telling Your Steiners from Your Schwartzes" to learn the different styles of two of the old masters of the klezmer violin with **Elie Rosenblatt** who conducts research into old fiddling style. On Thursday, **Michael Alpert** presented a special session on how to play the "sekund" accompaniment. Yaela Herta kept our technical warm-up going for close to three hours on Friday!

For a change of pace, "Soles on Fire", Yiddish dance classes given by Michael Alpert, **Zev Feldman**, and **Chayala Zilberberg** from France, were my next choice. The majority of the musicians participated in this workshop as it is important for us to understand the dances that go with the music they play. It is also an excellent way to feel the beat of the different dances we were learning to play in the *fiddl* workshops.

Since a great deal of klezmer music is for dancing, I decided to take a workshop to learn to play Chassidic dance music under the direction of **Sruli Dresdner**. He plays the clarinet and other instruments, and draws on his Chassidic background to teach and perform Chassidic music all over the world. If you listened to our music, you would just have to start dancing!

My afternoons ended with a *fiddl kapelye*, an exciting and interesting ensemble led by **Deborah Strauss**. This internationally acclaimed violinist is a member of the Stauss/Warchauer Duo and was a long-time member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and the Chicago Klezmer Ensemble. Although the word *fiddl* may make you believe it was only for fiddles, there were also violists and a *tsimbl* (the Jewish hammered dulcimer) player. The ensemble's beautiful music and fabulous teacher made it a highlight of my week.

After supper, small groups of musicians gathered to play music informally before the concerts, dancing, and KlezKabaret, and I was able not only to play klezmer, but also to share some of my traditional Newfoundland tunes.

A special moment of the festival was 'marching backwards' into Shabbos – a KlezKanada tradition introduced by **Jenny Romaine** a few years ago. Well over one hundred musicians met in front of the retreat centre by the lake and slowly walked backwards along the edge of the lake and up a hill ending up in front of the dining hall, playing music all the while. We continued to play, but slowly the music of the instruments was replaced by that of voices and then once again by instruments. Many of us also danced while we waited for our Shabbos to begin. After the blessing, we ate gefilte fish with beet horseradish, chicken soup, and lots of other dishes for the many vegetarians. We also danced a lot during and after the meal. On Shabbos evening, while the younger folk had a party in the Shalom recreation room, many adults went to plays or listened to stories at "The singing table – tisch". On the final night of festival, there was a long, but brilliant

performance by all the ensembles and bands created during the festival. The concert began at 9:00 pm with the "Kids for Klez" and ended with a performance by the Bessarabian Dance Band at almost 3:00 a.m. The performance highlighted the scholarship students, the workshop participants and the staff. It was an evening (and a week!) of incredible music.

In the end, though, the best part of KlezKanada was all the

wonderful friends we made: **Shoshana** and her family from Toronto, the twins **Rebecca** and **Sarah** from New York State, **Lan** and her mother **Debordah** from Ithica, **Jacob** and his mother **Dana** from Montréal, and many more too numerous to list. These are friendships which will endure as we share a common heritage and a love of and desire to know more about that heritage.

Dateline Halifax and Surrounding Areas

Mazel Tov to **David Fiering** on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Richard Goldbloom** on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mazel Tov to **Ethel** and **Mark Rosen** on their "milestone year". Each celebrated a 50th birthday and their 25th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to **Marsha** and **Laurie Astroff** on the recent engagement of their son, **Robert** to **Dorete Drabinsky**, daughter of **Mervin** and **Ariella Drabinsky** of Winnipeg.

Mazel Tov to **Zack** and **Myrna Rubin** and **Abe** and **Elaine Gitalis** (Toronto) on the engagement of **Carmi Rubin** and **Zev Gitalis**.

Mazel Tov to Their Honours **Myra** and **Lawrence Freeman** on the engagement of their son, **Jonathan** to **Cyrelle Muskat**.

Mazel Tov to **Irwin** and **Joy Mendleson** on the marriage of their daughter, **Karen** to **Jonathan Lozare**.

Mazel Tov to **Naomi Judah** on the marriage of her daughter, **Sherry**, to **Robert Ross**.

Mazel Tov to **David** and **Myrna Sherman** on the marriage of their daughter, **Tova** to **Joseph Lang**.

Mazel Tov to **Ian Epstein** and **Erin Awalt** on their recent marriage.

Mazel Tov to **Lysa** and **Mark Appleton** on the birth of their son, **Jonah Joel** on July 9th, 2004 – brother to **Aaron**, **Alyssa** and **Jacob**.

Mazel Tov to **Murray Yazer** and **Julie Kristoff** on the birth of their son **Alexander Benjamin** on October 4, 2004. Proud grandparents are **Myrna** and **Harold Yazer** and **Sheila** and **Michael Kristoff**.

Mazel Tov to **Sylvia** and **Gerry Mendleson** on the birth of their grandson, **Itamar**, born to **Jonathan** and **Lilach** in Israel on July 10, 2004. Congratulations to Uncle **Ben** and great-grandparents, **Alex Chelekower** and **Bertha Mendleson**.

Mazel Tov to **Jennie David**, daughter of **Mark** and **Sue David**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

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

Mazel Tov to **Joseph Ur**, son of **Kim Blake** and **Ehud Ur**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Preston Rodd**, son of **Will Rodd** and **Betsy Prager**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Shifra** and **Alex Richman** on the occasion of their grandson, **David Harry Sien-Sung Richman's** Bar Mitzvah in Columbia, South Carolina.

Congratulations to **Daniel King**, son of Dr. **David** and **Gillian King**, who graduated from the Halifax Grammar School in June, 2004 with an Honours International Baccalaureate Diploma. Daniel is attending McGill University.

Congratulations to **Jessica Rappaport** on her graduation from Dalhousie University in the Spring 2004 upon receiving a Bachelor of Commerce Degree with a Finance major. Jessica is the daughter of **Stephen** and **Noreen Rappaport** and granddaughter of **Barbara** and **David Fiering** and **Sue Rappaport**.

Congratulations to **Shira Tsinman**, daughter of **Boris** and **Laura Tsinman**, on her graduation from Halifax West High School, June 2004, with her French Immersion Certificate. Shira was chosen to deliver a valedictory address and was also named to the Principal's List of the Honour Roll. She is attending McGill University.

Congratulations to **Avram Spatz**, son of **Jim** and **Marcie Spatz**, on receiving the **Edith Kathleen Russell** entrance scholarship to attend King's Edgemoor School for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Congratulations to our President, **Mark Rosen**, who has been awarded the distinction of Fellow of the Canadian Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals (CAIRP) and, as such, joins a select group of insolvency practitioners in Canada who are entitled to use the prestigious designation, FCIRP.

Condolences to **Sylvia Mendleson** and family on the passing of her beloved mother, **Esther**.

Condolences to **Barrie Green** and the extended Green family on the death of father, brother and grandfather, Dr. **Leo Green**.

Condolences to Dr. **Heather Zitner** and family on the loss of her father, **Willis Brady** of Newfoundland.

Condolences to the family of the late **Sophie Kohler**.

Condolences to the family of the late **Jack Sheriff**, Wolfville, NS.

Condolences to **Linda Law** and her family on the recent loss of her brother, **Michael Frederick Law**.

Condolences to **Ralph** and **Shirlee Medjuck** and family on the loss of **Beth Medjuck**, beloved daughter, mother, wife, sister.

Hate crimes accused not criminally responsible

The Telegram (St. John's)

Friday, November 5, 2004

Page: A3

Section: Metro/Provincial News

Byline: Belec, Bonnie

When a St. John's man threatened to kill Jews living in Newfoundland, he was incapable of knowing it was wrong, a judge concluded Thursday.

Provincial court Judge **David Orr** ruled that **Oral Crocker Vrba** was not criminally responsible for threatening to kill both the Hebrew congregation and its president, nor of damaging the property of the Beth-El Synagogue in St. John's.

Orr said while the evidence did prove that the crimes were motivated by prejudice or hate based on religion, race, colour or origin, Vrba was incapable of appreciating the nature and quality of the acts or of knowing they were wrong.

He concluded that Vrba, diagnosed as having bipolar disorder, was mentally ill at the time he committed the offences.

The 30-year-old was also charged with uttering threats against a female. The offences allegedly occurred between October 2002 and April 2004.

Vrba had pleaded not guilty to the charges even though he admitted to police that he broke the window of the synagogue with his hand in April 2004, that he wrote a letter with threatening comments to a female friend and that, on many occasions, he has told medical staff and police that he hates Jews, as well as the entire human race.

Defence lawyer **Peter Ralph** had argued his client was not criminally responsible due to his previous medical history.

Upon reviewing the facts, most of which were mutually agreed upon, Orr said that according to defence witness Dr. **Nizar Ladha**, Vrba has been admitted to the Waterford Hospital in St. John's 17 times since 1997.

It was Ladha's opinion that Vrba was incapable of acting rationally when he was arrested for breaking the synagogue window and that he was probably very sick at the time.

Orr noted that many times Vrba was admitted to hospital as an involuntary patient and was usually arrested by police under the Mental Health Act. During one of those arrests, the judge stated, Vrba had delusions of being Superman and thought that he had sharks in his blood.

The judge said Vrba has little control over his thought processes and his actions and comments are consistent with psychotic and manic behaviour. He further noted that when the offences occurred, Vrba was either in hospital, had just been released or was about to be admitted.

The judge has remanded Vrba back to the hospital, where his case will be monitored and reviewed by the mental health board.

Dr. **Michael Paul**, president of the Hebrew congregation, testified at Vrba's trial regarding his meetings with Vrba.

The first was on a Saturday in 2002 in the synagogue while he was waiting to begin the service.

"I asked him what he wanted. His first words were, 'I'm here to murder you. I'm here to finish what Hitler didn't,'"

Paul, who has since started locking the doors of the synagogue out of fear for his safety, described Vrba as having a needle through the septum of his nose, and described him as being tall, with a short haircut.

He said he didn't know whether Vrba would attack him with the needle and he felt at risk.

Shari Ritter, vice-president of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada, has been monitoring Vrba's trial closely.

Her group takes hate crimes seriously and has held workshops in St. John's called Taking Action Against Hate, to educate the community and authorities.

"There is a rise in anti-Semitism worldwide, so we are very concerned about this, and that's why I've been here to monitor this," said Ritter.

"It's been a difficult process for the community here, because you do not have very many cases where there's been a charge of hate crime and threats.

"So, I think the police, the Crown and judge have taken this very seriously and I'd like to thank them for that," she said.

Regarding the outcome of the case, she said the judge had concerns that Vrba requires treatment and her organization welcomes that outcome. But she said she'd like to see Vrba – who has a swastika tattoo on his back – receive anti-hate education as part of that treatment.

"We also are concerned for our security in our community, in the Jewish community and our synagogue, that our community feels safe. I'm not speaking for the synagogue, but Dr. Michael Paul testified that he felt a real fear and he used to feel quite safe keeping the doors of the synagogue open, but now they're locked and everybody has to ring the bell to enter," she said.

Ralph said his client didn't want him to talk about the case and just wants it to be over.

However, Ralph did offer an apology on Vrba's behalf, to Paul, the members of the synagogue and the woman he uttered threats about.

Events from Fredericton

by Ruth Chippin

The Fredericton Jewish Community has had a busy fall season. **Rabbi** and **Shelley Zisook** have been instrumental in providing a Jewish focus for our community. The Zisooks have been active this fall on the educational front with something for every age group. For parents and their young children, there is a Sunday morning Talmud Torah class where parents and their children learn text together and then work on an activity. For teenagers, Rabbi Zisook, with the help of **Anita Adilman** has organized a youth group called Youth for Moses at Fredericton High School, which meets at lunch time every other Thursday. On the adult front, we have had a very interesting 6-week evening course at the home of **Ellen** and **Josh Samuel**, covering 4,000 years of Jewish history. And on Tuesdays at lunchtime the Rabbi provides Mishna classes.

In October, with the help of **Bob Brown**, the Zisooks coordinated a night at the Fredericton Playhouse where we were treated to music from the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band. The event was well attended by the community with everyone having a good time.

In early November, the Zisooks organized a Shabbaton with Rabbi **Joseph Ozarowski**, Executive Director of the Chicago Rabbinical Council as our scholar in residence for a weekend program full of information on What the Torah Teaches Us about Life and Death. Attendance was excellent and there was some lively discussion. With help from members of the community Shelley Zisook organized some very tasty meals.

Our Synagogue Welcome Committee has also been busy. Sgoolai Israel Synagogue now has a web site which can be found at <http://www3.nbnet.nb.ca/sgoolai/>. **Steve Rauch** is working on a new address, which will make the web site easier to find when searching the internet. The committee has also obtained fast track status for new immigrants with the New Brunswick Government.

Our next community event is the Chanukah Party on December 12, at the synagogue with entertainment from Hays Y Sky. This will be an opportunity to show off the Israeli dancing which **Marilyn Kaufman** has been teaching on Sunday evenings.

Fredericton News

by Doris Rauch

The Fredericton Jewish community gathered on the August 21 for a Shabbat Kiddush to celebrate **Rabbi** and **Mrs. Zisook's** first anniversary in Fredericton. We wanted to show our gratitude for a wonderful year of educational programs, a Shabbaton, and lots of good food at our Kiddushes. We recognize all of their efforts, and we know that there are already plans for another Shabbaton, a Jewish history study group, and small group study sessions during the day in

downtown Fredericton, in Fredericton High School and at the University of New Brunswick. The Sisterhood members prepared the Kiddush and the Synagogue presented gifts to Rabbi and Mrs. Zisook.

The Fredericton community extends a hearty mazel tov to **Marilyn Kaufman** on her receiving the Atlantic Jewish Council Community Service Award at its 14th Biennial Convention in November 2004.

ACKNOWLEDGE – World War II Casualty – Aaron Cohen, Glace Bay Submitted by Raymond Goldman, Cape Breton

First Lieut. **Aaron Cummings Cohen**, the son of Mrs. **William Cohen** and the late Mr. **William Cohen** of this town, was killed on active service, December 5, 1944, on the China-Burma front.

Aaron (Archie) was born in the United States but attended local schools. After leaving Glace Bay High, he returned to the United States where he enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after the declaration of war against Japan. Following his graduation from Victorville Army Flying School at Victorville, California, as a navigator-bombardier, he was commissioned and proceeded overseas in February, 1944. He made a number of operational flights before his last flight. No other details have been received from American authorities about the action in which he met his death.



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From Saint John, New Brunswick Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

It has been an amazing summer at the Museum – the exhibits, the programming, and the visitor numbers have all been overwhelming.

This year's exhibits have focused on immigration from 1858 to 1930 and on the **Davis** and **Rozovsky** families. The immigration exhibit has always proved to be popular with our visitors as most Jews whose roots lay in Eastern Europe can identify with the similar experience of those who chose to settle in Saint John. The Davis/Rozovsky exhibit traced the family back to the late 19th century and then carried the generations forward to the present day. Notable among the family's members was **Samuel Davis** who served as mayor of Saint John from 1977 to 1980.

We also worked with the Saint John Arts Centre to participate in a "Celebration 400" exhibit, which showcased more than twenty different cultural groups who contributed to the city's cultural and artistic development. The Jewish Museum created a series of collages, which reflected the Jewish contributions to music, drama, visual art, social organizations and religious life in Saint John. We also included a map of the city, which showed where the Jews had settled. As part of the speaker series associated with the exhibit, **Robert Selby** prepared a presentation of recorded Jewish music, which was well received by those in attendance.

The sixty cruise ships which have docked in Saint John since May have been an incredible boon to the museum – in terms of numbers of visitors and their generous donations. Most of the ships offered the Jewish Heritage Bus Tour – a special tour led by volunteers from the community, which brings visitors not just to see the Museum and Synagogue, but also the cemetery and the area where Jews had settled at the beginning of the 20th century. Thanks for these tours must go out to those who lead them: **Philip Bloom, Gary Davis, Lloyd Goldsmith, Norman Hamburg, Norman Holtzman, Marcia**

Koven and especially to **Dr. Joseph Arditti** who not only goes on the bus, but makes up the schedule and coordinates greeting of passengers dockside. The tourists and museum staff appreciate their contribution to this unique program.

Thanks should also be given to the students who were employed at the Museum over the summer months to not only give tours to the visitors, but also to work on several projects in the Museum's archives. They were: **Andrew Benjamin, Brigitte Gionet, Drew Johnson, Emma Logan, Teri Robinson, Danna Storey** and **Daniel Washburn** – all but one were not Jewish but came to share their enthusiasm about the history and contributions of the Saint John Jewish community.

As the summer tourist season winds to a close, the focus will move to school and church groups who will make arrangements to visit the Museum and to organizing the programming for the fifth Jewish Holocaust Study Group. This group is organized in cooperation with the Enrichment Office for the Saint John School District. The students who will be chosen to participate will have the opportunity to meet Holocaust survivors, visitors to the camps in Europe and explore the history of the internment camp, which had been in Ripples, New Brunswick during the Second World War. Each student will also prepare an individual project on the Holocaust in the form of essay, poetry, art, music, power point presentation or some combination – these will be displayed next May for the Yom Hashoah ceremony at the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

We welcome inquiries about membership in the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum (a modest \$20/year for an individual or \$25/year for a family). The Museum also sends out cards for birthdays, anniversaries, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, memorials, etc. Please contact the Museum by telephone (506 633-1833), e-mail (sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca) or by mail (29 Wellington Row, Saint John, N.B. E2L 3H4) for further information.

Report for the Synagogue, Saint John, New Brunswick

by Nathan Davis, AJC Representative

This year is closing on an exciting note for the Synagogue Board. On the first night of Channukah, December 7th, the Saint John Jewish Historical Society hosted a public candle lighting ceremony that was hosted by the President of the society, Dr. **Gary Davis**, which was well attended by both members of the Synagogue, the Jewish Historical Society, and members of the general public. Hayes Y Sky will be coming from Halifax to entertain us during our annual Channukah luncheon on the 12th, and our AGM is taking place on the 19th

of December, where President Dr. **Joseph Arditti** will be stepping down as President, and **Norman Hamburg** will be assuming the role. The research committee on immigration attraction is continuing its work, and will be presenting a report at our AGM on their progress to date. On behalf of myself, the outgoing and incoming Presidents, and the Saint John Synagogue Board, our sincerest best wishes for the upcoming holidays and New Year. I look forward to meeting the AJC executive, and fellow representatives, at the next AGM in 2005.

Shalom Report for Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

Congregation Tiferes Israel was pleased to receive a gift of two marble tablets inscribed with the ten commandments which were donated by **Michael Rubin**. Mr. Rubin has been coming from Montreal to assist as cantor at High Holiday services for the past few years. The tablets have been installed over the main doors leading to the sanctuary.

During his last visit to Moncton Michael Rubin, along with our own members, **Jack Brodie**, **Joe** and **Sue Kohn**, Rabbi **Stiefel** and his son, **Mendel** gave a delightful concert of Jewish music.

A number of events related to Chanukah took place in December. The first of these events was the lighting of a large menorah at the Moncton Hospital. Dr. **Sheldon Rubin** was given the honour of lighting the candles on this menorah. The Moncton Museum sponsored a series of concerts at the Free Meeting House and invited the shule to participate. The Free Meeting House was built in 1821 to serve as a home for all religious denominations until they could raise the money to build their own place of worship. This provided an appropriate setting for a concert of Chanukah music given by Rabbi Stiefel and his son Mendel, followed by three films on Chanukah.

On Sunday December 12, a large crowd attended the Chanukah dinner which took place at the shule. The dinner was open to the non-Jewish community, and special guests included Member of Parliament, **Claudette Bradshaw**, Moncton Mayor **Lorne Mitton** and some members of the clergy from local churches.

The following night the official lighting of the menorah took place at City Hall. The lighting was accompanied by two hours of music and entertainment. Latkes and suiganiyot were served.

Rabbi Stiefel, who has been the rabbi of Tiferes Israel for the last two years will be leaving our community in January to



begin a new position as rabbi at Young Israel of Chomedey. We appreciate the dedication he has shown to our community in the time he has been here and wish him, his wife **Aida** and their four children all the best in their new endeavours.

Condolences are offered to **Hannah Davidson** and **Robert Leavitt** on the loss their mother and wife, **Miriam Stone Leavitt**.

Mazel tov to **Irwin** and **Audrey Lampert** and family on the marriage of their son **Leigh** to **Darcie Richler**. The marriage took place in Toronto last August.

J.I. Segal Award for English Non-Fiction on Jewish Themes

A BOOK BY **HEATHER LASKEY**, a Halifax writer has won this year's "J.I. Segal Award for English non-Fiction on Jewish Themes". The award, received through the Montreal Jewish Public Library, is for "Night Voices: Heard in the Shadow of Hitler and Stalin", published last year by McGill-Queen's University Press. Built on the interwoven memories of four people – three of whom live, or lived in Halifax. It tells the little-known story of Polish Jews who survived the war and then committed themselves to building a communist state in Poland.

"If you look at the book-cover" says Heather, "you can see a small boy with a big grin, standing beside a Russian soldier, and holding a rifle. It was taken in 1945 at the Polish Army School for Political Education Officers in Majdanek – not too far from where the death camp had been. The boy was **Peter Alapin** – he's a retired provincial civil servant and now owns Heritage Pewter in Park Lane Mall; his mother, Dr. **Stanislawa** (known here as Slava) **Rubilowicz**, also lives in Halifax. She was a physician at the camp, and is the central character in the book. People like Slava and her late husband Mietek believed that, under communism, a new Poland, based on social justice and free of anti-Semitism, could emerge out of the ashes of the Shoah. It didn't work out that way."

Arthur Saffron Honoured by Home Town

Monday November 29, 2004 – Morris Saffron Company Ltd. Closes doors

by Sandra Bales, Staff Reporter, The Amherst Daily News

SPRINGILL – The closing of Springhill landmark Morris Saffron company Ltd. Furniture store after 90 years in business will leave a void in Springhill, but perhaps the biggest loss felt by the community will be the retirement of owner **Arthur Saffron**.

A quiet man with a quick wit and desire to help the community, Saffron has carried out many of his charitable acts anonymously over the years, but the members of the Springhill Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Springhill didn't want Saffron to retire without a proper Springhill send-off to celebrate his contributions to the community. The two groups threw a gala dinner on Friday evening to honour the lifelong resident and business owner and his father before him.

"The Saffron family has helped hundreds of families in our community throughout the years through special gifts, understanding and love," said Mayor **Guy Brown**, who used to enjoy Saturday morning chats about the Middle East at the store with Saffron.

"Arty's commitment to the Chamber of Commerce, Family and Children's Services, the Jewish Council and other non-profit agencies is a tribute to our community and to this nation," said Brown, mentioning just a few of Saffron's activities over the decades.

The Springhill citizen was presented with a number of items to commemorate his contributions to both the chamber and the community at large but the biggest honour came from the town.

"In honour of the significant contribution made by the Saffron family, and in particular Arthur Saffron, the Town of Springhill, by resolution, will rename Station St. to Saffron Drive," said Brown.

Saffron, who has never sought out recognition for his work over the years, was humble in his acceptance of the accolades and praise from the many people who spoke during the evening.

"There are so many other people I know who have done a lot more than me," said Saffron as he thanked everyone for the lovely evening.

A backbone of the chamber for at least 45 years, eight of those spent as president, Saffron also contributed his talents to the Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada Chambers of Commerce.

"Thank you for keeping the chamber going through a lot of difficult times," said current chamber president **Adrien Baillargeon**.

Harold Delaney read a long list of Saffron's achievements that include being presented with the Queen's Jubilee medal in 2003 during the monarch's 50th anniversary of her ascension to the throne. It was the same year the chamber named an award



Doug Dobson, Town Councillor, Dorothy Saffron and Arthur Saffron

after the longtime member that is now presented to a member who, like the award's namesake, contributes so much to the chamber without seeking or wanting acclaim or recognition.

Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley MP **Bill Casey** also extended his sincere congratulations to the man he first met when he ran the Outside-Inn restaurant on Main Street in Springhill, next door to Saffron's.

"One of the treats of my career was getting to know Artie," said Casey, who extended best wishes on behalf of the Government of Canada.

In honour of Saffron's commitment to Family and Children's Services of Cumberland County, an organization which has benefited from Saffron's involvement on the board for many years, MLA **Murray Scott** and his wife, **Linda** made a donation to the organization in Saffron's name to commemorate his retirement.

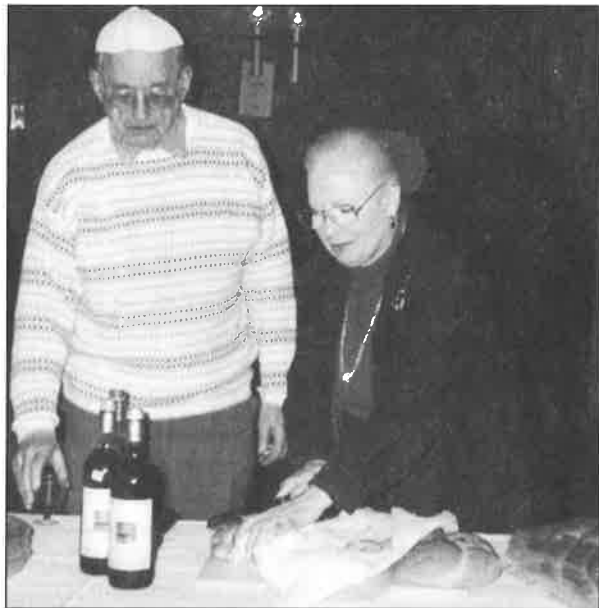
Saffron also had best wishes extended his way from Lt. Gov. **Myra Freeman** and her husband, **Larry**, personal friends of Saffron's. She commended him for his ongoing devotion to the people in the great Province of Nova Scotia and the commendable legacy he has left.

Saffron's sister, Dr. **Dorothy Saffron** traveled from New York for the occasion. His brother **Leonard** lives in England and was unable to attend. Special guest also included **Doug Robinson**, who is a close personal friend of Saffron, who he met through the Ship's Company theatre, another organization to benefit from Saffron's volunteerism.

Club Massada News

by Barbara Alberstat

Club Massada held its opening meeting on September 21, 2004 at the Beth Israel Synagogue, with an attendance of 34 members. **Edith Schneiderman** thanked **Ralph Garson**, past president and his board for all their great work over the past three years. **Barbara Alberstat** was introduced as the new President. The new executive was then introduced. They are: **Phil Alberstat** – Treasurer; **Joyce Gordon** – Recording Secretary; **Marianne Ferguson** – Correspondence Secretary;



Florie and Leonard Fineberg doing the blessings over the Chala and wine, Massada Chanukah Luncheon at Northwood.



Bette Ross, Barrie Ross, Shoshana Katz and Lawrence Ferguson being served by volunteers at the Chanukah Luncheon.

Naomi Judah – Massada Cards; **Borace Jacobson** – Photographer; Past President – **Ralph Garson**. The guest speaker, Dr. **Heather Zitner** was very well received.

The October meeting was held in the Northwood Community Room and all the members enjoyed a lovely lunch and viewing the slide presentation by Boris Tsinman on his first return trip to his homeland of Poland and other parts of Europe. He was accompanied by 14 others from Halifax and Kingston.

Members of Club Massada were able to see the play “The Diary of **Anne Frank**” at Neptune Theatre and though the story is well known, it was very well presented, and the members enjoyed seeing it.

November 30th was the extremely well attended CHANUKA AT NORTHWOOD LUNCHEON. There were over 80 people in attendance including members and many invited guests. Councilman **Patrick Murphy** brought us greetings from HRM and Mr. **Lloyd Brown** spoke on behalf of Northwood. A donation was presented by Ralph Garson on behalf of Club Massada to Mr. Brown for Northwood’s continuing support to the Jewish Seniors at Northwood and the Jewish community. Wonderful latkes were made by some of our members and a very tasty lunch was served by staff and volunteers of Northwood. Chanuka tablecloths, napkins and decorations added to the holiday spirit. Everyone enjoyed the chanuka songs presented by **Bracha Korn**, and we enjoyed singing some of them.

Club Massada has been in existence for over 25 years and continues to improve, bringing our Jewish Seniors together to enjoy with each other and to share special events. Our membership has increased to 100 at this point and growing.



Head Table guests at Northwood Chanuka Luncheon.

The Cape Breton Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar is going to be held May 11/05 in Sydney, NS. The members appreciate the generosity of the families in Halifax of better used clothing. We would welcome donations to ensure the success of the 2005 Bazaar. Contact: Joan Elman: 902-562-5696.

Atlantic Jewish Council Bequest & Endowment Fund

Atlantic Jewish Council
Bequest & Endowment Fund Distributions

Designed to meet the philanthropic challenges and needs of Jewish communities in the Atlantic Region, the Bequest & Endowment Fund of the Atlantic Jewish Council is steadily being transformed into the central address for charitable and estate planning activities of the region.

Since its inception in 1998, over \$2.2 million has been raised, with current assets of \$1.3 million under the management of a Board of Trustees, an Investment Sub-Committee and a Professional Advisory Sub-Committee. A further \$950,000 has been transferred to Israel for programs and projects.

Funds may be restricted, or unrestricted as instructed by the donor. Unlike a contribution to the annual United Jewish Appeal, an endowment is a permanent source of funds, created by the donor—either by means of a gift during the donor's lifetime, or through a bequest in a will.

The future of Jewish life in our communities is made more secure with the growth of the Fund. Already, young people in our region have benefited through scholarships enabling them to study in Israel, attend summer camp, and participate in March of the Living and Canada Israel Experience programs. Other programs such as chaplaincy and Jewish Family Service are similarly, beneficiaries of the Fund.

Enlightened legislation over the past few years has afforded donors with unprecedented opportunities to plan giving strategies that optimize both the use of charitable tax credits and the amount that they would want to benefit a Fund such as ours.

Funds under management of
AJC Bequest & Endowment Fund*



Transfers to projects and programs in Israel **

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| * Restricted Funds | |
| Miasnik Rein Trust | \$318,942.71 |
| Heinisch Trust | 101,644.00 |
| Chaplaincy Fund | 203,355.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 633,941.71 |
| Unrestricted | 667,748.75 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1,291,690.46 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| ** | |
| Roseanne Griffin bequest | \$450,000.00 |
| Anonymous endowment | 250,000.00 |
| Anonymous endowment | 250,000.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$950,000.00 |

Restricted Funds

Income from these funds is designated to benefit specific programs chosen by the donor.

Unrestricted Funds

Funds that are unrestricted support and strengthen existing programs and serve as a reserve fund for the community's emergency needs.

For information on the AJC Bequest & Endowment Fund, please contact Dov Harris, 416-636-7655, ext. 226 or Marie Herschorn at 902-422-7491, ext. 224; email: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL BEQUEST & ENDOWMENT FUND

Scholarships & Bursaries Available

Noa & Sarah Heinisch Scholarship

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

Application deadline for 2005 is **May 31, 2005**

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

Scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose

of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of study, travel, community service, or other suitable means.

Deadline for applications is **May 31, 2005**

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jason Greenblatt Bursary)

A bursary awarded to a Jewish student from Atlantic Canada to further Jewish studies in Israel or in the Diaspora.

Deadline for applications is **May 31, 2005**

For further information please contact Marie Herschorn, Administrator

At 902-422-7491, Ext. 224 or e-mail: mherschorn@theajc.ns.ca

A Change of Place

Family trades in their troubled country of Argentina for the preferred place of Prince Edward Island living.

by Mary Mackay

The Guardian, Charlottetown, PEI, Saturday, July 3, 2004

Sometimes a little change is good.

In the case of the Golod family, who moved from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Prince Edward Island a little more than six months ago, their trading places move was a switch of monumental proportions.

"If you will make a change, try to make it as big as possible. Don't do a small change because you will not see any difference. So to make a difference, make a big change," says Sergio Golod, who made this home location transformation with his wife, Marcela, and their two children, Brian, 20, and Sharon, 16.

This South American couple is one of the 217 permanent applications approved by the Prince Edward Island Nomination Program, which was created in 2001 by a federal and provincial agreement that allows P.E.I. to recruit immigrants to meet its socioeconomic and labour market needs.

Of that number, 69 have been issued permanent resident visas by Citizenship and Immigrations Canada. Thirty-three permanent applications have come to P.E.I., 18 of whom are skilled workers with experience to fill labour market gaps, nine are immigrants partners who invested in an existing P.E.I. company and assumed an active director or senior manager role, and six are immigrant entrepreneurs with viable new businesses.

The skilled workers fill positions such as aerospace engineers and machinists, doctors, nurses and the like that cannot be filled within the Canadian labour market, says Garry Petitpas, manager of provincial nominee program for the department of development and technology.

In the case of immigrant entrepreneurs and immigrant partners, they must have language ability in English or French, have a baccalaureate degree or equivalent from an accredited institution, and meet specific financial criteria before being considered for the program and ultimately permanent resident status.

Through the Provincial nominee program P.E.I. gains new residents which will help increase the population and foster a diversified culture, Petitpas says.

"We (also) get new investment into the province, be it entrepreneur or immigrant partner. We get workers that are filling skill shortages, and new entrepreneurship that will create wealth and jobs for the provinces," he adds.

"These people are looking for a slower pace of life, for these people their main concern is their children. They want their children to have the opportunities to succeed in life and they want them to have a very good education and they know that Canada has that to offer."

The Golods have equally high standards when it came to the country that would ultimately be their new home and place of business for their Royal Glass Design glass fusion shop.

With each passing year, their home country of Argentina seemed to become more hostile within its borders. They longed for a place where they and their children could be safe and free of fear.

When visiting relatives in Toronto, Sergio's parents would return home raving of a place that seemed ideal.

"They only had words with capital letters, talking about the people and the business and the weather- it was summer obviously," Marcela says.

"And the multicultural way of Canada," Sergio adds.

"The way that people can feel walking the streets, no matter the position you are, the colour you are... So that was the big change we wanted for our life, to give to your kids."

After a 20-day exploratory trip to Toronto, the Golods knew a move to Canada was the right thing to do.

"Canada represents for us what we lost, what Argentina was many years ago," Sergio says.

"When we were children Argentina was a very safe country, full of future and working, it was fantastic. Every year it was losing a bit more and a bit more until it arrived to be the country it is today. We saw in Canada what we were missing, what our country was. It's sad but it's the truth."



A little more than six months after leaving Argentina, Marcela Golod, left, her husband, Sergio, right, and their children, Brian and Sharon of Stratford are secure in the knowledge they have chosen the right place to live and continue the family business of glass fusing.

These people their main concern is their children. They want their children to have the opportunities to succeed in life and they want them to have a very good education and they know that Canada has that to offer.

The Golods had equally high standards when it came to the country that would ultimately be their new home and place of business for their Royal Glass Design glass fusion shop.

In July 2001, they began the application process for permanent resident status.

With a long history in glass blowing and fusing of unique art and functional glass pieces, the couple knew they would set up a similar shop when they arrived at their new home. However, later that same year the Argentinean government went bankrupt and the family's finances dipped in the wake of the political turmoil, jeopardizing their plans of immigrating to Canada.

Their lawyer made a fateful suggestion of the P.E.I. provincial nominee program. "I was really good in geography as a topic. I was an excellent student but I've never seen P.E.I. before that," Marcela adds.

Their application to the P.E.I. nominee program was accepted. Although the family did arrive on P.E.I. until a little more than six months ago, this ongoing application process and all that it entailed allowed the couple and their children to learn more about their new home-to-be, via the Internet. Their son Brian, who was just 18 as talk of moving cropped up around the kitchen table, was more than keen on the idea.

"I knew (Canada was) the best country in the world so I was really excited to come here," he says.

"After that, we knew about Prince Edward Island, it was amazing when we started looking for information. We found so many things (on the Internet) we were excited and encouraged about all the things that happen here and the way people are because they make the difference."

Sharon, who is enrolled at Charlottetown Rural High School, took the relocation news a little harder, but warmed to the idea as times passed and the reality of the move set in.

"I felt kind of sad because of the idea of moving everything from our place and we were not going to be with our family and friends, but we were going to a good place so we were going to be O.K."

Both have studied English in school but Brian took it upon himself to take this language study a major step further.

"For their last two years to be prepared to come here I was preparing myself with a teacher so I would speak well when I came here because that makes a difference. If you aren't comfortable you see things in another way," says this 20 year old who is working at Watts Communications for the summer and will be attending UPEI in the fall.

The Golods arrived on P.E.I. on the first official day of winter 2003 with very little luggage, high hopes and big dreams of things to come.

With help and guidance from the P.E.I. Business Development Corporation and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, they found a suitable spot in the West Royalty Industrial Park and began creating an inventory of their artful pieces.

"This is the only place where we can do all the things we did in just a short time, there is not another place," Sergio says of the fast pace at which they set of their family business.

Unfortunately on their six-month anniversary of P.E.I. living a few weeks ago, Sergio was in Argentina at his brother's side as he passed away from cancer.

Being separated from family and friends is a steep price to pay for a sense of well-being but the Golods say it is one they

had to make and each day is filled with wonders that most Islanders take for granted.

"People don't lock their door," Marcela says.

"For you it is something common, but for me every day, everything is open wide, no bars (on the windows). The petals of the tulips are the way they have to be, nobody touches what doesn't belong to them."

Influences of Argentina in their art is slowly being infiltrated by colours and styles inspired by their new Island home.

Their product is available in locations across P.E.I. and as of this week they received their first order from Nova Scotia.

P.E.I. trade shows in the United States this fall will hopefully open ever more sale avenues.

"If you told me one year ago we would be living these kind of things today I would tell you, 'You are crazy, it's impossible.' Thinking of the U.S. market for me it is a dream, nothing else," Sergio says.

In conversations with his cousin in Toronto, Sergio informs him of the marvels of Island living.

"I tell him, 'You would not believe it but P.E.I. is the fastest place you can ever imagine. When you need something on P.E.I. everybody is moving, so you have it right now...,'" he says.

"Here you live in the rhythm you want, if you want to live fast, you can do and if you want to live slow, you can do it also. So the way you live depends on you, and this is fantastic."

Editor's Note: Visit Sergio & Marcela's website at www.royalglassdesign.ca

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Ben Mendleson Receives Honourary Plaque



On his recent trip to Israel this past summer, Ben Mendleson was presented with a plaque in recognition of his contribution to the "Shahaf Center" in Tel Aviv. The Shahaf Center is affiliated with the Al-Sam, Anti-Drug Abuse Association whose goal it is to treat and and reduce drug use by Israeli youth. Ben committed a portion of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to the center.

Pictured above presenting the plaque (which is displayed at the Shahaf Centre) to Ben Mendleson is the Center's Director, **Varda Bar** whose son Shafaf Bar (photo in background) committed suicide as a result of drug abuse.

Much work is done by volunteers as well as paid staff and there is constant need for funding the programs designed to reach out to youth in the many cities and towns throughout Israel who are troubled by drug abuse and addiction. Financial contributions are always welcome and should you wish to make a donation, please contact the Mendleson household (477-5795) (Sylvia, Gerry or Ben) for details.

4 Generations



Great Grand-father, **Alex Chelekower** (of Dartmouth) stands next to 3 generations of his family in this family photo taken in Tel Aviv. Pictured from the left is his daughter **Sylvia Mendleson**, grandsons **Benjamin** and **Jonathan** who is holding the latest member of the family Great Grand-Son **Itamar** born in Tel Aviv on July 10, 2004. The family were all in Israel in July to attend Itamar's briss where Jonathan resides with his wife **Lilach** and their proud new addition – Itamar.

Canada and Israel – Two Countries With a Lot in Common

by *Ava Tsinman*

This summer, I had the opportunity to be the only Atlantic Canadian participant on the first ever all Canadian "Hasbara Fellowships" program. The main goal of the program was to educate 35 student leaders from 20 Universities all across Canada in Israel Advocacy, or "Hasbara", which comes from the Hebrew word "L'hasbir", meaning 'to explain'.

The trip was just over two weeks long and consisted of some touring, but mainly seminars. We had the opportunity to meet with some very influential people in Israeli politics and media, including **Ranan Gissin**, Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon's** advisor; **Shimon Peres**, former Prime Minister and current leader of the Labor Party; **Caroline Glick**, who writes for the *Jerusalem Post*; and many other politicians, ambassadors, political commentators, terror victims and members of Israeli media.

The most important thing I learned on this trip was that Canada and Israel share many values, and that Israel, like Canada, is a democratic country that promotes diversity. Israel has made many compromises to reach its goal of Peace, and with my own eyes I saw these compromises, and with my own ears I heard the stories, right there, where it all happened.

I heard stories of diversity, such as how the mayor of Jerusalem, an Orthodox Jew, is allowing the 'World Pride' parade, a gay pride parade, to occur in Jerusalem – not because he approves of homosexuality, but because Israel is a country which allows a diverse society. I learned that the Israeli Knesset (Israeli Parliament) has Arab-Israeli members who sit along side Jewish-Israeli members. I saw road signs with the three official languages of Israel, Hebrew, Arabic, and English. That reminded me of the bilingual society we have at home, here in Canada.

The "Hasbara Fellowships" program is designed for people who are interested in learning how to advocate for Israel. I can confidently say that I've never learned more in two weeks than I did as a participant on this program, not only about Israel Advocacy, but also about myself and my commitment to the state of Israel. For more information, check out Hasbara's website at www.israelactivism.com or contact me at avatsinman@gmail.com.

Ava Tsinman is a 3rd year Linguistics Student at Queen's University in Kingston, ON.

Eulogy for Beth Medjuck Z"L

Written by Lynda Suissa and Pamela Medjuck Stein (Toronto)

The Halifax Community was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Beth Medjuck, daughter of Ralph and Shirlee Medjuck on September 7, 2004.



One of the most precious memories in my life has also become a favourite bedtime story for my children. It is the story of the day Beth was born.

On July 9, 1969 my first summer at Camp Kadimah, an announcement was made calling Brian, Pam and Lynda Medjuck to the dining hall phone. We gathered in the kitchen where over the phone my father proudly told us the wonderful news of our new baby sister.

When I came home after camp and saw the beautiful baby girl dressed in pink, lying in the bassinet, I was too young to comprehend the meaning of her illness. I was too young to appreciate my parent's courage and determination as they took her on airplanes to the numerous surgeries and procedures to help fix her little heart. All I knew was that this was my baby sister who I needed to protect, care for and love. This feeling has always been with me and has come to define who I am.

Despite her health issues, Beth grew up doing all the things we all did. She started Camp Kadimah at 8 years old and went every year. She attended the Halifax Grammar School and then Queen Elizabeth High School. She completed her undergraduate degree at Western University and then went on to specialize in Media and Communications first at F.I.T in New York and then at Emerson in Boston where she received her Masters of Arts in Communications. While in New York she worked on the Good Morning America show which was a thrill. While at Emerson she had the opportunity to intern in L.A on the Seinfeld Show as a production assistant which led to a job at E-Television. She loved every minute of this time in her life and she shared it with me every day calling long distance from her cell phone keeping me up to date – "Today I saw Fonzi in the parking lot or I just saw Cindy Crawford on Rodeo Drive. Last night I went to the premiere and saw Kevin Costner and his kids." Wherever she was, she let me be part of her world.

The best part of Beth's Boston experience was meeting her wonderful husband Matt, the love of her life. Their wedding in Halifax seven years ago last week was the most beautiful and joyous simcha our family had ever seen. Beth sparkled like a shining princess and with her prince charming; this was the happiest day of her life.

Beth's heart was mechanically never very strong, but it was full to the brim with love for so many things. When I think of Beth, I think about all the things she loved so much. Her love for our parents was incredible. The three of them had a special bond that only they understood, having been through so many troubles and miracles together. In return their love for her was immense. From the day she was born, they cherished her. She was always their precious baby daughter even when she was grown up and a mother herself.

Beth loved to come home to her childhood home – Emscote Drive – and to our family's summer home in Chester. In Chester, she loved the little beach, the boat rides, the walks and the beautiful scenery. Then she would say, "I haven't been to Emscote yet, I need to go home and spend time there too."

She was planning on coming home for this Rosh Hashanah and was so looking forward to having her children and husband at her mother's Yom Tov lunch. The generational connection between her children, herself and her parents had a special magic for Beth.

What words can describe Beth's love for her children Isaac and Hallie. She glowed with love for them, she "kvelled" from every move, every smile and every achievement. She marveled at how cute they were, how sweet, how smart, how funny they were and how blessed she was. She thought constantly about their happiness and their needs.

Beth had so much love for her devoted husband Matt; she loved everything about him. She was so proud of his achievements and again

she marveled at how blessed she was to have Matt. She loved their life together. His family became her family and she would often say how lucky she was to have Nancy and Hank as her in-laws. She loved the whole Benjamin family dearly.

It is amazing how she crammed so much life and love into 35 years. We all think that we appreciate how fragile life is but Beth knew it and lived every minute to the fullest. She appreciated every moment. She loved to go with Matt in the motor boat across St. Margaret's Bay just to see the sky, the wind and the waves. She would always say "Just come with us, it's so beautiful."

The best word to describe Beth is "sparkle", as soon as she was born her soul shone bright and she sparkled. She was full of strength always. She was unbelievable. She would walk into the room and become the life of the party. She would sit with her girlfriends, and her laugh would sparkle above the noise of the room. When she walked anywhere holding Matt's hand she sparkled.

As much as a blessing as it is to give help to people, it is also an often-unmentioned blessing to receive help and Beth allowed us to shower her with the love, which sustained her. Her illness never defined her. She wore her V-neck T-shirts and showed her scar because she thought she looked better in a V-neck. Beth never complained or looked for sympathy, she never said "Why me?" My mother told me today that when Beth was a little girl and she had to climb a steep hill she would always take it in stride. Walk and rest, walk and rest, never asking to be carried or helped.

Initially it seems trite in today's materialistic times to mention beauty but Beth's beauty was the kind that transcended the material world. Many women look wonderful but Beth shone. You could see it in her aura, her love for Matt, her love for her children, her family, nieces, nephews and her friends.

Beth had so many life long friends. She cherished their friendships and always made an effort to do something with each one. She grabbed every opportunity to shower her love on those around her.

Beth was a positive person who loved to discuss happy events and funny stories. She loved the details of life and always wanted to hear every tiny fact in every situation. She didn't want to waste time talking about negative things. I realize now that she used all her energy to always be positive. She was blessed with a trait like our mother in that she never spoke "lashon horah". She didn't waste time on gossip. If we were talking and I said something about someone who had upset me, Beth would immediately take the other person's side and make me look at the positive in them. We would argue about this for a little while, then move on to another topic and always end up laughing.

Beth loved the Jewish traditions of her heritage, keeping a Kosher home and practicing the customs that had been passed down to her from her family. She had a deep sense of faith and spirituality and believed with all her heart in the blessings and prayers that sustained her. Although her Communications Degree surrounded her with the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and New York, ultimately her thesis of choice was a documentary that she produced and directed showing the strength and true happiness of Ultra – Orthodox Jewish women, as leaders of their families and communities.

Beth worked to make her life perfect and beautiful and it was. She had a husband and children and family who loved her absolutely.

For someone who began with a flaw in her heart, she used her heart and her life to make her world perfect.

When I close my eyes and picture Beth I see her beautiful glowing skin, her brilliant green eyes and her beaming smile and I feel her love for all of us.

She blessed our lives with her wonderful love for 35 years and now we must all pray to G-d to give us the strength to go on without her.....

MAY 2005 ADULT MISSION

In the spring of 2005, 18,000 men and women — young and old, Jew and non-Jew, Holocaust survivor and WWII veteran — will gather together in Poland to stand united against hatred and prejudice.

On May 5, 2005, Holocaust Remembrance Day, 18,000 people — of diverse ages, religions and cultures — will assemble amid the ruins of the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau to honor the memory of the victims of Nazi tyranny and to commemorate the Allied victory in Europe.

Please join our efforts to create a more peaceful and secure world ... for ourselves and for future generations

TRAVEL DATES

March of the Living 2005 will take place between May 2 and May 15, 2005. Participants will visit Poland where they will commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and Israel where they will take part in Israel's Remembrance Day and Independence Day Ceremonies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:

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(902) 422-7491 ext. 24

March 2005
OF THE LIVING

*A tribute to
Holocaust survivors & victims
and to those who
fought for freedom,
on the 60th anniversary
of the victory in Europe*



UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL TRIP FOR TEACHERS & EDUCATORS

The Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RCJO) is organizing a unique educational trip to Poland in May 2005 in conjunction with the March of the Living. This trip will visit historic sites in Poland as well as concentration camps, and will be a powerful learning experience for anti-racism, and Holocaust educators.

I hope you will consider joining us on this 6 day trip to Poland to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camps. For teachers and educators we have arranged a price of \$1200 (Toronto departure) and for Teacher Candidates a price of \$100, again Toronto departure. This includes air travel to Poland, land costs, meals and accommodations in Poland. Please visit the website below for all the details and feel free to contact me should you have any questions,

www.canadaisraelxperience.com/mol2005

Senator Jack Marshall

by Lawrence I. Gaum

Thursday, September 23, 2004 – Page A20

The Globe and Mail

The Colonel, honourable senator, warrior of the people. Born in Glace Bay, Cape Breton, NS on Nov. 26, 1919. Died on Aug. 17, 2004 in Morrisburg, Ont., of heart failure caused by leukemia, aged 84.

Colonel Jack, The People's Warrior as he was known, served the constituents of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador for 10 years as a Member of Parliament. He was then appointed senator by Prime Minister **Pierre Trudeau** and he continued to serve all Canadians until he retired at the age of 75.

Sixty years ago, on June 6, 1944, Allied forces invaded the beaches of Normandy. Among them was a young officer cadet by the name of Jack Marshall.

An officer cadet was officially an officer in training and Jack should have been back in England with a holding regiment waiting to be assigned to Sandhurst Military Academy. He had asked his adjutant instead for permission to stay with his unit, the North Shore New Brunswick Regiment, as they went into battle. His request was approved and he was the only officer cadet in the entire Allied forces to fight on Juno Beach on that day. His commanding officer was killed immediately, but this young man took command and led his comrades onto French soil to fight the enemy.

Jack was born in 1919 in Cape Breton, the seventh child of Jewish Belarusian immigrants **Louis** and **Rose Marshall**. There were 11 children and the family was poor, barely making a living.

Growing up was tough and Jack witnessed the Depression years and numerous hard times. His father died in 1933, leaving his mother to raise the children herself. He loved and revered his mother and, in many ways, his leadership qualities came from her.

Jack enlisted for active duty in the Canadian army during the war and rose from the rank of private to captain. After the

war he joined the Newfoundland militia where he eventually was promoted to colonel and he became the commanding officer for all of Newfoundland.

He was elected to Parliament in 1968, 1972 and 1974, working hard for his constituents and frequently visiting them in remote fishing villages, where other politicians would rarely go, except at election time. In 1978, he was appointed senator by Mr. Trudeau, and for 16 years he served in the Senate, representing the people of Canada and in particular his fellow veterans, many of whom were neglected and forgotten by their government.

A large number had been left without pensions, especially the ones who served in the Merchant Marine. Through his ceaseless efforts, the government finally relented and gave them pensions, although many were dead by the time it was approved. His hard work and sacrifice for the people took its toll and he suffered many heart operations. Despite these setbacks, he never regretted the work he did on their behalf.

Honour came to him as he so well deserved and he was the recipient of many awards. To highlight just a small fraction of them, in 1994, Jack was the recipient of a citation from the **Pope John Paul II**, honouring him for his work on behalf of his fellow veterans. He received both the Order of Canada and Order of Ontario, and was chosen to serve as the grand president of the Canadian Legion, one of a few Jewish veterans to achieve such an honour. He also served as commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada.

Such a wonderful, kind and honourable man, a good husband and father who served his country with distinction. What a career, what accomplishments, what a legacy to leave behind.

Rest in peace, warrior of the people. You deserve it.

(Lawrence Gaum was Senator Marshall's nephew).



*Tema Conter
Memorial Trust*

Gala Dinner & Dance

◆ Reception ◆ Dinner ◆ Musical Entertainment

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Better Late Than Never: Volunteering with SAR-EL

by Rachel Jacques

After three years of planning to visit Israel I finally did it in May 2004. Always planning for a better time, a safer time, waiting for "things" to calm down. Come on now! This is Israel; a good safe time might not be in my lifetime. So, I took a leap of faith, and I had the best time of life in G-d's country (literally!).

Not just wanting to visit Israel and help the economy through my shopaholic ways, I wanted to give some thing tangible to Israel and help her out. I decided to volunteer with SAR-EL for two weeks. I had no idea what I was getting myself into, and I knew I'd be roughing it for two weeks, but what is two weeks from the lifestyle of a Haligonian princess. What a humbling experience. I was stationed with a small group of Canadians and two Americans at an artillery base, named *Chasa Base* located between Ashdod and Ashkelon, ten miles from Gaza. Most of the soldiers on our base were between 18-20 years of age. It was a day base, so the majority of soldiers went home at the end of the day. Speaking to a few soldiers, I soon found out that many of the soldiers were stationed at Chasa because of psychological problems or having to help their families out after work. It wasn't depressing to work with these Israelis, kids are kids, and these soldiers had dreams for future careers, girlfriends, boyfriends, going to concerts, but they had a few glitches and maybe were impacted a bit more than others by Israel's condition. So many soldiers and civilians expressed such gratitude for me a Canadian who is living in peaceful Canada, to take vacation time from work and support Israel by volunteering with the

Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). I received many "G-d bless you", but it was my pleasure to be able to give just a little bit. Two weeks is nothing compared to the standard two years a female soldier must commit to or three years for a male.

What did I do at Chasa? In my ill fitted army fatigues, I cleaned and oiled large plastic geri cans so that soldiers will have clean water in containers, which will not crack from the Israeli sun's blistering light. It was not glamorous work by any means, but I had other volunteers and soldiers to speak with. We practiced our Hebrew, and discussed/argued over a nauseating amount of politics. It was fun and the days went by quickly. We only worked from 9am to 4pm with an hour lunch in between. The food was all right. Lunchtime was the best because this was the one time of the day you'd have a hearty meat meal, whereas supper and breakfast was dairy and fairly bland. Each night there was an activity planned and there were a couple of day trips too. I could go on forever about my SAR-EL experience, but I'd recommend you trying it out for yourself.

I travelled for a week after I volunteered and I spent time in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; I also hiked the Masada and floated in the Dead Sea. I felt very safe in my travels too. Israel is by far the most beautiful country I have ever visited. Living each day of our lives involves risks; driving on the high way is a risk. One never knows what the future will bring. I hope each person who reads this article will visit Israel (because I know you want to!) and love it as much as I did.

Maritime Mission to Israel, October 2004



Big Jon overlooking Old City.



"The Girls" in Jerusalem.



Martin and Gail Chernin, Bahai Gardens, Haifa.



Canada Day at Alei-Giva School, Galilee.



"The Gang" at Herzl Cemetery.



"The Guys" in Jerusalem.
L-R: S. Jacobson, A. Wolfson, D. Levine, F. Medjuck, N. Ross, F. Cappell, M. Chernin.



Halifax UJA Campaign

CHAIR – KATHY ZILBERT shown with students and staff at Alei-Giva School – having fun! November, 2004.

Gift card sales, private endowments and campaign donations enable the Atlantic Region to provide computer labs, English texts and audio visual aids to Alei-Giva School – our partner in P2K in the Upper Galilee of Israel.

Thank you to all who gave generously to the 2004 Campaign!

Visit Israel and share Kathy's smile.



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