

שלום! Shalom!

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News from Around the Region
JIAS News Release



Hope your Hanukkah is bright and warm!



שלום

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Executive Director:

Jon Goldberg

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Marie Herschorn

Features:

Joel Jacobson

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

Address all correspondence to:

Editor, c/o *Shalom*

5670 Spring Garden Road

Suite 508

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6

Tel. (902) 422-7491

Fax (902) 425-3722

Email:

mhserschorn@theajc.ns.ca

Email:

atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

Website:

www.theajc.ns.ca

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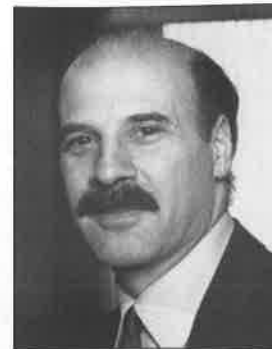
Phone: (902) 423-2679

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President's Message

by Mark Rosen



As I sit down to write this report my mind starts to wander, only 30 more shopping days until Chanukah. It's hard to believe the year is quickly coming to an end – the adage that the older you become the faster the years fly by is really quite true ... and depressingly so! Whatever.

On reflection, we began the year preparing for an emotional roller coaster. As supporters of Israel, we were encouraged by a positive international response to Israel's scheduled unilateral withdrawal from Gaza although we were anxious of anticipated actions of civil disobedience that could occur between the settlers, their supporters and soldiers removing them from their homes. Despite the inevitable clashes, the disengagement went remarkably well, providing Israel with some of the best international press it has seen in years and some movement, albeit short-lived, towards a negotiated settlement with the PA. We end the year reflecting on the tenth anniversary of Rabin's assassination and what could have been, and wondering whether Sharon's political gambit of creating a new centrist political party will ultimately lead to stable government and the leadership necessary to move the peace process forward. With recent edicts from Iran's leadership calling for the destruction of Israel coupled with their nuclear designs and the PA's inability or lack of desire to rein in terrorists, we require strong leadership in Israel and unwavering support here at home and abroad.

In conjunction with our need to support Israel, attendees at the General Assembly of United Jewish Communities held recently in Toronto, heard our Prime Minister speak out in support of Israel. Mr. Martin praised Jewish concerns for social justice, slammed the UN's ritualized anti-Israel resolutions, linked Canadian and Israeli values and condemned statements made by Iran's President calling for the destruction of Israel. While Canada's history of voting at the UN on Israel related issues has often been questioned, Mr. Martin reiterated

Canada's support of Israel's rightful place in the community of nations, pledging that Canada will push to end the annual anti-Israel politicized resolutions. Noting that we are entering an election campaign in the next few months, we will watch and listen to all political parties, as action indeed speaks louder than words.

While the world (Jewish) scene remains fluid, events at home, especially in our backyard, have been relatively quiet. The AJC continues to provide programs to our various communities, despite a lack of resources. We have experienced a number of personnel changes at the office including the arrival in September of **Naama** and **Dael Milun**. Naama replaced **Sarah Wilner** as our Campus Director and her husband Dael not only assists her in this function, he also coordinates youth programs in Halifax, as well as teaching in the joint Beth Israel/Shaar Shalom Hebrew school classes. Their efforts to date have been well received and we welcome them to our community.

As you read this we will have experienced another major change in our office. **Marie Herschorn**, who has been a mainstay in our office these past twelve years, has departed to return to her "homeland", St. John's. Halifax's loss is indeed Newfoundland & Labrador's gain! Marie will be greatly missed for her professionalism, sensitivity and diligence in her work on behalf of the UJA campaign and her unwavering loyalty to our office (especially Jon) and the Atlantic Jewish community these many years. Marie will be missed by many – certainly myself and the Executive of the AJC. We wish Marie well in her future endeavours.

On that note, it is time to conclude this report. Wishing all a Happy Chanukah and a happy and healthy new year. In the words of **Ed Murrow** – good night and good luck!



From the Desk of Executive Director, Jon Goldberg

by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Welcome to our Hanukkah edition of Shalom! This is a wonderful time of year as we light the 8 candles to celebrate the festival of freedom. As the days of 2005 dwindle I look back upon another year of continual change at the AJC. I guess that's what keeps us on our toes. There is no status quo.

Our efforts to maintain Jewish continuity in Atlantic Canada continue whether it be through adult programming, youth programming, cultural/religious or Holocaust education. I'm pleased that our office has been able to provide some level of support when called upon. I want to congratulate the leadership in all the communities throughout the region – not just the AJC Board members, who in many ways provide the ties that bind us together as an Atlantic Canada community, but also the local Shul Presidents and members of the synagogues, Boards and the community Presidents who work with myself and our office. I know that providing a Jewish life for ourselves and our children in many ways is becoming more difficult as the years go by. Except for Halifax, and possibly Moncton, our population is dwindling. Many of our best and brightest young people go away to university and never return, yet I am determined as the Executive Director of the AJC to do the best I can whatever the circumstance.

I am pleased to say that we have Immigration Committees in a number of our communities and that may be a way to increase our population in the future. There is also a Mentoring committee being formed in Halifax in the hopes of working towards providing opportunities for some of the hundreds of college students in Halifax who may wish to remain here or in other communities throughout the Maritimes.

Camp Kadimah had a great summer. We bid a fond farewell to **Marty Zatzman** as Camp Director and welcome **Joanna Wexler** as our Director for the coming year. Joanna has worked in our office since university and I know she'll do a great job.

In September we welcomed 3 young Israelis to our region – **Moria Gabsi** in St. John's, NL who came through the Areva Program to work with the community and, **Dael and Naama Milun**, a young husband and wife team sent to us through the Jewish Agency to work in Halifax with campus, youth programming and part time teaching in the Hebrew School. They have been great additions to our communities. It is my opinion that in a number of our smaller communities without Rabbis this Program (Israel Volunteers) would be a great option.

This fall kicked off our 2005 UJA campaign. While results are not final, thanks to the hard work of our volunteer canvassers, under our Regional Chair, Dr. **Howard Conter** and some terrific community Chairs, it looks like 2005 will be another successful year, both for Israel and for the Atlantic Jewish community.

Unfortunately one must always take the good with the bad and I must inform our readers that this will be **Marie Herschorn's** last issue of Shalom as Editor. Marie will be leaving the AJC office after almost 12 years of loyal and faithful efforts on our behalf. I know all our readers will join me in wishing her well in her future endeavours.

In a few days I will be leaving for my annual trip to Israel for our Partnership 2000 Winter Board meetings. This year I will be joined by **Arthur and Kathy Zilbert** as representatives on the National P2K, along with Howard Conter, who at their own expense, will spend 5 days in the Northern Galilee Panhandle meeting with the Mayors and visiting the various communities and projects that we, in Atlantic Canada have supported.

Well my friends, I guess it's time to sign off. This coming year will be my 15th year at the Atlantic Jewish Council and in February I will turn 60. I assure all our readers that although I'm getting older I'm also getting wiser. I'd like to send my best wishes to all our readers for a Happy Hanukkah. May 2006 be a year of good health, happiness and peace for you and your families.



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From the desk of Naama and Dael Milun

Israeli volunteer "Shaliachs", Campus Services & Youth Programming

"If you will, it is no fairytale"

Theodore Herzl

It hardly seems like only two months have passed since the Immigration officer at Pearson International Airport hesitantly handed us our working permits and sent us on our way to Halifax. Yet, so much has been accomplished in this short time since our arrival. We have already mastered the unique and complicated garbage disposal system and we have also become accustomed to the good nature that Haligonians exhibit on a daily basis, such as driving courteously and holding elevator doors open for others. Speaking of opened doors, thanks to some new relationships we have made here, many doors have been opened for us. We would like to thank **Jon Goldberg** and the entire executive of the AJC for their warm welcome and for providing us, as volunteers, with this unique opportunity.

In addition to the professional rapport we have made with many people, we have also begun to forge some friendships. Among them, 'The Shaar's' **Cantor Ari** has been a constant resource giving us 'survival tips' along the way, and he's a great friend with whom we spend much of our spare time. **Rabbi and Tali Grunstein** of 'the Beth' also always look after us, making sure that we are getting by fine, which with Tali's cooking is easy to do! We are definitely starting to understand why Halifax is a great place to be! We have been working hard to provide that same type of hospitality, through the JSA, to the Jewish students who are in the region to study. Hosting Shabbat and Holiday dinners, both at the Bayit and at our home, is one way to create bonds with the students. But, it also involves shopping for food at the grocery stores. In Israel, fruits and veggies are extremely cheap to buy and junk food is very expensive. Here it seems like it's the exact opposite. But don't worry, we're making sure not to get into any bad habits! Your students are being fed well!

In addition to feeding the students with food, we've also been feeding them with programs and activities. A week doesn't go by without a program held. In the first week of school, the JSA exec focused on properly strategizing in order to get many people involved. It worked, and in those first few days, we added over a hundred new names to our email list. Our big launch party was a BBQ (JEWBQ) at the Bayit that over 150 students attended, many of whom also showed interest in getting more involved and potentially even participating in Birthright programs. Since then, we have sponsored lectures, held several fundraisers, numerous social events and various outreach and educational programs. In fact, just the other day, we overheard a bunch of students in the Superstore discussing the latest JSA weekly email.

A new reality on the Dalhousie campus is that world

politics has become an issue at the forefront of the minds of many students. Similar to situations on other campuses across the country, Israel is sometimes misrepresented and falls victim to discrimination. To counteract this trend and in an attempt to create a pro-Israel sentiment on campus, the students conceptualized the new Israel Action Committee. Represented by both Jews and others, its aim is to portray Israel as the democratic country that it is, through lectures, movies, outreach and training. We have already had exhibits on display in the SUB commemorating the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, and marking the 10 years since the assassination of Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin**. As Israelis, our exposure to the conflicts first-hand will hopefully provide valuable insight and guidance to the students.

All the significant progress this year in the increased Jewish presence on campus and the enriching variety of programs is possible because of the hard work and dedication of the JSA exec. Everyday we are more and more amazed and in awe of their passion and creativity. They are all intelligent, personable and mature individuals, and it is a delight to work so closely with each and every one of them. More than just colleagues, they have also become great friends.

We know that the Jewish students studying at other campuses in the region are also dedicated and do their best in trying to create a Jewish life on their campuses. Therefore, we are looking forward to visiting these other campuses in the region, and are currently planning a major conference for all Jewish students in Atlantic Canada which will hopefully be held next semester, made possible with the help of the AJC, NJCL, Hasbarah Fellowships and Hillel.

We have also enjoyed being active with the Jewish community at-large. We have been involved in the coordination of several kids programs, including the apple-picking trip, the teenage kids club and the joint Hebrew school's Sukkot program. We are currently assisting in the planning of the upcoming Chanukkah party. We also have ideas for some stimulating adult programming, so keep your eyes open!

You have an eager student body and a great community, and we encourage you to help it grow and ensure its continuance by supporting it and sustaining it. We are glad to be able to put our stamp on this wonderful city, and we will work hard to make sure that the next few months are just as successful as these past few. If you have feedback, questions, comments, ideas or concerns, feel free to contact us because we would love to talk with you: milun@theajc.ns.ca

Around the Region

Some very memorable travels of late – some glad, some sad.

Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain

SAINT JOHN

For Saint John, in the month of August, it was all sad. We lost four memorable friends of ours.

Mr. **Harry Gaum** was a stalwart member of the community in his last years. Being a Gaum, of course, means that he spent his early years in Cape Breton. He was always at synagogue, always able to read a maftir, always with a good word for everyone, always ready to offer his help. We offer **Lois Bessoudo** and **Simon** our condolences and share their sorrow.

Bessie Selby was well-known by all in Saint John – Jew and Gentile. Most notable was her television cooking show which she ran in the 80's. I tried to look for extant tapes of it, but the CBC was on strike then. Perhaps we will have another look.

My family and I took a trip to New York that month. We were leaving from Saint John just after Shabbat, when we heard **Joan Smith** had passed away. She had lived in Fredericton of late, after her husband Ben had passed away two years ago. As I mentioned in my eulogy, Joan and Ben Smith are two people who never said a bad word about anyone, nor did anyone else ever say anything about them.

We got off to New York, but then as we came back, Bessie's son **Sandy** finished his days, after a long fight against cancer. To his brothers **Bob** and **Harvey**, we all are conscious of their double sorrow and pray that they find consolation among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

To my friends in Saint John – we must keep going. There are still people to visit, youth to be educated, services to conduct in your community. Let the memory of those we lost be like a Hebrew verb, reversing the past to the future, and may the good lives they lead be models for us.

NEW YORK

We did finally get to New York! And stayed with some marvelous people – **Usher Pillar** and his family, from Flatbush.

Usher is not known in most communities in the Maritimes, but everyone in Glace Bay knows him. For he and his friend **Reuven Schmidt** own a house there which once belonged to the late **Norman Lipschutz**, of blessed memory. They rent it out and allow me to stay in the “granny flat” in back. So when I'm in Glace Bay, that's where you'll find me.

Usher usually comes up to Glace Bay every two or three years to check up on things. And he has said, if you're ever in New York, come and stay with us. Well, this was the year we called Usher's hand, and we were not disappointed.

We walked up and down the Coney Island / Ave. J area of Flatbush where they live. We visited several great museums – the Jewish museum, the Ellis Island museum (Maybe I should apply for some royalties!) and the Lubavitch museum. Of course, we availed ourselves of the great restaurants. Mr.



Left to right: Professor Colin Grant, Mt. Allison University, Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain, Mr. Riaz Akhtar, Moslem Community of Moncton.

Broadway, between 37th and 38th Streets, offers a marvelous menu – do not miss it next time you are there. For something exotic, try the kosher Indian restaurant around 28th and Lexington. There, with **Sara Greenblatt**, we enjoyed some truly unique and healthy foods.

CAPE BRETON

Of course, Cape Breton is always on my travels. Mazel Tov to **Max Gross**, son of **Susan Chernin**, who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Glace Bay, with a marvelous mini-kum a'heim of friends and relatives. Glace Bay has been written off by many for some time now, but, as **Molly Brown** used to say, “They ain't down yet.”

And the month of October had almost no travelling, but I was in Sydney almost the whole month. We had lively participation in all services during the holidays. The **Dubinsky** choir was in full form, same melodies as they learned 40-50 years ago. We had a rousing dance and sing-a-long during the *hakafot* of Simchat Torah.

A sad note – on Shemini Atzeret, we lost **Sam Cohen** of Glace Bay. Sam was an old fashioned Cape Breton storyteller. I know I heard at least several hundred from him, just about the Jewish community. The best one is about the *schochet* who sold two tongues in Glace Bay many years back. Those of you from Glace Bay have heard it; those who have not, ask me, and I'll tell it to you sometime.

I wish to thank the whole community but especially **Carolyn** and **Eric Rabinovitch**, **Edie** and **Garson Lecker**, **Shirley Chernin**, **Gail** and **Martin Chernin** and **Barbara** and **Herman Nathanson** for their hospitality during my stay.

MONCTON

Moncton was also on the route – half sorrow, half simchah.

Mrs. **Sarah Block** was brought back to her eternal rest in her birthplace, after a full life of nearly a century. She, of

continued on page 7

Camp Kadimah Report

by Joanna Mirsky Wexler, Director, Camp Kadimah

Shalom!

A few quick words of introduction; my name is **Joanna Mirsky Wexler**, and I am Camp's first full time Director. I have spent the last ten years working with Kadimah as a Senior Specialist, Section Head, Camp Administrator, and Assistant Director. I have been fortunate enough to have worked with Directors, **Sheldon Cohen** and **Marty Zatzman** as well as two sets of Co-Chairs of the Camp Committee, **Mark Rosen** and **Andrew Wolfson**, as well as **Victor Goldberg** and **Jim Spatz**, and am very grateful that I have had such positive role models. Although I am originally from Montreal, my parents say I have been "stolen by the Maritimes" and it's true- I really love being a part of Halifax's Jewish community. I am one of many "Kadimah Couples", having both met and married my husband **Ezra** on Camp grounds.

Kadimah 2005 was a record summer, with over 130 staff and 327 campers for 6 weeks. It was Marty Zatzman's final summer after a very successful five years as Director, and

after 20 years at Kadimah, he will be missed by generations of campers and staff who have worked and played with him, and been inspired by him.

Kadimah facilities were once again used by our long term partners, Canadian Parents for French to run their French Camp after our season, and this year two new groups started calling Camp Kadimah home – Camp Lion Maxwell ran a week long camp for children with diabetes, and the Department of Natural Resources ran a very successful "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program. The feature film, "Summerhood", written and directed by **Jacob Medjuck**, was also filmed on site this fall, and we wish them the best of luck in their endeavour. Soon we can all appreciate the beauty of Lake William on the big screen!

Every year, we get a little bit bigger and better than we had been before. This summer we enjoyed a much enlarged Chadar Ochel thanks to the generous contributions of **Ralph** and **Shirlee Medjuck**, and the songs that emanated out of the dining hall seemed stronger and louder than ever. The Hightower needed replacement and was rebuilt thanks to **David, Lisa, Jeremy and Molly Ehrlich**. Camp Kadimah gives out close to \$50,000 a year in scholarships to campers who would not otherwise be able to participate in the Kadimah experience. Many parents and alumni have contributed generously to our scholarship fund, notably **Robyn** and **Michael Storfer** who have donated a full CIT scholarship.

An Alumni event was held in May, hosted by **Joe** and **Freema Trager** to raise funds for a cabin named in memory of **Gershon Yuval**. The event was well attended, and was enjoyed by all. We hope to see many more alumni at the next event!

Many thanks to Victor Goldberg, Jim Spatz, and the rest of the Camp Kadimah Committee for their extensive time and effort in and out of Camp season. It is their commitment that makes their visions of Kadimah a reality for so many.

As Kadimah 2006 approaches we get set for new ideas and innovations. Interviews have started for general staff, and the senior staff is almost complete. Camp rallies are being set for December in Toronto, in January and February for Ottawa and communities in Atlantic Canada, and we sincerely hope to see you there! **Jillian Zuckerman** is returning as Assistant Director, and we invite you to join us on the camp website at www.campkadimah.com.

See you Visitor's Day 2006!

ROYAL LEPAGE
Atlantic



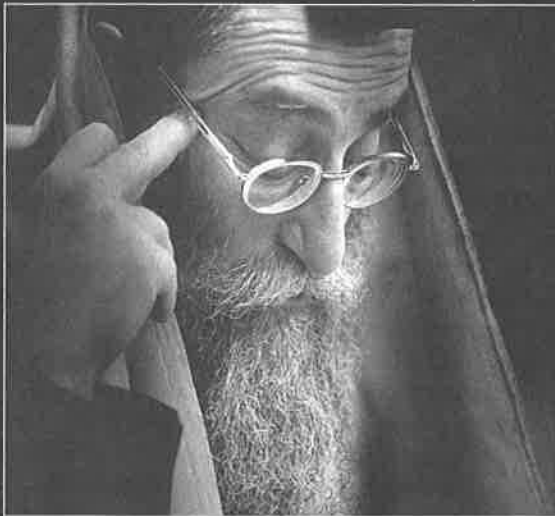
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ANDREW (Avrum) DANSON



Chassid, Paris, 1998



self-portrait, Jean Chrétien, 1985

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relocated to Halifax

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course, lived on PEI for many years. We will always remember Sarah's smiling face and her thoughts for others, not allowing her later years of disability to dampen her spirits. We will, with her children **Beverley David** and **Marvin Block** and their families, always remember Sarah for a blessing.

Just recently, I returned from Moncton, where they honoured **Joseph** and **Sue Kahn** for their many years of service to the community. Moncton is privileged to have as great a teacher as Joseph has been. More than just the content of his teaching, his Old World values and mannerisms, his willingness to be always at service, his neighbourliness and genuine friendship to all – make him a person that a generation of Moncton students have come to revere.

HALIFAX – THE PAUL WATTSON LECTURE

Finally, I was back in Halifax – sort of. We welcomed Rabbi **Jack Bemporad** in from Seacaucus, New Jersey, to be this year's **Paul Wattson** lecturer. Rabbi Bemporad runs the Center for Interreligious Understanding www.faithindialogue.org in Seacaucus, New Jersey. Because of his fluency in Italian and his scholarship, he has become a liaison from the U.S. Jewish community to the Vatican in recent years and has taken part in some historic understandings and reconciliations.

As those of you who came to the Wattson Lecture noted, Rabbi Bemporad is one of the clearest, incisive and well-informed thinkers you will ever meet. He had the privilege of studying with the great European Jewish scholars who centered at the New School for Social Research after World War II.

Of course, with the "Roving Rabbi," we had to do a bit of travelling. So the Bemporads accompanied me to Antigonish, to give a talk at St. FX, and to Moncton for a speech to the general community.

What I most noted of Rabbi Bemporad is his keen interest in everyone's questions and comments. He would sit and discuss very complicated issues in physics and the philosophy of science with Dr. **Michael Steinitz** of St. FX, or he would give 5-10 minutes to answer a simple question from someone in Moncton. All were valuable and important to him.

Rabbi Bemporad took a great liking to this region and says he may travel back here this summer from his home in Vermont. He is also making himself available for consultations on matters of Holocaust education and will be in touch with many persons around the Maritimes.

For those of you who missed the Wattson lecture, it was taped and will be broadcast sometime soon of ATV, on a Sunday afternoon. Stay tuned for details.



From the Synagogue

by Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, N.S.

I'm not sure what number article this is since I began to write articles for our local Shalom Magazine. Being a bit "lazy" as well, while they are all filed

"somewhere" on the computer, I still am not going to invest the time to look and see what I have written, and thus decide, after long and tireless consideration, what more there is to write.

Why not? Well, I must confess; While I may be wrong, I always considered the "Rabbi's message" in any Magazine, Paper or Bulletin 1 of the more "boring" parts of the publication. I thought, therefore, that I would begin a bit differently this time, specifically in the manner that we at the Beth-Israel in Halifax always begin our week of work right after Havdalah as darkness saturates the skies at the end of each Shabbat – With a Joke! [This one I heard from a dear friend, **R' Andrew Rosenblatt** of Vancouver, with a different twist]

One Shabbat Morning, a mother went into the bedroom to wake her Son and tell him it was time to get ready to go to the Synagogue, to which he Replied: "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and two, I don't like them."

His mother replied:

"I'll give YOU two good reasons why you MUST go to the Synagogue.

ONE you're 54 years old, and TWO, you're the Rabbi..."

The Joke above contains a glimpse into the often "complex" relationship between rabbi and congregation during our long History, the failure of many men to cut the "umbilical cord" at an appropriate age and the fact that even people who love Judaism sometimes don't like to come to Shul.

The truth is that even from the position of Rabbi, who has been Shomer Shabbat and a "shul goer" for as long as I can recall, I can see why many don't like to come and fulfill this 3 times daily obligation; No understanding of the Hebrew liturgy, many of the prayers seem like just a long recitation of Chinese, and the prayers are, at times, many and long [Couldn't they have made it a little shorter?]. And why does the Torah reading take so long? . . .

It would be a bit too presumptuous to say, "If you would only understood you would enjoy, it is like fine wine an acquired taste." Or "A little education goes a long way toward appreciation." However, not only are such pontifications ineffective, they are counter productive!

Coming to Shul is not just about the text of the prayers & Torah reading; The shul is the hub of connection and sensitivity to the world and to others; Let's recall that our Patriarchs and Matriarchs all are remembers by any 5 years old Boy/Girl from his/her Parsha Classes as people who excelled in the area of "Hachnasat Orchim"/Hosting and being hospitable. Seeing others, understanding their own needs and thus praying for them is the essence of doing good. While Robison Caruso should be recalled for being able to survive all alone, he lost out on the opportunity to do for others, and thus the availability to do good, feel for the other, and try to help.

I often wonder how people who do not belong to a shul are able to easily know that they are part of a larger world of Friends who care; I.E- How do they keep informed about central issues concerning friends and families, Israel and the Jewish Community at large?

A typical Shabbat morning in a shul actively pulls all the strands of community together; The Prayers for the State and the State of Israel and its' security forces, the reflection on the weeks events, Sermons that often connect to those themes on our minds or that should be on our minds, from Todd Bertuzzi to the Crisis in Sudan, from the Israel's disengagement to keeping healthy.

What better way to stay connected to each other then having everyone in the Shul singing together!

What more appropriate way to feel connected then by joining a "Chesed committee" that reaches out to those who have fallen ill, or moved into town, delivered a baby or just needed a little extra help.

Indeed, it's long, strange, hard and sometimes uncomfortable. But that's the price of being a family functioning together in 1 room. The Jewish nation can only unite and be 1 family if we all pray together at the same time, the same place and in the same Language. Thank G-d for our sages who enacted the above notions of Shul, Minyan and public prayer service.

CHAZAK V'EMATZ — an outreach Jewish support group has been established for amputees to receive *chizuk* and to Adjust to life. It is open to both men and women.

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

Jewish men and women disabled due to multiple sclerosis and using electric wheelchairs are also welcome to attend. We meet twice a year at baycrest cafeteria for a light Meal and discuss disability issues. Please join us if you Fall in this category.

For more information and confidential support, please Call **RUTH EVA STRAUSS AT 416-7833-717** in the evenings or via e-mail at ruthvaustrass@yahoo.com

Beth Israel Letters

by Joel Jacobson

Children of the Beth Israel Synagogue Hebrew school in Halifax tried to make the upcoming Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) a happier time for youngsters displaced by Hurricane Katrina in the United States Gulf Coast.

The children participated in a national campaign to send L'Shana Tova (Happy New Year) letters to 17 children presently in Memphis, members of Congregation Beth Israel in New Orleans.

The Halifax synagogue's Hebrew School is part of ToTal, a national network of Hebrew school programs that provides quality programming for children around the United States and Canada.

"The New Year" (October 2-4), comments Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein of Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax, "commemorates the creation of the first human being on earth, and is a wonderful opportunity to symbolize the common ground we all stand on."

Rabbi Grunstein stresses the The L'Shana Tova cards are being written by children, for children.

"What better way to celebrate this momentous day than by intertwining children from around the world. Perhaps, as pen pals emerge and communications open, more projects and ways our kids can help will come to fruition. For now, we're simply telling those children that there are thousands of kids around the country; who feel for them and want to wish them a happy and healthy new year.

Thought I'd share it with you. May we have a wonderful year of moderated weather but intense programming..."

A Special Greeting

excerpt from the October 5, 2005 issue of
The Daily News



Hebrew school students Zack Novack, 11, and Robyn Budovitch, 10, make Jewish New Year's cards at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax on Sunday. The Cards will be sent to kids from Louisiana now living in Tennessee who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Jewish New Year, known as Rosh Hashana, is celebrated next month.

(PETER PARSONS / Staff)



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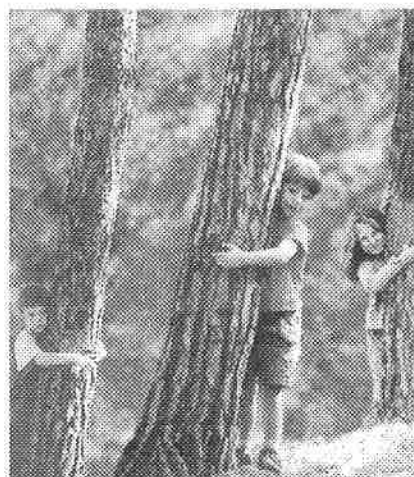


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Halifax Jewish Community Raises Funds for Cancer Research

by Cantor Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

The Holiday period was clearly a busy time in my schedule, as it was for every Jew. Nevertheless, it didn't deter us from participating in an important endeavour in the days leading up to the High Holidays.

More than 30 congregants from both my Shaar Shalom and the Beth Israel joined the 'Shaar Shalom' team in the 'run for the cure' raising money for Cancer research. In addition to everyone's personal donation collection, the Shaar Shalom team raised over \$ 1 500 for the cause. The following is my personal reflection as to why these types of ventures are important to be involved in.

A truly pious, religious and righteous Jew is one who helps others in their struggles and challenges in life. This does not just imply helping someone religiously by advising and instructing them about Judaism. The expression our mishna uses – bearing the "yoke" ('oal' in Hebrew) – has a very physical connotation. We are to help others in all their problems – physical, financial and emotional. Every individual is created in Hashem's image, and all of his or her needs are important and deserving of our attention.

If we look at **Abraham's** list of accomplishments, the most impressive would have to be that he discovered Hashem. He grew up among idol worshippers. With no outside help or influence, he personally sought out Hashem, found Hashem, and developed a relationship with Hashem. Once Hashem became such a palpable and perceptible presence to Abraham, Hashem in turn revealed himself.

So Abraham's most amazing accomplishment would have to be his discovering G-d. Yet he was not really known for it – at least not in his time. He was much more famous for something else: hospitality, nurturing and comforting. He

sat outside his tent waiting for travelers to come by in order to invite them in for a meal, rest and ailment assistance. And when they did come, he waited on them hand and foot. The Sages even tell us that Abraham excused himself from a Divine encounter in order to tend to a sick guest.

So, why did Abraham and **Sarah** tend to people's needs? They did so, they acted in this nurturing way for the sake of those who needed the help and for humanity. Think about it. Food, clothing, water, nurturing, lovingkindness, healing the sick – these are all universal needs, for all of humankind.

Every morning we recite the Birkot Hashachar. One of the blessings we recite is "Praised are you, Lord our G-d, king of the universe, who guides me along my path" – "Ha-meichin Mi'tzadai Gaver". What we can infer from this blessing is the following: We are not just thanking Hashem for showing us the just path, but we are also thanking Hashem that we have woken up this morning, with legs to stand on, strong legs to walk with – not only must we use our strong legs for our own good, but we must use them to help support those who are weaker than us, those people who do not have strength to

walk. Through our participation in the 'run for the cure', we used our strong legs in support of those who needed and still need our strength.

Piety and righteousness is not limited to the sanctuary. It is rooted and based there, but must extend to our secular lives. A truly righteous Jew is one who contributes to the society in which they live just as much as to the religion of which they are a part.

May we all find ways to be righteous both in our religious lives as well as our secular lives. Shana tova and have a wonderful winter season!



ANNOUNCEMENT

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Herman Cohen**, New Jersey, formerly of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia upon receiving his Honorary Doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary on November 17th, 2005.

For your gift needs

contact Beth Israel Sisterhood Gift Shop.
Call **Mindy Jacobson, 423-2049;**
Barbara Alberstat, 422-5526
or **Bette Ross, 422-9205.**

Official Opening of the Ralph Medjuck Building

In recognition of Ralph M. Medjuck's many contributions to Dalhousie University, the Board of Governors is pleased to rename the newly renovated Architecture and Planning Building in his honour. The Ralph Medjuck Building will support our faculty and students in their continuing work to make communities around the world better places to live.



INSURANCE PHOTOGRAPHY

If your house or business was destroyed in a fire, could you remember everything that was in your closets, drawers or cabinets?

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Club Massada News

by Barb Alberstat, President

Club Massada's first get together for the start of a new season was a huge success with thirty-eight members and friends on a bus trip to the Valley in the comfortable new **Tim Horton's** Courtesy Bus. We stopped for lunch and at several fruit stands along the way. Everyone had a wonderful day. We made a donation from the money collected to the Tim Horton children's Foundation that enables children to have a healthy, fun filled vacation that their family could not provide. What a great way to start the year with beautiful fresh apples and honey for the Yom Tovim.

The slate of officers for the coming year are: **Barbara Alberstat** – President; Recording Secretary – **Joyce Gordon**; Correspondence Secretary and Club Massada cards – **Marianne Ferguson**; Treasurer – **Phil Alberstat**; Membership – **Celia Fried**; personal Massada cards – **Naomi Judah**; Phone Committee Head – **Mindy Jacobson**; Photographer – **Borace Jacobson**; Knitting committee Head – **Celia Fried**. Many thanks to all these enthusiastic members who keep Club Massada the number one club for seniors and one of the best social gatherings for Jewish Seniors in the Halifax/Dartmouth area.

The October meeting was held in the **Shirley Burnstein** Community Room at Northwood with **Edith Schneiderman** in the Chair. **Ralph Garson** introduced the guest speaker, **Mark David** who gave a moving talk and slide show of his trip on the Adult March of the Living.

We congratulate Shirley Burnstein and the Northwood Players on the launching of their first CD called "Young at Heart" and that's what they are. A lot of hard work went into this project and we applaud everyone for getting this off the ground and wish you lots of good luck.

Congratulations to **David Israel**, son of **Helen** and **Terry Israel** on winning the lovely painting that was done by our

very own **Naomi Judah**. The painting was drawn for at the closing dinner held at the Saraguay Club on June 16. Everyone enjoyed the many dishes served on the buffet table. A fitting scenic evening to end on a high note for a good season.

The Knitting Group has been busy all summer and many thanks to the knitters who have been very busy knitting toques, mittens and scarves for the needy. There have been over 150 pieces delivered to such places as Ad Sum House and Brunswick Street Church who give out these items in time of need. If anyone has balls of wool that they aren't using, or would like to buy some winter items for this group, please contact Celia.

Club Massada and the Shaar Shalom Synagogue will be holding a Chanuka Luncheon on December 15, 2005 at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue and we want to thank the Synagogue for allowing us to hold his happy event in their Synagogue. Many thanks to **Barbara Silburt**, head of the Senior Committee for her help in organizing this luncheon for Club Massada members and guests. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a wonderful afternoon. Barbara would be happy to give you any information on this event and we hope to see you there.

Our next meeting will be held on January 19, 2006 at Northwood and if anyone is interested in joining us, please call Celia Fried for more information. Hope you will have a healthy and peaceful 2006.



Seated: Sarah Rose, Edith Schneiderman.
Standing: Mindy Jacobson, Marta Marcus



Borace Jacobson, Phil Alberstat, Barb Alberstat with our bus driver.



Seated: Carol Ann Silverman, Molly Rechnitzner.
Standing: Phil Alberstat.



Seated: Ina Kohler, Helen Ziderman, Debbie Conter.
Standing: Barb Alberstat.

Congregation Sons of Israel commemorates Remembrance Day

by Dr. Garson Lecker



Veteran Sam Karrel

On November 12th the Congregation Sons of Israel, Sydney, celebrated a Remembrance Service honouring Veterans for their dedication and devotion to the cause of freedom and peace.

Guest speaker on this occasion was Veteran **Sam Karrel**, of Glace Bay. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in September 1942. After four months training in Canada, he went overseas and spent several months training in England.

Early in 1943, he was on a troop ship heading for North Africa in preparation for the invasion of Sicily and Italy by the British Eighth Army, to which his Regiment, The Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, 4th Reconnaissance, 1st Canadian Division, was now attached.

He recalled, without going into specific details, the involvement of the Eighth Army, under General **Montgomery** in historic battles in Italy. The crossing of the Moro River, the Gothic Line, the Hitler line and the battle of Ortona, during the winter of 1944.

Early in 1945 his Regiment was moved to the continent to join the invasion forces which landed in France on June 6th. His regiment spent some time in France, Belgium and Holland, and then Germany.

1989 was the 50th anniversary of the start of the second world war, and because it was the 50th anniversary people started to take notice, prodded perhaps by the media's interest in what was happening to the generation that went off to fight for freedom and democracy. Within the next few years the interest grew as other anniversaries came due from that war – the raid on Dieppe in August 1942 by Canadian troops with disastrous casualties, the end of the war in Europe and the Pacific war and Korea.

All these events helped to heighten awareness of our nation's sacrifices. But most importantly they awakened a growing awareness of the contributions and sacrifices in all of our military operations.

Mr. Karrel closed his remarks by reading the names of Cape Breton Jews who were either killed, wounded, or a prisoner of war.

The Remembrance Day service is a long standing project of **Dr. & Mrs. Garson Lecker**, and is followed by a lunch for all in attendance.

Ada Simon, Glace Bay Turns 90



A dinner meeting was held in June to mark the joyous occasion of Ada Simon's 90th birthday. The event was hosted by the Hebrew Ladies Aid and Hadassah-Wizo chapter of Glace Bay.

Ada was presented with a beautiful afghan in appreciation of her devotion to the Synagogue and her dedication to the State of Israel. Residing in Glace Bay for over 60 years, Ada will leave a void in our community when she and her husband, **Philip**, move to Halifax. Phil was a faithful member of the Congregation and rarely missed a minyan at services. Their three children grew up in Glace Bay. **Stephen** and his wife **Patsy** live in Halifax with their two daughters, **Ashley** and **Jennifer**. **Stanley** and **Sharon** both live in Toronto.

It was a festive gathering attended by our 11 members. As we sang "Happy Birthday" to the honoree, we wished Ada and Phil good health and fond memories of Glace Bay.

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Around the Region...



Moncton gatherings, summer 2005.



Dr. Messod Salama blows the Shofar at Cape Spear, Newfoundland.



AJC Management Committee hosts Stanley Plotnik, UIAFC President and Maxyne Finkelstein, UIAFC Vice President. Top L-R: Victor Goldberg, Maxyne Finkelstein, Jim Spatz. Bottom L-R: Kathy Zilbert, Stanley Plotnik, Mark Rosen, Michael Pink.



Campaign Kick-off 2005 – Perry Romberg, UIA Campaign Director; Yitzhik Lev, UIA Emissary; Deborah Conter, Dorothy Riteman.



Participants – Dignity Day shown here at Cenotaph, Halifax, November 9, 2005.



Dr. Sheva Medjuck, Chair, CJC Conference on Maintaining Civil Discourse in Canada in the Face of International Instability, and Bernie Farber, CJC Chief Executive officer shown here at conference, September 11, 2005, Halifax.



*Halifax Participants in Macabi Games 2005
Left: Norman Katz as coach of the Canadian Tennis Team.
Centre: Roy Argand, winner of 1 silver and 2 bronze medals in track.
Right: Emma Pink, winner of 3 silver and 2 bronze medals in track.*



*Lt. Governor Myra
Freeman addresses
the 35th Annual
WWII Veterans
Church Service
Association service,
November 4, 2005*



PEI Community Learning series with Rabbi Ken Zisork and sons, August, 2005.



*Lunch'n Learn with the Rabbis – AJC Boardroom,
October, 2005.*



*Victor Yagoda, Deputy Director General, UIAFC, Israel,
shown here with AJC President, Mark Rosen at a UJA
parlour meeting to discuss future missions to Israel and
Ethiopia.*



*Mordecai Walfish, Co-Chair of JSA Holocaust Education
Week addressing session at Dalhousie Art Gallery.*



*Israeli News correspondent and broadcaster, Dan Scemma
meets students at Mount Saint Vincent University,
September, 2005.*

Remembering Rabbi Wilfred Wolfson, zt"l

Editor's note: Rabbi Wolfson was born in Sydney, NS on August 26, 1920 and died in New York, May, 2005.

Rabbi Wilfred Wolfson zt"l, served as president of the Vaad Harabbonim of Flatbush from December 22, 1993 to February 4, 1996.

For 15 years, beginning in 1990, Rabbi Wilfred Wolfson delivered a Gemara shiur every single day during the summer season in Vacation Village in Lock Sheldrake, NY. Even his lingering medical difficulties in the last eight years, did not deter Rabbi Wolfson from his beloved task of teaching Torah each day. With his passing, the career of a remarkable *magid shiur* has come to an end.

In addition to his *Gemara shiur*, Rabbi Wolfson also taught *Mishna Berura* between Mincha and Maariv and was sought after for *halachic* decisions by the residents of Vacation Village.

In recognition of his voluntary work on behalf of Vacation Village, the Bais Medrash of Vacation Village was renamed The Rabbi Wilfred Wolfson Bais Medrash at a dedication ceremony that took place *Shabbos Rosh Chodesh*, August 6, 2005. Hundreds attended the tribute that took place in the Village's main *shul*.

Two of Rabbi Wolfson's long-time colleagues and presidents of the Vaad, spoke of his character and his accomplishments. Rabbi Israel Poleyeff, rabbi emeritus of congregation Ahavath Achim in Brooklyn, spoke of Rabbi Wolfson's scholarship and humility, and declared that everyone who will enter the Bais Medrash "will know that here in

Vacation Village there lived and taught a great man"

A second colleague, **Rabbi Herbert W Bomzer**, rabbi emeritus of the Young Israel of Ocean Parkway and presently professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University and a president of the Vaad, described Rabbi Wolfson as a superb teacher and an extraordinary human being.

On the program were tributes to their father given by Doctor **Joel Wolfson**, **David Wolfson** and **Mitchell Wolfson**. Mrs. **Zelda Wolfson**, his *aishes chayil* for over 50 years, was also present as she has always been at his side at every *avodas hakodesh* he was involved in. *Thelillim* was recited by his grandchildren, **Jonathan Wolfson** and Dr. **Daniel Wolfson**. The actual presentation of the plaque was made by **Nethaniel Steinberg**, president of the Young Israel of Vacation Village. The program concluded with the chanting of "*Ashrei Ho'ish*", an appropriate *kapitel Tehillim* that encapsulates Rabbi Wolfson's life by **Saul Klausner**.

Rabbi Wilfred Wolfson received his semicha from Yeshivas Ner Yisrael in Baltimore. He taught Talmud for many years at Brooklyn Talmudical Academy. The study and teaching of Torah was the hallmark of Rabbi Wolfson's life.

The tribute to Rabbi Wolfson in Vacation Village and the dedication of its bais medrash to his memory were a clear expression of the extent of the love and honor and *kavod* that all had for Rabbi Wolfson, zt"l.

Scholarships & Bursaries Available

NOA & SARAH HEINISH 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 2006 is **May 31, 2006**.

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

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.

Application deadline for 2006 is **May 31, 2006**.

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

HALIFAX ENDOWMENT FUND (JASON GREENBLATT BURSERY)

A \$500 bursary awarded to a Jewish student from Atlantic Canada to further Jewish studies in Israel or in the Diaspora.

Application deadline for 2006 is **May 31, 2006**.

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

Shalom from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

Rosh Hashanah 5766 brought a new year and a new baby to Moncton. **Eli** son of **Hannah** and **Jordan Davidson** and brother of **Zev**, arrived on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. By Yom Kippur Eli was already attending shule.

Mazel tov to **Barrie** and **Evy Carnat** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Sarah Mackenzie Carnat**. Sara is the daughter of **Uri Carnat** and his wife **Kelly**.

Mazel tov to **Nicole Druckman** and **Jack Haller** on the birth of their son, **Joshua Michael**.

On November 20 there was a large turnout for a brunch honouring **Joseph** and **Sulamit Kohn** for their many years of dedication to the community. For more on this brunch please see separate article.

Tiferes Israel Sisterhood has recently opened a small gift shop. The shop is being managed by **Linda Coleman** and has a variety of items available such as challah covers and boards, kiddush cups, aprons and oven mitts. **Judy Jacobson** donated a lovely display case to hold the merchandise.

We were saddened by the loss of **Sam Gorber** who passed away in August. Sam had been active in the community for many years, as a leader in Young Judaea and as a member of the Board. Our sincere condolences to his family.

We were also saddened to learn of the death of **Ethel Kirsh**. Ethel left Moncton more than 20 years ago to be closer to her sons in Toronto, but had spent most of her life here and had been actively involved in the community.

In a warm show of friendship the shule recently received a cheque for \$50 from Mount Royal United Church to help cover the cost of fixing our windows which had been broken by vandals.



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Honouring Joseph and Sulamit Kohn, Moncton, N.B.

by Nancy Cohen

On Sunday, November 20 Tiferes Israel Synagogue dedicated and named its three Hebrew school classrooms in honour of Joseph and Sulamit Kohn. For almost thirty years Joe and Sue have welcomed many of the community's children into their home, where Joe patiently prepared them for bar mitzvah. On top of this Joe continues to read the Torah at Shabbat services on a weekly basis.

This richly deserved honour was bestowed at a brunch where several of Joe's past and present students paid tribute to their teacher. Tiferes Israel President **Irwin Lampert** acted as master of ceremonies and described how these two Holocaust survivors came to live in Moncton. In 1945 Joe was liberated by the Red Army from a camp in Czechoslovakia. From there he went to London where he attended a yeshiva for one year, followed by two years at a yeshiva in Gateshead. Joe left the yeshiva because he needed a job and went to work in the drapery business. His boss, who was shomer shabbos, gave Joe time off every morning to study Torah and paid for his lessons. In 1948 Joe married **Sue** who had arrived in London from a displaced persons camp in Austria, and was working for the same company as a seamstress. Six months later they left for Montreal where they started their own drapery business. Although their business prospered, Joe and Sue didn't care for life in the big city. They took a drive to the Maritimes visiting various cities and decided that since Moncton was "the hub of the Maritimes" it would be a good place to settle.

Joe started teaching following the tragic death of **Rabbi Kutziner** who was killed in a car accident in 1977. The parents of one of the boys who Rabbi Kutziner was preparing for bar mitzvah called Joe and asked him to help their son complete his preparations. Since that time Joe has never turned down a parent's request for him to teach their child, nor has he ever accepted any compensation.

Olivier Weil, who has recently returned to Moncton after being away for nine years, was one of Joe's students, and thanked the Kohns for making his bar mitzvah lessons so pleasurable. When arriving at the Kohns after a day at school, students were always greeted with Sue's homemade cookies or ice

cream. Olivier remembered how much he disliked going to Cheder and would look for ways to avoid it, but he never minded going to the Kohn's.

Jordan Davidson recounted how as a 10 year old boy he was sent from Bathurst to live in Moncton with an uncle so that he could receive a Jewish education. Being away from his family was difficult, but the warmth and understanding of Joe and Sue helped make this time more bearable.

Irwin Lampert read tributes sent in by his two sons **Leigh** and **Jordan**, as well as one by **Robbie Boghan**, who wrote about their own wonderful memories of studying with Joe.

Joe's only bat mitzvah student, **Hyde Jochelman** presented a certificate on behalf of all of his students, inscribing Joe and Sue in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund. The two students that he is presently preparing for bar mitzvah, **Nathan Rinzler** and **Zach Macklin** gave thoughtful speeches mentioning how much they were enjoying their bar mitzvah lessons, and then helped Joe and Sue unveil the plaque that will grace the Hebrew School classrooms. The plaque reads "Named in honour of Joseph and Sulamit Kohn for their many years of dedication, devotion and hard work in helping to educate the young people of Tiferes Israel."

Joe and Sue thanked the community and said how touched they were that so many people had come to honour them. Joe talked about how much he enjoyed teaching all of his students, and also showed his wonderful sense of humour by telling several jokes. In a moving tribute to her husband Sue recounted how she had never heard Joe raise his voice to any of his students and said "that's why I love him."

The large number of people who attended this brunch certainly attests to the community's high regard for the Kohns. **Carl Jung** has said "An understanding heart is everything in a teacher, and cannot be esteemed highly enough. One looks

back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who have touched our human feeling." From the tributes paid to the Kohns, one can see that they not only taught their students well but also nourished their souls and touched their human feelings.



News From Fredericton

Mazel Tov to:

Isabella and Eddie Van Dam on the birth of their son.

Sydell and Cary Grobe on the birth of a granddaughter, daughter of **Heidi**.

Marilyn and Seymour Kaufman on the birth of a grandson, son of **Alexis**.

Marlene and Israel Unger on the birth of a granddaughter, daughter of **Sharon**.

Doris and Steve Rauch on the birth of a grandson, son of **Sharon**.

Sharon and Peter Pinsler on the birth of a granddaughter, daughter of **Jonathan**.

Edie and Dave Besner on the marriage of their son, **Michael**.

Daisy Budovitch and Mitchell Budovitch on the marriage of their granddaughter and daughter **Amy**.

Edyth and Harry Levine and Ivan Levine on the marriage of their grandson and son **Robert**.

Peter Leighton on the engagement of his daughter **Robin**.

Doris Rauch on her retirement from UNB.

Larry Finkelman on his retirement from UNB.

Natasha Fransblow on her graduation from Fredericton High School and to her parents **Rhoda** and **Steve Fransblow** and her grandparents **Sarah** and **Harry Lang** and **Sylvia Fransblow**.

Alyssa Byers-Heinlein on her graduation from Fredericton High School and to her parents, **Sandra Byers** and **Larry Heinlein**.

Joshua Zisook on his graduation from the Hebrew Theological College and to his parents Rabbi **Kenneth** and **Shelley Zisook**.

Matthew Chippin on his Bar Mitzvah and to his parents **Arnold** and **Rose Chippin**.

Philip Soicher on his Bar Mitzvah and to his parents **Mel Soicher** and **Marissa Blanchard**.



A look at the past



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TOUR: Ed Caissie, project co-ordinator for the N.B. Internment Camp museum, gave a delegation from the UNB Art Centre tours of both the area in Ripples where the former camp was located and the museum in Minto. The tour was part of the programming entitled *Smoke in the Mirror 1938-1945: Reflections of the Holocaust*. Taking a look at a model of the camp are, from left, Rabbi Kenneth Zisook of Fredericton; Debbie Landine of Fredericton; and Asher Shapira of Israel.



Wedding Announcement

**Amy Budovitch
Gregory Feldman**



Amy Budovitch, the daughter of **Mitchell Budovitch** of Montreal, QC and the late **Carolyn Budovitch** formerly of Fredericton, NB, was married Sunday, July 10, 2005 in Mont Tremblant, QC to **Gregory Feldman**, son of Barry Feldman of New Canaan, CT and Dale Feldman of Manhattan, NY. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGarvie, Nashwaaksis, NB and Mrs. Frank Budovitch, Fredericton, NB. The Rabbi Alan W. Bright of Shaare Zedek Congregation in Montreal officiated at Le Grand Lodge, Mont Tremblant, QC.

The bride, Amy Budovitch, is a Physical Therapist conducting research in spinal chord injuries and pediatric seizure disorders at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA. She received her Physical Therapy degree from the University of Toronto.

The bridegroom, Gregory Feldman, is a writer-producer in the entertainment industry. He graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, receiving his B.A. in English and American Literature with a minor in Philosophy. Amy and Greg reside in Los Angeles, California with their precious dog, Casimir.

Report from Saint John, New Brunswick

by *Dr. J. Arditti*

I am writing this when the leaves have fallen from the trees and the picturesque view of the foliage colours is gone. You will be reading this at the time when snow has covered the ground and we have put on our coats and gloves.

Despite the fact that we continue to diminish in numbers, the community in Saint John manages to celebrate all the holidays, as well as all the Shabbats of the year. It is with the help of the women that we achieve minyans.

During the High Holy Days, we were fortunate that Cantor and Professor **Jeffery Spitzer** and his teenage son came from the Boston area to conduct the services. We broke the fast at the vestry and there was full participation by the congregants.

Our Hebrew School continues, comprised of one class with children of different ages. We are fortunate to have **Moshe Granik** to teach the class on Sundays. We could appreciate and welcome anyone from other communities who might be willing to come and teach this class, even if it might be on an occasional basis.

After Simchat Torah, we moved from the Synagogue to the vestry for our winter Friday nights and Shabbat services. For your information, our synagogue is still standing where it has been, and that there are no new developments regarding its sale.

The Jewish Historical Museum completed another successful year. **David Silverberg** exhibited "Aleph", Works From My Heritage", and the Museum hosted tours for more than 3000 cruise ship passengers, as well as local and tourist visitors. The Museum Board is already making plans for the coming year. Community high school students will be invited to enter a competition related to Yom Hashoa. They submit articles, pictures, or poems, and those presentations judged best overall will receive monetary awards. At this time, the Museum Board wishes to express appreciation to the AJC for the grant given to the Jewish Historical Museum.

It has been a sad year for our community, with the passing of several of our senior members. We are thankful to **Rabbi Ellis**, who came to Saint John to conduct the funeral services.

The UJA appeals campaign is progressing as usual. Considering our small numbers, I believe that we are doing the best that we can.

To all the readers of Shalom Magazine, I wish you a happy Hanukkah and a healthy winter!

PEI Schmooz-e-News

August, 2005

THANKS:

To **Rachel** and **Joel** for hosting the Israel Independence Day Sing-Along on Saturday, May 14. And to the **Wexlers** for their presentation.

To **Ayelet** and **Larry Stewart** for hosting the 2nd annual BBQ/Picnic on Sunday, July 17. Thanks to **Rabbi Ellis** and family for attending.

To the **Goldman** Family for hosting the **Albie Goldman** Memorial Tribute on Sunday, July 24.

To **Rabbi Zisook** and his sons for the study group session on Sunday, August 21. And to **Joe** and **Jane Naylor** for their wonderful hospitality. *Thanks to the AJC for helping sponsor this event.*



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Bury My Bones in Buchenwald

*by Sol Feldstein, PEI
Sept 2005*

Bury my bones in Buchenwald
Or Auschwitz or Treblinka
Among the silent-voices' roar
Seeping from the ground
Molecules of fear and despair
Helplessness and hopelessness
Excruciating pain
Hanging like a Chernoble cloud
Over 6 million images of God

Scatter my ashes
Where crosses abound
Neatly placed on virgin soil
In rows and columns
An army of signs
Of trampled lives
Ended abruptly
While innocent babes
Suck from the breast
Waiting their turn

Disperse my soul
Into bits and atoms
Where the ghostly shadows
Of the annihilated
The vaporized
Drift in the space
Between heaven and earth
Without memorial
Or life within a memory

Dissolve my being
Into an essence
Floating in the ether
Of those taken vicariously
From amidst the living
Love snatched away
Life space unrealized
Potential left unused

Report from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

As the daylight hours wane, many religions look forward to their festivals of light, be they Chanukah, Christmas, Diwali, etc. Although it feels like the High Holy Days, Sukkot and Simchat Torah have just finished, we are all busy gearing up for our own celebration of light and freedom. Certainly, given the difficult times our fellow Jews in France are suffering through, we must all cherish the freedom we have here in Canada.

The St. John's community has been busy throughout the summer and fall seasons. In July we held our annual synagogue picnic at the oceanside home of Dr. **David and Christine Wright**. The day was perfect and the event a complete success. We were pleased, at that time, to welcome some new members into the community. **Arthur and Margaret Shiff** of Toronto have built a home on Conception Bay and intend to spend considerable time here on their regular visits. They have also spoiled us by bringing regular care packages from the "old country".

During August we had another, very joyous celebration. **Hannah and Ruth Rivkin**, twin daughters of Dr. **Richard Rivkin** and Dr. **Robin Anderson**, celebrated their Bat Mitzvah in the Beth-El synagogue. The event was attended by many family members and friends, as well as members of

the community. We look forward to their continued participation. Attending the Bat Mitzvah were **Judy, Douglas and Ruth Wilansky**, former members of the Community who visit every summer.

In September we greeted our new Shaliach from Israel, **Moriah Gabsi**, who arrived full of smiles and enthusiasm. She has been busy giving classes to the children of the community and to many public school classes on the Avalon Peninsula. She will also be visiting several campuses in the Atlantic region.

The Sunday before Rosh Hashanah, members of the community assembled at Cape Spear for our yearly outdoor Shacharit service. After the Shofar was blown, brunch was held at the synagogue. Members then proceeded to the cemetery on Blackmarsh Road for our yearly, pre-High Holy Day memorial service. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were well attended by community members and visitors. As has become our tradition, we broke the fast with a communal meal. A huge thanks to **Ernie Mauskopf, Messod Salama, Michael Paul and Shimon Wilansky** for conducting the services and blowing the Shofar. Thanks as well to **Arnold Bennett and Sherril Gilbert** for their

continued on page 24

HALIFAX AUTHOR, HEATHER LASKEY, is reading from her book *Night Voices: Heard in the Shadow of Hitler and Stalin* at the public library on Spring Garden Road, on Thursday, January 19th at 7 p.m.

Night Voices, published by McGill Queen's University Press, received the 2004 I.J. Segal Award for non-fiction on a Jewish theme, from Montreal's Jewish Public Library. It is based on the life stories of three Halifax residents – Stanislaw (Stasia) Alapin Rubilowicz, her late husband, Mietek Rubilowicz, and her son Peter Alapin, and is focused on the 1930s, '40s and 50s. Stasia and Mietek initially supported the new regime that took power in Poland after the war, but were eventually disillusioned and betrayed by it.

Dr. Piotr Wrobel of the Department of History at the University of Toronto, described it as "A very powerful, interesting, and deeply moving book."

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Highlights from Israel 2005

STOP THE PRESS – just back from their annual visit to the Northern Galilee, our P2K Partnership in Israel, Kathy and Arthur Zilbert, Atlantic Region P2K Chairs and Howard Conter, P2K Fundraising Committee.



Kathy Zilbert, Halifax Chair UJA, and Howard Conter, UJA Regional Chair shown together with teachers at Alei Giva Elementary School, Northern Israel – December, 2005.

Howard Conter advises young student at Alei-Giva Elementary School.



Arthur Zilbert, Atlantic Region P2K Chair joins students at a graffiti paint – Alei-Giva Elementary School.

Report from the Rock continued from page 22

readings during the afternoon break and to **June Mercer** and **Barbara Grandy** for coordinating the sumptuous meal. Although the weather had been generally clement (relatively speaking, of course), the Sukkah had to be constructed in the wind and the rain. Despite shortages in Egypt, the Lulav and Etrog arrived, and the holiday was observed. Simchat Torah was celebrated by a service and yet another meal, coordinated by **Ruth Noel** and **Sherill Gilbert**. Thanks to Arnold Bennett, Ruth Noel and Moriah Gabsi for organizing the entertaining programme following the meal.

Other events include the film night, coordinated by **Ann Gregory** and the **Rabin** memorial service, arranged by Moriah Gabsi. We are also looking forward to the visit of **Marc Attali**, the Israeli Consul, on December 4th. Planning and organization of the "Kum Ahaym" planned for August 2006 has started and we are looking forward to seeing some of you here next summer.

Hadassah has been quite active as well. Thank you to Ruth Noel and her crew of community members for organizing a very successful bazaar and coffee klatch that raised some much-needed revenue for the **Esther Wilansky** chapter of St. John's.

Although we have been blessed by new members, we suffered a tremendous loss this past June. Mr. **Herb Feder**, born in St. John's, and a great supporter of everything this

community has tried to accomplish, passed away in June. Our deep condolences to his widow, **Allison**, and his son, **David**, as well as to his extended family. We will miss our Herb, who was always ready with a smile and a pleasant word despite his faltering health. In December we will be bidding farewell to **Gene** and **Diana Grumer**, who have been living in Clarendville for several years. We will miss your many visits, Divrei Torah and excellent pastries. Best of luck in your retirement. We also said good-bye to **Rachel Paine** as she went to spend time in Israel with her family. We hope to see her again soon, and wish her the best of health. For the last several years Rachel has been giving courses on Judaism at the Seniors' Resource Centre and has been writing a guest column in the Telegram.

Our good news includes the birth of a grandson to **Rob** and **Shari Ritter**. May they derive great joy from this first grandchild, **Jacob Meir**, born to their son, **Matthew** and his wife, **Jennifer**. We also congratulate Arnold and **Nancy Bennett** on the engagement of their son, **Daniel**. I would also like to make a small correction. **Elliott Noel** graduated from the University of Guelph with a Master's degree and is living in Waterloo, and not the opposite, as I wrote in May.

Best wishes for a happy Chanukah, light and freedom in all of our lives from those of us who are entitled, by virtue of our location, to light the first candle.

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Dateline Halifax

Congratulations to **Leah Pink**, daughter of **Rita** and **Joel Pink**, on receiving her Masters in Nursing from the University of Toronto.

Congratulations to **Aaron Ginsberg**, son of **Ray** and **Carol Ginsberg**, who graduated from Queens University in May 2005 with his Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering with Professional Internship. Aaron has moved to Calgary to assume a position with an engineering company.

Congratulations to **Schuyler Smith**, son of **Natalie Cohen-Smith** and **Michael Smith**, on his recent graduation from the University of Ottawa with an Honours B.A. in Theatre and Communications.

Congratulations to **Samantha Smith**, daughter of **Natalie Cohen** and **Michael Smith**, who recently completed Art Fundamentals at Sheridan College and will be returning to Sheridan to do Media Art.

Congratulations to **Sandra** and **Sandy Hoffman** on the birth of their grandson, **Martin Alexander**. Proud parents are **Lesley** and **Daniel Hoffman** of Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Congratulations to **Jamie Irwin Conway** on graduating from Brussels International School of Belgium. Jamie is currently attending McGill University. In September 2006 Jamie will be attending Cambridge University in England. Jamie is the son of **Ruth Hoffman** and **Edward Conway** and the grandson of **Sandra** and **Sandy Hoffman**.

Congratulations to **David Cieplinski** on his first-ever show of Photographs of the Halifax music scene in July/August, 2005. David is the son of **Nancy** and **Menashe Cieplinski** and grandson of **Peter Herschorn**.

Congratulations to **Ruth** and **Richard Goldbloom** on the recent marriage of their granddaughter, **Ellen** to **Josh Kardish**.

Mazel Tov to the **Yazer** Family on the appointment of their father and grandfather, **Jack Yazer**, to The Order of Nova Scotia

On October 19th, 2006 a ceremony was held to name the Dr. **Richard B. Goldbloom** Research and Clinical Care Pavilion of the IWK Health Centre. Congratulations Dr. Goldbloom.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth** and **Ralph Garson** on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mazel Tov to The Honourable **Constance Glube** on receiving the Order of Nova Scotia.

Mazel Tov to Dr. **Richard Goldbloom** on receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Acadia University.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom** on receiving an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Acadia University.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom** on receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from McGill University.

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

Mazel Tov to **Rachael** and **Rebecca Whitzman**, daughters of **Debbie** and **Martin**, on the occasion of their Bat Mitzvot.

Mazel Tov to **Lewis Zatzman**, son of **Debbie** and **Michael**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **A.J. Szulewicz**, son of **Abbie** and **Gary**, on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Abigail Suissa**, daughter of **Mani** and **Lynda**, on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to **Myrna** and **Zack Rubin** on the recent marriage of their daughter **Carmi** to **Zev Gitalis** of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Genevieve** and **Sheldon Lipkus** on the recent wedding of their daughter, **Heidi** to **Daniel Merovitz** of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Larry** and **Myra Freeman** on the recent marriage of their son, **Jonathan** to **Cyrelle Muskat**.

Mazel Tov to **Barbara Gaum** and **Errol Gaum** on the marriage of their son, **Byron** to **Karine**.

Mazel Tov to **Marsha** and **Laurie Astroff** on the recent marriage of their son, **Robert** to **Dorete Drabinsky**.

Mazel Tov to **Marsha** and **Laurie Astroff** on the recent marriage of their daughter, **Heather** to **David Anderson**.

Mazel Tov to **Bonnie Katz-Webber** and **Hank Webber** on the recent marriage of their daughter, **Marnina** to **Grant Sernick** of Toronto.

Mazel Tov to **Peter** and **Renee Claman** on the upcoming marriage of their daughter **Dayna** to **Jeffrey Silver**.

Mazel Tov to **Frank** and **Hedda Medjuck** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Noam Nadav**, in New York. Proud parents are **Bena Medjuck** and **Gustavo Bruckner**.

Mazel Tov to **Bracha** and **Jacob Koren** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Orly Diane**. Proud parents are Dr. **Sharon Koren** and **Brian Sokransky**.

Condolences to **Susan Gordon** and **Alan Gordon** and family on the passing of **Harry Gordon** on September 11, 2004.

Condolences to **Sarah Block** and family on the loss of **Harry Block**.

Condolences to the **Offman** family on the loss of **Freda Offman**.

Condolences to **Simon Gaum** and family on the loss of **Harry Gaum**.

Condolences to the **Silverman** family on the loss of **Julius Silverman**.

Condolences to **Liz Wagner** on the passing of her mother, **Marie Cooke**.

Condolences to **Sol David** on the passing of his sister, **Bessie Rose**.

Condolences to **Sylvia Mendleson** on the passing of her father, **Alex Chelekower**.

Condolences to **Paul Lipkus** on the passing of his father, **Nathan Lipkus**.

Condolences to **Jack** and **Barbara Prince** on the passing of their grandson, **Zachary Prince**.

Condolences to the **Pink** family on the loss of **Lester Pink**.

Condolences to the **Block** family on the loss of **Sarah Block**.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JIAS Awards Scholarships
to Joseph Matz, Yarmouth, NS**

JULY 2005



Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada has been assisting Jewish newcomers to Canada for over 80 years. JIAS has been a critical force in shaping and building Jewish communities across the country. JIAS has assisted Russian Jews escaping pogroms; met Holocaust survivors as they disembarked in their new home; helped Bosnian refugees find comfort on our shores, settled North Africans, South Africans, South Americans, Ethiopians and a multitude of other Jews from the four corners of the earth. In one way or another, the life of nearly every Jew in Canada has been touched by JIAS.

In 1987, JIAS Canada was the recipient of an anonymous bequest, which has been used to set up a scholarship fund for students pursuing general post-secondary studies at the university or college level. Over the years donations have been made to the JIAS National Office to enhance this scholarship fund. We are proud to be able to recognize the achievements of immigrant students with these educational scholarships.

Each year the Scholarship Committee meets to an increasingly difficult task of choosing winners from among the excellent candidates who apply from across the country. We are delighted that **Joseph Matz** from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia has been chosen to receive a scholarship for the 2005/2006 academic year:

Jacob Matz was born in Bishkek in the Former Soviet Union and immigrated to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in September 2002 having spent a number of years in Israel.

Jacob is an outstanding student with marks in the mid to upper 90's throughout his three years in Canada. He tells us that when he arrived in Canada in Grade 10 "I tried my absolute best to adapt as quickly and smoothly as possible to the new language and culture which I think I have accomplished fairly well." He recently won the Yarmouth Lion's Club Speak-Out contest and had the winning speech at the Rotary Club's "Ottawa Citizenship Experience" event – quite an achievement for someone in what must be his third language.

Shortly after his arrival, Jacob tells us, "I felt the need to contribute to the small Jewish community of Yarmouth. I searched for an opportunity ... and soon enough it appeared. I found out that the Yarmouth County Museum and Archives highly desired the translation of the inscriptions of Jewish headstones in the Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery. I volunteered to provide the museum with the inscriptions, knowing that my fluent knowledge of Hebrew would enable me to perform the task. The project turned out to be rather difficult due to the large number of stones and the bad condition of some of the older ones. Although, once the work was completed, the results were definitely worth the effort.....I consider this contribution to be my most meaningful to the community as a whole and specifically to the small Jewish community."

In addition Jacob has for many years been a volunteer canvasser for the Alzheimer's Society, for Heart and Stroke Foundation and AIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PG 2



International. He and a peer spearheaded a student committee that raised thousands of dollars for Tsunami Relief. In Israel he volunteered each summer at the Wolfson Medical Centre. He has been a Peer Tutor since he arrived in Canada helping those who are struggling with new or difficult concepts.

One of Jacob's teachers best describes his achievements since he arrived in Canada:

"Jacob is a dedicated and exceptional student. He is knowledgeable and interested in a variety of subjects and thus is able to contribute to in-depth discussion in the classroom, particularly in history and political science.

"His verbal and writing skills are superior and this reflects in his presentations and written assignments. His seriousness and commitment to his academic work has resulted in a high achievement at the high school level. He is willing to assist others in their academic endeavours and involved himself fully in group work and activity. Within the model parliament program of the political science course, Jacob served as Leader of the majority party and Prime Minister and succeeded quite successfully in carrying out a government agenda of legislation. His ability to lead and direct resulted in a well-run model parliament."

Another teacher and school counsellor tells us that Jack is also a gifted athlete. "At school he has been a member of both the varsity cross-country and track and field teams. This year, Jake was a member of the Nova Scotia Regional Cross-Country Championship senior boy's team. He also has a long list of national and regional competitive swimming awards from Israel..... (he) has played competitive basketball, is an avid skier, and enjoys boxing, golf, tennis and soccer"

She continues, "Jake has tremendous respect for and genuinely cares about others. He also has a warm interesting sense of humour that makes him fun to be around..... He has strong interest and pride in his heritage. Family is very important to Jake. Focused and mature beyond his eighteen years, Jake would restore anyone's faith in humanity."

Jacob has chosen to continue his studies at Dalhousie University where he will be studying for a Bachelor of Science. He is hoping to continue on to Medical School.

For further information please call Barbara Held 416 630 9051 Ext 33 or email national@jias.org

Visit our website at www.jias.org



THE GIFT OF LIGHT

Though she's been fleeing anti-Semitism nearly all her life, Rachel Landa feels lucky to be Jewish. She is 90 years old and almost blind, and she lives alone in a one-room apartment in Kiev on \$63 a month. But she receives home care, food, medication, and more from Chesed, a charitable network funded by our UJA annual campaign. She is entitled to it simply because she's Jewish, and because she needs help.

Rachel Landa is almost blind, but she can see a little light. This Hanukkah, give generously to our UJA of Atlantic Canada Campaign, and bring light to thousands of Jewish people here at home, in Israel, and in 59 countries around the world.



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