

Shalom



שלום !

Winter 2007 Vol. 32, No. 3

TEVET 5768

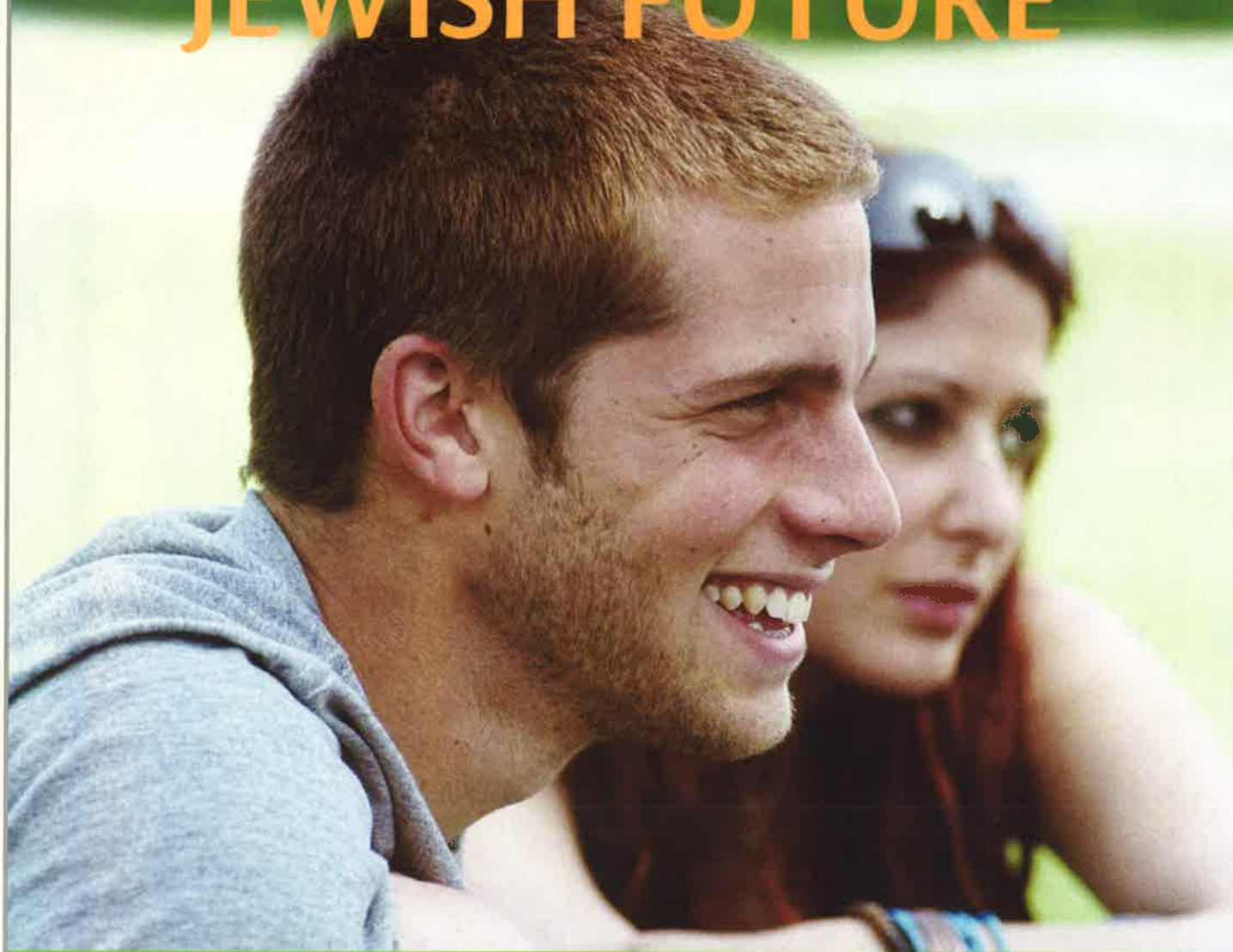
Happy Chanukah



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY ZILBERT

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THERE IS NO doubt that the highlight of the last few months was the Atlantic mission to Israel in October. What a phenomenal trip! Sixty-two

Atlantic Canadians or former Atlantic Canadians gathered in Eretz Yisrael for 10 very full days of educational and cultural activities mixed with a good smattering of fabulous food and lots of laughter.

Participants from four provinces filled two buses and went from Tel Aviv, Sderot, the Galilee Panhandle, Golan Heights and on to Jerusalem visiting projects, meeting people involved in many programmes we sponsor, listening to fabulous, high quality speakers and seeing the country through the eyes of our Israeli guides.

The weather was perfect-hot sunny days, clear blue skies and warm breezy evenings. Many of us managed a swim in the beautiful Mediterranean while in Tel Aviv; some went biking in the Golan and Judean Hills, others to the Dead Sea for a float.

An evening at the Israel Philharmonic where we stood for the most moving rendition of Hatikvah imaginable and another evening of home hospitality with warm and welcoming families in our partnership region of the Upper Galilee were two of many unforgettable highlights.

There is not enough space in this edition nor do I have the ability to express the pride and privilege I feel to have been a part of this mission. Atlantic Canadians left their mark. This was the largest Canadian mission of the year. Our mission isolated a need in a school in the

Upper Galilee which needed financial assistance and with the warmth and willingness this part of the country is known for, participants raised a very substantial sum of money to help them make this school for severely disabled young people better.

The enthusiasm, commitment, love of Israel, its people and its land made this mission quite exceptional.

Jon Goldberg dedicated months to planning this mission with the Israeli staff and then, as most of you know, had to miss the whole thing because he had emergency surgery. We thought of him every day while we were there and appreciated all of his hard work on our behalf.

Marty Chernin and Stanley Jacobson led us with a smile and such spirit. Thank you. We celebrated birthdays with Marty, Judith and Bobby and an anniversary with the Rubins. Look on the AJC website, www.theajc.ns.ca, and see some pictures and enjoy the many in this edition which will give you some idea of our experiences.

Since our return I've taken part in Kristallnacht ceremony here as well as laying a wreath on your behalf at the Halifax Remembrance Day service. I attended Masada Club's Chanukah luncheon where once again over 60 of our seniors showed the rest of us what community is all about. We also had a visit from our new Consul General and Consul of Israel when they came in late November for their first official visit.

As this Shalom goes to print I'll be in Israel again. I will be chairing the Coast-to-Coast Partnership 2000 Steering Committee meeting as National Chair of that committee. Art, and Howard and Karen Conter, all of whom sit on the Atlantic Partnership 2000 committee, will accompany me. We'll be visiting our projects and planning for our continued

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שלום!

President: Kathy Zilbert
The Atlantic Jewish Council
Quarterly
WINTER 2007
TEVET 5768
Vol. 32 No. 3

Mailed under Canada Post
Publications Mail Sales Agreement
No. 40052452

Executive Director:
Jon Goldberg

Editor:
Edna LeVine

Director of Advertising:
Richard Goldhar

Cover:
Judy Miller

Layout:
Halcraft Printing

Printing:
Halcraft Printing

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Website:
www.theajc.ns.ca

This publication is printed by

Halcraft
Printers Inc.®

Phone: (902) 423-2679
Fax: (902) 422-3706

For advertising inquiries, contact
Richard Goldhar at the AJC
(902) 422-7491 ext. 224

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME
TO OUR
WINTER
EDITION
OF SHALOM
MAGAZINE.

I hope you enjoy the Chanukah Cover, which was designed by Ms. Judy Miller, who acts as our AJC website administrator. Most of you will probably receive this edition a few weeks after Chanukah, due to a number of factors beyond our control, but I did not want to change the cover page of this edition.

The snow was falling this morning as I made my way to the office, which was in contrast to only a week ago when I was in the north of Israel, visiting our P2K communities, and the weather was 25C.

It has been a most eventful autumn for our region. In October our AJC-UJA Maritime Mission went to Israel and I must say it was a tremendous success. Unfortunately, three days before the departure I had gall bladder surgery and was unable to attend. Personally I was very disappointed but my associate in Toronto, Perry Romberg, stepped up and took over for me in Israel. This mission was the largest single Canadian group to visit Israel through UJA in 2007. Of the 62 participants, 40 were from Nova Scotia. We had participation from Moncton, Fredericton and St. John's, Newfoundland. In addition, 22 former Maritimers joined the group. I invite you to peruse the 8-page special Mission 2007 section in this edition.

A month after the mission returned,



I was able to go to Israel for meetings and was overwhelmed by the wonderful accolades that our Israeli friends gave to the mission participants. I am pleased to say that after visiting a number of projects in the North of Israel, the mission participants raised \$136,000 to help needy Israelis, in particular a school for severely mentally and physically challenged children. Congratulations to all.

December is a busy time here at the AJC as we are trying to clean up our 2007 UJA campaign. It looks like it's going to be another good year and our fellow members of the Atlantic Jewish community have once again shown their care and concern for their fellow Jews, both in Israel, and in the Diaspora.

I am looking forward to 2008 for a number of reasons. We will be celebrating Israel's 60th anniversary this coming May and I am already working on programs for all our major communities. Our AJC bi-annual will be held in Halifax on November 28-30, 2008. There are a number of missions going to Israel this coming year, which I hope many of you will take an opportunity to participate in. I am also quite optimistic about the staff here in the office. As you know, continuity in staff is quite difficult to maintain, but with Bill Chernin, our Director of Campus Services, Edna LeVine, our AJC Program Associate, Richard Goldhar, UJA Campaign Administrator and AJC administration and Joanne LeBlanc, our Controller, I believe we have the makings of a team that can really maximize our delivery of services this coming year. As I enter my 16th year as your Executive Director, I can honestly say that the job never gets easier - the problems are somewhat different every year, but much remains to be done. We can't satisfy everyone with the limited resources and the

size of our region but I will continue to try as best I can.

My friends, the key to this organization is the effort and commitment of our lay leadership. We are so fortunate to have people like Kathy and Arthur Zilbert, Howard and Karen Conter, who went to Israel twice within a 5-week period, once on the mission and once for Partnership 2000 meetings. Kathy is President of the AJC and also is Chairman of the National coast-to-coast P2K committee, which in itself is a major undertaking. Howard, as Regional Chair of our UJA campaign, has worked diligently on our behalf both as a canvasser and a leader. In addition their spouses: Arthur is a member of the national P2K committee and Karen is the Atlantic Region rep for the P2K committee. Almost all of our entire management committee participated in our October mission, as did the leadership from many communities throughout the region. It becomes apparent as the years go by, that the stronger the representation at the AJC level, the more ability we have to act and interact with the respective communities throughout the region. I want to thank everyone from the AJC board for their hard work and commitment this past year. I want to thank the Rabbis in our region for their assistance and cooperation. My best wishes to all our readers and their families for a happy and healthy 2008.

May 2008 be a year of peace for Israel and the Jewish people.

Sincerely,
Jon Goldberg

P.S. Congratulations to Edna LeVine on her first issue as Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

involvement in the Upper Galilee. We'll also have the excitement of celebrating the first part of Chanukah with our friends in the region. I'll give you details in the next Shalom.

So, on behalf of my family and myself I wish you all a joyous Chanukah season. Just as Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the temple in 165 BC let's all rededicate ourselves to

brightening Jewish life here in Atlantic Canada.

Kathy Zilbert,
President

AUTUMN IS THE HARVEST SEASON AND WE'VE HARVESTED SOME OF THE FRUITS OF OUR SUMMER plans besides planting some new ideas as well.



This summer we raised money for our student house, and we formulated a plan to develop it to better serve our community. We also developed a website and a new organizational plan complete with a logo, to further develop our community; this included instilling on the small campuses a feeling of belonging to a larger regional community. Additionally we developed program ideas, one of which has been completed and is working wonderfully. Are main objective you may have noticed, is developing our community, and shifting that sense of "community" from individual small campuses to a larger regional community.

To meet the challenges of providing programming and support to the various smaller campuses of Atlantic Canada, we thought it might have been easier for the students to travel to us (in Halifax) and make use of Halifax's drawing power as the center of our region, besides my traveling to their campuses. Our Shabbaton was a step in this direction. With the funds we raised in our fundraising campaign (and a very special thanks to all who have contributed) we modified our student house by installing a shower, providing privacy for guests, installing a digital projector so guests can watch big screen TV, having wireless internet, and purchasing an Ipod friendly computer stereo so students can always listen to their own music. The Student house is now a comfortable place for visiting students to lodge (and they have) and a much more usable center for programming for the Halifax students. Of course we still travel

to the campuses, and this term I went to Mt. Allison, Acadia, UPEI, and UNB.

Janet Casey and Kathy Dykeman have been preparing the food for our dinners in Halifax, which is a major improvement over past practices (the students love their food, and this itself has drawing power) and we've prepared and frozen some meals so they can be shipped to the smaller campuses with little notice and little effort on the student's part. Additionally, we have also brought in authentic kosher smoked meat from Montreal for smoked meat lunches (you wouldn't believe how difficult it was to find kosher smoked meat) which we will also ship to the smaller campuses and which they are excited to receive.

Our new website is serving us well, as is our new regional image, and both are proving to be strong tools for connecting with Jewish students and supporting our programming. We uploaded information to support our remembering Dachau to Defend Darfur program, as well as information on other Social Justice programs we run and the Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam. We also posted an article on the "History of the Jews" which visitors can read. Also, we posted the Jewish basketball schedule on line to encourage visitors. Our emails now go out to students on all campuses and list the programs going on at each. Our email system provides feedback on emails opened etc and we know our mailing list grew from around 500 in September to just over 600 right now. Additionally, we are receiving emails through the "contact us" page on our site and students can join our list from our site. Students are responding enthusiastically to our new "regional" strategy, and and this can only bold well for the future.

Remembering Dachau to Defend Darfur program, in which we linked Holocaust memorial to the genocide in Darfur and political action traveled to UPEI, UNB, and Mount Allison campuses. I traveled with a Holocaust survivor and together we did the presentation. Over 500 students, professors, and local people came to our presentations, and we made contact with potential Jewish student leaders, like-minded student groups,

and delivered a program all Jewish students could be proud of. We referred the audience to our website for more information and our new name, logo, and web address were prominently displayed, so audience members knew we had provided the program. I'd like to offer a special thanks to Ivan Levine and several of the community members from PEI who promoted and attended the program.

We also had a Shabbaton in Halifax, called Identity, which was almost entirely student organized, and brought 12 students from across our region together in Halifax for a weekend to discuss their Jewish identity, their challenges, and programming ideas. It was a great program for these students, and but for the strike at Acadia, our attendance would have been higher. We also housed most of our guests in the Student Center which caused a dramatic decrease in our costs, savings we can now duplicate in the future. Additionally, 40 Halifax students attended the Friday night dinner and Tish, and approximately 70 attended the Saturday night party. Student leaders and staff from Ontario also traveled here to supported us.

In Halifax the Israel Affairs Committee (IAC) and the Jewish Student Association (JSA) both made strong showings of themselves. The JSA raised over \$1200.00 for Feed Nova Scotia with their FastAction program, in which students donate funds from their meal plans on Yom Kippur. They also collected many toiletries for Women's shelters through their participation in the Bathtub project. Additionally they ran their Jewish Basketball league, Friday night dinners, and a couple of parties. They also ran a Welcome brunch for the Frosh at Dalhousie and Kings and tried a couple of other original programs as well. Many first year students are attending JSA events. Also, they have also organized a giant inflatable menorah which will be on the Dalhousie campus for Hanukkah.

The IAC raised \$1000.00 for Save a Child's Heart with a party fundraiser they organized titled Party in the Med and they organized a public lecture by Rannan Gissin (former spokesperson and advisor to Ariel Sharon) who spoke at Dalhousie and had a separate

FROM THE DESK OF

RICHARD GOLDHAR, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AJC, UIA
CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT, YOUNG LEADERSHIP

I CAN NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER CAMPAIGN IS ALMOST OVER!!!

Time has flown by here and a lot has been accomplished over the past year. Our

campaign started off with a bang in June as we had the Walk for Israel here in Halifax, then the planning committee of the campaign meet frequently this summer and launched both a campaign website which can be viewed by going to www.theajc.ns.ca and click on UJA of Atlantic Canada, as well as the campaigns in Moncton, Fredericton, Halifax and many of the other communities. At our campaign launches this year we had the honor of hearing from Col. Ami Segev. Everyone who was able to attend thought he was very inspirational. As the fall rolled along we had a Lion of Judah luncheon which was well attended. In order to maintain our high spirit level with have amongst our canvassers we initiated workshops this year in Moncton and Halifax which were kindly hosted by the respective communities. Finally, in



Halifax we had an additional women's canvasser event. Our campaign is coming along very nicely as everyone has been so generous this year. Please be reminded all the cheques must be delivered to the UJA of Atlantic Canada office by December 31, 2007 to receive tax receipts for the current year.

Other exciting news from my office is that our Young Leadership program chaired by Julie Krisoff is becoming very successful both in the HRM as well around the region. The year kicked off with an amazing kosher wine party and then we had a relaxed barbeque at the Bayit. This past November four members of the Atlantic region Young Leaders went to Montreal for a very informative training session on how to become involved with the community and management personal and community time as well to expand their network both personally and professionally by meeting over 150 Young Leaders from around Canada. I would like to thank Marrisa Attis, Jackie Rubin, Jack Haller and Nicole Druckman for attending the conference and I certainly hope you will spread some of the knowledge you gained from the conference with the community. I would like to remind everyone that Young Leaders are folks who are approximately between the ages of 23 to 45.

Now that I have brought you all up to date

from the year gone by I will let you know that there is already planning happening for the upcoming year. From the campaign point of view we plan to have a women's event to try and reinvigorate some young blood to get involved with community. We are also planning to have another Walk with Israel in the spring and finally, a visit to some of the communities outside Halifax to do some campaign activities. From a Young Leadership point of view we are in the middle of planning our winter young leadership event. It is going to be a hot, hot, hot, salsa dance!!! We are also planning to begin the film festival again as well some other very exciting events.

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CAMPUS NEWS - CONTINUED

roundtable discussion with 11 Political Science/International relations profs and Grad students. They are making plans for an Israel week at Dalhousie next term and another public lecture is in the works.

Other highlights included the signing up of many new students at King's College (where our new logo and professional sign served us very well), and we supported or attended Society fairs at Mt. Allison, Acadia, Dalhousie, King's, Memorial, and UNB, and

we now have new Jewish societies at Mount Allison and Acadia. We continue to support the Dalhousie Law School Jewish association, administer the birthright program, and we sent several of our leaders to a leadership conference before school began. We also helped organize a visit to Dalhousie by representatives of Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University and we spoke with them about possibly visiting an additional Maritime campus next year.

Next term we will continue to forge ahead implementing our plans, and initiating new programs as well. Jewish programming is still not where we would like it to be and we are looking into different speakers to help us with this, among other things, and the Remembering Dachau to Defend Darfur program should raise our profile on several new campuses as well.

THE RESPONSE FROM THE IMMIGRATION INFORMATION ON THE ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE (WWW.THEAJC.NS.CA) HAS BEEN STEADY. EVERYDAY I HAVE SEVERAL NEW REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING HALIFAX IMMIGRATION. In response to these requests I assembled a specific package of information to help candidates make an informed decision. I have maintained close contact with many of these families, and in early December, when Jon Goldberg was in Israel he successfully met with over 40 families who had contacted me for additional information on Halifax.

This fall I was invited to a workshop and screening of the award winning documentary "Where Strangers Become Neighbours" - the story of the Collingwood Neighbourhood House and the Integration of Immigrants in Vancouver. An inspirational neighbourhood story of how successful immigration in a community was accomplished through the resourceful efforts of five individuals. Creating a welcoming environment for new immigrants in a community requires the support of its members. Outreach, workshops, and community leadership, are among the various programs that need to be developed if a vibrant community is to be sustained. The direction of a community's growth is reliant on the dedication of community volunteers with their vision of community development.

Holocaust survivor speakers were in demand this fall, and we are fortunate to

have Helena Jockel, David Korn, Philip Riteman, Israel Unger and Francis Weil, to fulfill this responsibility. Their willingness to speak has touched thousands of people in Atlantic Canada, and the appreciation expressed is always overwhelming.

During Holocaust Education Week I worked closely with one of the co- chairs, Dalhousie University student, Michelle Masters, to develop two successful programs. The inspiration for the first program came from the Holocaust Education Conference, held this past September where I met Wayne MacIntyre, VP of Herring Cove Jr. High School and a passionate advocate for Holocaust education. He had created an innovative Holocaust education project with his eighth grade class last year using paper clips (See Mark David's article in the fall edition of Shalom). After a brief conversation with him, he agreed to launch this program in another school. In a short span of time Michelle and I were able to assemble over 250 students from several local junior high schools for a Holocaust education program that in addition to the paper clips project included a memorable presentation by Philip Riteman. The response from this program has been tremendous and this winter Wayne MacIntyre and I will be working together to package the program so that it can be used by other schools. The second program that Michelle and I worked on was Cora's Story. Richard Goldhar, of the AJC, was the idea person behind this program and his inspiration came from seeing Cora Greenaway on a local news program. Cora Greenaway, 92 years old, and a "Righteous Gentile", worked with the resistance in Holland during the Holocaust, where one



Jon Goldberg, in Tel Aviv, addressing a group of interested candidates for immigration to Halifax

of her most memorable and difficult tasks involved the transportation of a Jewish baby to safety. Several months ago, through a long arduous search for information, she was able to unite with the "baby". Cora Greenaway's story is fascinating a lesson in moral courage and her actions during the Holocaust are a reflection of the goodness in humanity. The time that I spent with Cora Greenaway to coordinate this program was incredibly enriching and I was impressed with her breadth of knowledge and how she lives her life with passionate determination. I developed a personal friendship with Cora and I am happy to report that she is presently in Holland in pursuit of information on the "baby's" father and on the family that sheltered her, as the second chapter to this amazing story unfolds.

As editor of Shalom magazine I would like to thank everyone for sending in articles and pictures and encourage members of the community to send in articles relating to Jewish life. Our spring issue will include an article on the wine country in Israel.



Students making their paper clip chains during Holocaust Education Week



Michelle Masters, Cora Greenaway, Edna LeVine

CAMP KADIMAH 2007

BY JOANNA MIRSKY WEXLER - DIRECTOR

AS THE SNOW FALLS OUTSIDE MY WINDOW, I DREAM OF SUMMER DAYS AND SUMMER NIGHTS SPENT ON THE SHORES OF LAKE WILLIAM. So much planning all year round from dedicated volunteers on the Camp committee and the hard work in our office makes Camp Kadimah a reality, and like most of us who have chosen to be campers for life, I can't wait to return to our beautiful Camp grounds!

Our senior staff list is almost finalized, and our general staffing will be announced very shortly. Please feel free to check out the lists for your favorite camp staff on our website, at www.campkadimah.com.

We are planning for some exciting changes to our Machar program,



adding much more choice to the daily schedule, and continuing on with our efforts to bring our new Teva (nature) program to the forefront. Of course,

camp will continue to offer our favorite programs, like Maccabia, Hityashvut, water-ski/wakeboard, sailing, instructional swim, land-sports, scouting and tripping, arts and crafts, walla (Judaic arts), and of course shirkud- (song and dance). We do many out-trips to take advantage of being in Nova Scotia- there are so many amazing natural sites on offer here! Blomidon Provincial Park, Kejimikujik National Park, Rizzers Beach Provincial Park, Ovens Natural Park and Sea caves, etc... I am proud to also

let you know that we are planning another Camp Caravan for Jewish youth programming in New Brunswick, as well as a youth program in Halifax starting early 2008.

There are a few spaces left- please apply quickly before the spots are gone! Kadimah has been providing quality Jewish programming in a fun environment for coming up on 65 years. We continue on building leadership, chevra, and ruach with each summer l'dor vador.

See you soon,

Joanna Mirsky Wexler
Director, Camp Kadimah

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YOUNG LEADERSHIP BY JULIE KRISTOF - CHAIR

RECENTLY I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT MY PRIORITIES AND HOW TO ASSESS THEIR IMPORTANCE. The events in my life over the past few months have forced me to take a hard look and, frankly, a good kick in the tuches.

Family, of course, is the number one priority. This is no surprise to anyone nor should it be. I ask myself why I continue to be involved in the Jewish community and the communities outside this one. Why spend the time? Why put myself in a position to be criticized knowing that not everyone can be satisfied? Why put other areas of my life on hold at times to put together a program, attend one or go to a Board meeting?

The answer is not a simple one. The

main answer I have come to is that my family cannot exist in a vacuum. We simply would not grow and learn as a unit if we were not exposed to the amazing people we have in our lives. I don't think I could have survived the last few months without the calls, the pats on the back, the hugs and the support even if in spirit. Believe me, we felt the prayers.



Julie Kristof and family

musings for the evening, let me tell you a little bit about what the "Young Leader" group is doing. The UJA Campaign has launched for the 2007-2008 year and we are getting a lot of support from the Young Leadership group.

In mid winter there will be the "Salsa Dancing" event that was postponed from the fall. We are currently looking for some volunteers to help co-ordinate the event. Please stay tuned for more details. I would also like to congratulate Jack Haller, Nicole Druckman and Jackie Rubin on attending a fabulous weekend retreat to Montreal in which they have fine tuned their community programming skills, Israel advocacy and most importantly they have created a network of Jewish friends from across Canada.

My family has a lot to celebrate during this Festive season - Chanukah is a time for celebrating the miracles in our lives. I certainly have a lot to be grateful for and I hope to celebrate with all of you in the near future.

Julie Kristof (Young Leadership Chair) and my awesome family (Murray, Alex and Miriam Yazer)



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Our community is not only the Atlantic Jewish one, we have links to many communities as do we all. Still, we are linked to one another through custom, culture and history - this is something that is difficult to emulate. The links and ties, in fact, should be nurtured.

This is why I continue to place priority on building our community. I want to create links so I know who I should pray for if need be or, hopefully, who to celebrate with.

Now that I have completed my

IT SEEMS LIKE ABOUT HALF OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER I WAS IN CAPE BRETON. MOSTLY FOR SIMCHAHS, BUT ALSO FOR SORROWS.

With all the challenges, we managed to have solid holiday services all through the season. There was the usual contribution of the Dubinsky choir to the services in Sydney. A remarkable collection of melodies they bring, going back many years, brought back each year without rehearsal. Special commendation goes to Dr. Leslie Dubinsky, who, despite protests of not knowing how to do it, manages to lead the schacharit services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, in a very capable manner.

But then we said goodbye to an uncle to the Dubinskys, Mr. Bram Schwartz. His address in the A.J.C. directory is listed as in Sydney, which is true. But everyone knows that his reputation was made in New Waterford, where he grew up and ran a clothing store for many years.

It is probable that almost everyone in New Waterford bought something from Bram at one time or another. And so the parking lot and the funeral home were completely filled a whole hour before the services by those coming to pay condolences. There were probably 500-600 persons who attended or were waiting outside.

We would all remember Bram's good life-his honest business affairs, his good

name, his expertise in bridge-all for a blessing, and hope that his wife Inez, his children, Heidi, Beth and Joey, brothers Harold and Irving, and sister Ruth Goldbloom, all be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

THE SENIORS' DIVIDEND

I also made a couple of visits to Moncton. There was a great attendance at an interfaith panel, arranged by Rev. Dr. Philip Griffin-Allwood, formerly from Halifax, now at Wesley United in Moncton.

We lit the menorah at City Hall once again for Hanukkah. And there was the usual tasty Hanukkah dinner put on by the community. I will not mention any one person involved, because I would have to list, and possibly omit, any others who contributed. Let us say, acknowledged or not, it was great to see so much volunteer spirit at work.

But, in the Hanukkah spirit, there was another miracle. As I made my rounds the next day to visit some people, I bumped into David Rinzler, also going about. He was taking portions of the Hanukkah dinner out to the shut-ins and persons who could not enjoy the meal.

This is what I am now calling the "Seniors' Dividend."

Just as if you invest money in the bank for many years, you expect to get a return from it; so persons who have been shul members for 50-60 or more years, who have built and served in the synagogues the younger generation now enjoys-they should receive some "dividend" for their "investments." Just as if you would feel wronged if you gave your money to an investor who took your money and went off and used it for his own purposes, so we should have a sense of being the guardians of the contributions others have made to our community life.

What did the accounting books show? Did all of the communities give their



Rabbi Ellis celebrating Chanukah with the Moncton community

seniors a dividend this Hanukkah? Or did we just enjoy the party ourselves? What about the other days? What about all year round?

It is time that our seniors see some returns for all they have contributed to us.

THE BEST STORYTELLERS

I write now as the Halifax community anticipates the funeral of Mr. Joe Zatzman, about whom much will be written here in Shalom and many other places.

I have known and been very good friends with Mr. Zatzman from my first days in Halifax, when he was observing shiva for his late wife Leah.

I will share an unforgettable story that I think you will appreciate.

There were always two persons in all my years serving Halifax, who stood out as fantastic storytellers, who could keep you enthralled for hours with marvelous stories, never repeating anything. They were the late Max Rinzler, who passed away several years ago, and the recently deceased Mr. Zatzman.

One day, they were both in the hospital, on the same floor, only a few rooms from one another.

I saw Max first. I had noted from the hospital records, that he was born before World War I (This information is no longer given out by hospitals, for

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Lighting the menorah in Moncton.

A CHANUKAH STORY

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BY RABBI YAAKOV WEISS - BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX, NS

LAST YEAR, AROUND THIS TIME, WHILE MY WIFE, ILANA, AND I WERE LIVING IN ISRAEL, WE DECIDED TO HOST A CHANUKAH PARTY FOR ALL OF THE FAMILIES WHO LIVED IN OUR APARTMENT COMPLEX. The apartment that we were living in (Apartment 18 or "Dira Chai" as we liked to refer to it in Hebrew) was a bit smaller than most people's living quarters. Our living room/dining room/kitchen/computer room/coat closet was smaller than our current dining room. We knew that cramming so many people into our home (there were about 30 families living in our complex) would be kind of tight, but we figured that if we fed people enough, nobody would care about the space.

We went all out for this party. We made hundreds of cookies shaped as Jewish Stars with sprinkles, and we hand-dipped bags worth of pretzels into melted chocolate. We experimented with some new bread recipes, and we put up a cholent to provide some warmth for the cold, winter night. Of course, no Chanukah party would be complete without plenty of latkes and donuts, known in Israel as "sufganiyot." While we could prepare the other food items in advance for the party, my wife and I decided that fresh latkes (two types, regular and sweet potato) and sufganiyot (two types, jelly and caramel) are always better than ones that are made ahead of time and reheated. So, our plan was to make these items on the night of the party itself. Our party was scheduled for 8:15 on a Saturday night; Shabbat ended sometime around 6:00. We thought that it would be plenty of time to put together all that we needed to do. A few minutes after Shabbat concluded we got to work. All that we had to cook with in our apartment was one electric burner and a large toaster oven, so we needed to enlist some of our neighbors to lend us some extra burners. Before we knew it, burners



and pans were strewn across our entire apartment, along with grated potatoes and donut fillings, and the scent of oil filled the room. We were cooking and cooking away, and then when not even half of our potato batter was transformed into latkes, and only about two-thirds of the dough for the sufganiyot had been fried, the clock struck 8 o'clock. In just fifteen minutes, our neighbors would start to come. Our "party room" (in other words, the room where everything else was) was not yet set up since we had to use all of the tables to keep the burners on. My wife quickly started to dismantle the electric burners, and shove the unused batter into the fridge while I started to pump fillings into the sufganiyot as quickly as possible. We moved the tables into party-position and covered them with a plastic cloth. We arranged some chairs around the room, and put out all of the platters that we had prepared before. At 8:10pm, as my wife began to make plates full of sufganiyot, there was a knock at the door. Our first set of guests arrived.

"Since when does Jewish Time mean that people arrive early?" I thought to myself. Somehow, everything started to come together. While our guests were amazed that we had cooked so many things that very night, we managed to fool them that it was a breeze to do.

"How did you get everything done so

quickly tonight? Your place looks and smells amazing!"

Ilana answered, "We had two hours. That's plenty of time!"

One by one, more of our neighbors started to come in. The ones who had originally decided to do other things that night quickly opted to cancel their other plans, when they heard the music and fun that was coming out of the apartment. As more people came in, we fetched more chairs. It was more crowded than we had anticipated, with every inch of the apartment being filled by a person. I started to get concerned that either people would get uncomfortable and leave, or our floor would soon fall through to our downstairs neighbor's apartment. But, the floor didn't fall through, and all it took for people to stay was another round of sufganiyot, and a few more latkes to be passed out.

One of the famous miracles about the Beit Hamikdash, the Holy Temple, was that even when people were standing shoulder-to-shoulder, when it was time for everybody to bow down at once, there was enough room to accommodate the space that each person needed. A Jewish home is considered to be a miniature Beit Hamikdash. I like to think, that the reason that everybody was able to feel comfortable in our apartment on that Chanukah night last year, was not just because of the food, but because of the element within our home that is connected to the Beit Hamikdash. Now that we are in our new home in Halifax, we have much more space and a greater level of convenience. While we may not have to tightly cram our guests into a tiny area anymore, my wife and I are always excited to welcome people to our home in Halifax and have them feel just as comfortable to stay as our guests just like our friends felt that night in our tiny apartment in Israel.

HIDDEN INSPIRATION FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE

BY CANTOR ARI ISENBERG

SPIRITUAL LEADER, SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION - HALIFAX

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ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE RITUALS AT A TRADITIONAL JEWISH WEDDING IS THE BREAKING OF THE GLASS. A full, complete glass is placed on the ground, and the groom smashes it with all his might. Jews smash glass, break glass, shatter glass on an occasion that can only be described as one of the happiest days

in the Jewish lifecycle. We perform this ritual as a symbolic gesture. It reminds us that even on the happiest of days, we still mourn the loss of our Temple, and we insist on retaining the memory of that tragedy in our collective conscious. We break the glass because it reminds us that however great our suffering, others still suffer in this world and need our compassion and our help. We break the glass because it stresses the importance of working hard, fighting for what we believe in – including love – and never taking anything for granted.

On November 9th, 1938, our enemies greatly under-estimated the symbolism and importance of broken glass in our tradition. Our enemies thought that by breaking glass, they would shatter us and demoralize us. Little did they know.

Our enemies did wreak havoc, they did cause indescribable and unimaginable pain, suffering,

destruction, and extermination – but they did not do to us what they set out to achieve, for shattered glass does not deflate our spirits; rather, it invigorates us. Smashing glass does not make us abandon our religion, it propels us to rebuild and retain our identity. Broken glass does not enslave or conquer us; rather, it liberates us. It does not make us relinquish our destiny and our God-given right to exist - it revitalizes our passion for life and renewal.

Because we acknowledge our own suffering – the broken glass - even at our happiest of times, and use that reality to propel us and invigorate us, we are able to rise above intolerance, transcend the hatred we fall victim to, and fight – fight for ourselves, for justice, for survival, for our destiny, and for a better world.

May God who brings peace to the entire universe, bring peace unto us and to all People, and let us say Amen.

FROM AROUND THE REGION - CONTINUED

confidentiality reasons.), and I knew that he was born in Romania. I noted, I said to Mr. Rinzler, that he was born in Europe before World War I, but I did not imagine that he remembered anything of it, being only a child at the time.

Oh, no, Max said-he remembered it very well. And he proceeded to describe in detail, for about half an hour, his recollections of the war. He noted especially the day the Russian army invaded his town.

They rampaged through the town, destroying everything. But when they came to his house, they let it be. His mother had made a pot of chicken soup, and so she fed the Russian soldiers for

their stay in the town. He filled in every particular.

Just when he was about to continue, the medical specialist came in and said that he had to see Max. So I left him, promising to hear more of the story later.

Then I went across the hall to Joe Zatzman's room. He gave me his "let me tell you a story" look, and described his days as mayor of Dartmouth. Many things he did. But one of the things he was most proud of was his mediation between the Protestants and Catholics and their school systems. They had fought for years, unsuccessfully to get some common school policies. It was only when the Jewish mayor took over

that they had an honest broker, to sort out their disputes.

This conversation would have gone on much longer as well, but again, the doctors came by to interrupt.

But I knew that whenever I saw Joe again, I would get a great story, a sound perspective on events and solid advice and wisdom to help me in my work.

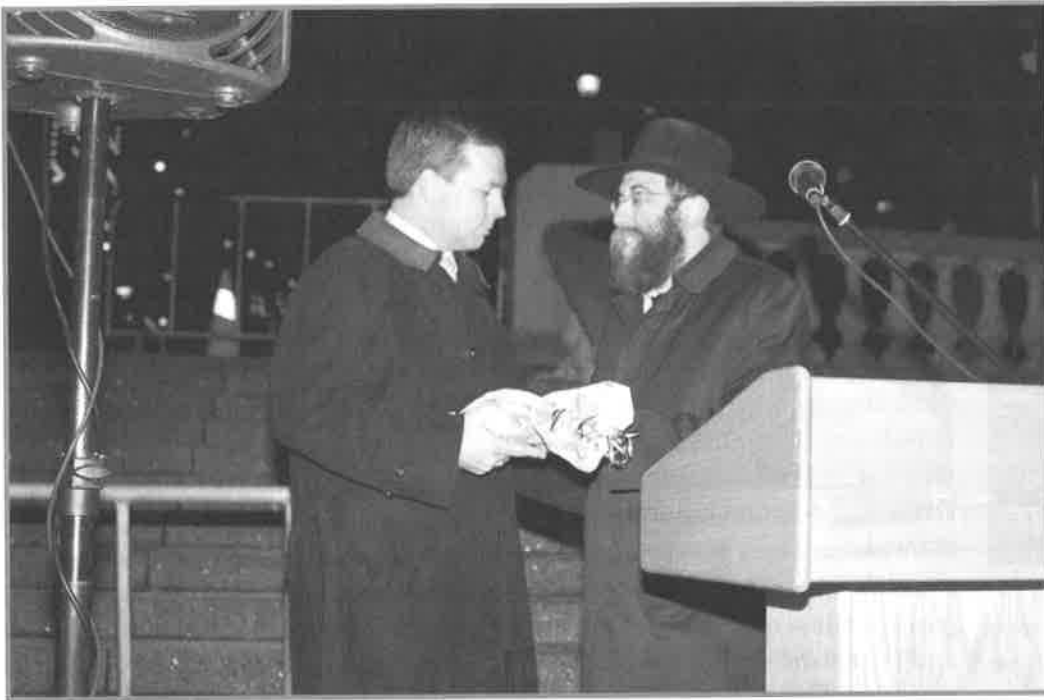
Max and Joe are no longer with us. But their stories, the ones they told and the ones they made, will never die.

Winter is usually a quieter time as far as travel goes, but there are already a number of events lined up around the region. You will hear about them next time in Shalom.

A CHANUKAH MESSAGE

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN - CHABAD OF THE MARITIMES

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Halifax, Rabbi Mendel Feldman and Premier Rodney MacDonald

WE LIGHT THE CHANUKAH CANDLES ON EIGHT CONSECUTIVE EVENINGS TO COMMEMORATE THE MIRACLE IN THE HOLY TEMPLE. Yet, there are a number of distinctions between the Chanukah lights of today and those of the Temple.

Firstly, the Temple Menorah was lit during the day when it was light outside, whereas the Chanukah lights are kindled after nightfall.

Second, the original Menorah stood well indoors, in the inner sanctum of the Holy Temple, whereas the Chanukah Menorah is placed on the outer doorway or window ledge, facing the outside, of one's home.

Finally, the number of lights on the Temple Menorah remained the same, while with the Menorah we light today, we add an additional candle each night, constantly increasing the light.

We can derive a unique message from our Chanukah lights.

It is incumbent upon us to light up and bring warmth not only in our homes, "our inner sanctum", but also, to share and inspire those around us, our social environs, places of work and the broader community.

Furthermore, when it is "dark outside", conditions are unfavourable in an imperfect world, it is even more so imperative to shine light into our greater surroundings. Not being complacent with our current achievements, rather learn from the Chanukah

candelabra that it is important to constantly increase with our acts of goodness and kindness.

May the Chanukah flames burn brightly and make this world brighter and warmer.

Wishing you and your family A Freilechen Chanukah,

Rabbi Mendel & Bassie Feldman
& Family

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A POSTSCRIPT TO CHANUKAH

RABBI KENNETH P. ZISOOK, FREDERICTON

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Fredericton Sisterhood meeting

BY THE TIME THIS ARTICLE IS PUBLISHED, THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF THE MARITIMES WILL HAVE ENJOYED THEIR LATKES AND SUFGANIOT (jelly donuts), celebrated through family dinners and synagogue parties, enjoyed chocolate gelt, played dreidel, sang Chanukah songs, counted one's real gelt and were thankful for the wonderful presents handed out by parents, grandparents, relatives and friends. With all the activities connected to Chanukah, is it possible to forget the true meaning of Chanukah, the daily candle lighting ritual, and the reason Chanukah is observed for eight days each year.

For many of us, Chanukah is thought of as a minor Rabbinic Holiday in the middle of the Christian holiday season, which happens to be capitalism's busiest season of the year in North America. Jewish rabbinic literature looks at Chanukah from a very different perspective. The Shulchan Aruch, (Code of Jewish Law), says "One should be careful to light the candles of Chanukah, and even a poor person who is supported from charity should ask for money to purchase candles or even sell one's clothes to buy oil to light". A similar law is written concerning purchasing wine on Pesach, which is a Torah mandated Holiday. It seems a little odd that the

Code of Jewish law would direct people to beg for candles or even to sell clothes to purchase oil and wicks for a Holiday that doesn't seem to have the same religious significance as Passover. And why would anybody dare to compare the holy Passover, which

commemorates the liberation from Egyptian bondage, to Chanukah?

The story of Chanukah itself gives us the reason why rabbinic literature feels so strongly that the lighting of Chanukah candles is crucial to the observance of Chanukah and why Chanukah can even be compared to the holy Torah holiday of Passover. During the second century C.E., the Jewish people in Judea were threatened spiritually from within, by the Hellenistic Jews, and from outside by the tyrannical Syrian-Greek government who controlled the political and social life of the Jewish people. The Jewish Hellenists were sold on the Greek way of life, which tore apart the religious spiritual fabric of Judaism. Idol worship and paganism abounded.

The elimination of circumcision, the sign of Abraham's covenant with G-d, was mocked. Jewish modesty was ridiculed and defiled. The concept of a day of rest, Shabbat, was seen as archaic, and the Biblical dietary laws were a thing of the past. The Syrian Governor of Judea, Antiochus Epiphanes, legislated anti Jewish

laws prohibiting Jews from observing the Shabbat, studying Torah, keeping kosher, following the lunar calendar, and circumcising Jewish children. He forbid those practices that were crucial to the perpetuation of Judaism. The Syrian-Greek government and the Hellenists wanted to destroy Jewish life. If it wouldn't have been for Mattathias and his five sons, the Maccabees, who fought to restore Jewish traditional and religious life and Jewish nationhood, I'm afraid that the Jews of Judea would have disappeared. In truth, without the brave, gallant and heroic rebellion led by the Chasmonian family, Jewish life may have ended altogether.

Just as the oil is the symbol of the purity and rededication of the Holy Temple, the oil is the symbol of the restoration of the Jewish soul. If we forget that symbol, all the nice traditions of Chanukah, such as the food, parties, dreidles, gelt and presents will not have any meaning. The light of the oil reminds us of the sacrifices of the Maccabees who preserved the spiritual existence of Judaism.

In order to preserve the victory of the Maccabees, we, the Jews of the Maritimes, must be aware of the forces of assimilation, and like Judah Maccabee and his brothers, take action to insure the perpetuation of Jewish religious life.



Fredericton Chanukah sale

SHULAMITH MEDJUCK IS AWARDED THE IPAC LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE BY CARMEN MOIR, DEPUTY MINISTER, SOCIAL SERVICES, FOR OVER 20 YEARS, NOW RETIRED AT AGE 85.

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THE SPEECH WAS GIVEN IN THE RED ROOM at the Nova Scotia Legislature where Shulamith Medjuck received the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Excellence for experience in public service.

This year's recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Excellence devoted her career to supporting Nova Scotia's families and communities through ensuring sound social policy.

Shulamith Medjuck was a key member of the Department of Community Services for 26 years. In her role as Senior Advisor, Federal Provincial Social Initiatives Unit, Shulamith was responsible for advising government on all aspects of social policy and negotiating with the Federal Government.

She is recognized both nationally and provincially as an expert in the field of social policy, and especially in the field of Federal/Provincial relations. She was regularly consulted on social policy issues by senior officials in Nova Scotia and every jurisdiction across Canada, as well as by the Government of Canada.

When I was appointed Deputy Minister of Social Services, I was given an overview of the Department by a former Deputy, an acting Deputy and the Minister of Social Services. While reviewing the major issues, the Canada Assistance Plan came up many times. However, "not to worry," I was told. We have a secret weapon - Shulamith Medjuck. She is, I was told, one of only three in Canada that understands the plan and its many modifications. Over the years, I was never able to find the other two. I believe Shulamith was the ONLY one to completely understand the plan. To back this up, let me give two illustrations. One day I had a phone call from the Federal DM who talked about a complicated finance problem concerning CAP in another province. After some discussion, I asked what I



Shulamith Medjuck, second from left, is awarded the IPAC Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Excellence 2007

could do to help. The answer came back quickly. Could you ask Shulamith Medjuck to review the situation and give us the necessary background. This was done. The Federal DM did not want to speak to me. He wanted expert advice from the person that had the knowledge. Some time after this, I received a call from the Yukon. This request was right to the point - could they borrow Shulamith Medjuck for two weeks to help the staff and the elected officials understand CAP? This was done and after Shulamith returned, I had a phone call thanking us and expressing the many virtues of Shulamith.

Described as a "superior negotiator with relentless perseverance," Shulamith has been credited with securing the maximum amount of funding available through Federal social programs from the Canada Assistance Plan, the Housing and Early Childhood Development Program as well as the Canada-Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

Shulamith received her university education at New York University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Arts in Sociology. Prior to joining the government in 1980, she had managed community organizations, such as the Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club and the East Toronto Community Project.

In addition to her very practical negotiating skills and successes, Shulamith also worked to advance the understanding of the communities which Government serves. It is interesting to note that her first position was as the director of a community research project on single parents. At Community Services, she continued this commitment to research, while chairing the steering committee of the Family Mosaic, an acclaimed 20-year study of mothers and their children.

IPAC is pleased to recognize Shulamith's contribution to public service in Nova Scotia as the 2007 Award of Excellence Medal Winner.

MONCTON'S AUDREY LAMPERT HONoured

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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Audrey Lampert recently received two major honours in New Brunswick. Moncton-born and raised, Audrey was honoured by the Toronto-based Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre and, soon after, named to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. A long-time proponent for human rights, equality, and protection of the society's vulnerable; Audrey is a vice-principal at Queen Elizabeth (Elementary) School in Moncton. She has served as principal, vice-principal, teacher and instructor for many years in School District 2 as well as the New Brunswick Community College. Her appointment to the Commission follows an extensive volunteer career as an outspoken advocate of human rights issues, including the infamous Malcolm

Ross case in the 1980s and 1990s regarding a Moncton school teacher, a Holocaust denier, who fostered hate against Jews. Lampert has participated in several public speaking engagements focusing on education and human rights issues, and has been an active volunteer for organizations including Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the Coalition Against Abusive Relationships, and the Greater Moncton Literacy Advisory Board. "I'm humbled by the Wiesenthal Award," she says. "I think I was chosen because my name is synonymous with fighting discrimination in schools in the 80s and 90s. I may have played a prominent part, but have worked side-by-side with so many others fighting for

rights. I represent them all in receiving this.

"There are so many others who were involved in the same issues in which I was involved, specifically the Ross case, which took many years."

Lampert, whose husband Irwin, a New Brunswick provincial court judge, recently completed a term as president of the Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges, says she identifies with people on the outer edges because of her experience.

"I was Jewish growing up in a society marginalized since I was very young. It's been natural for me to fight for others lost on the outside. I have empathy for people who have faced similar experiences. I faced racial

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SYDNEY NATIVE JOINS PRO COACHING RANKS

BY DOUG MACKENZIE - CAPE BRETON POST

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SYDNEY NATIVE JOINS PRO COACHING RANKS PHIL DAVID TAKES REINS OF TEAM IN ENGLAND

Sydney – it's been a change of life in more ways than one for Phil David. The 42-year-old Sydney native recently signed on as head coach of the Peterborough Phantoms of the English Premier Hockey League, following several years with Toronto Junior Canadiens organization, where he led the midget "AAA" club to the national semi-final at the Telus Cup and most recently served as assistant coach with their junior "A" squad.

David was just seven weeks into his stint with the junior club when he was contacted by Seattle-based agent, Adam Prossin, a fellow Sydney native.

"Adam called to just ask about some players in Toronto and during the conversation, he asked what I was doing and I said I was coaching junior 'A' hockey," explained David. "While I was enjoying it, I wanted to be a head coach again and I wanted to try and find a way to see if I could make a living out of this."

Prossin knew of a couple of opportunities, one in Belgium and one in England. Concerns of a language barrier in Belgium made the choice easy and after a quick trip to England and three days of interviews with the owners, David was hired.

"Following those three days, there were still some things I had to submit, like a practice plan, my vision for the team and how I could change things," said David. "They called me the next Wednesday and said they wanted to hire me, but they wanted me for the weekend, so I had four days to get to England."

"Three weeks ago, I didn't even know the English Premier League existed and now I'm coaching in it."

The move to England completes a complete life transition for David, who lost a year of coaching and work while battling cancer a little more than a year ago. While he had started feeling ill during the Telus Cup, it wasn't until August 29, 2006, when David was rushed to the hospital, that he found out that he had several cancerous tumours, one of which was blocking his digestive system.

Emergency surgery, chemo, seizures and loss of his job followed, but in May, David found a new beginning.

"All the bad things that could happen, happened in the space of about seven months," said David. "But the best thing about it was it gave me the freedom to just start looking at different priorities in life."

David started his own consulting company and while he admitted he was still working long hours, they were "his hours" and the freedom of being his

own boss led him back into coaching.

"It really gave me the freedom to get back involved in hockey again, because coaching at the junior level in Toronto is really a huge time commitment and I'm not sure I would have been able to do it if I had still been working a typical 9-to-5 job. Everything happens for a reason and frankly, if I didn't have my own company and the ability to suspend operations of it, I would not have been able to come over here on a moments notice."

Upon arriving in England, David went from the airport to the arena, where he promptly suffered a loss in his first game behind the bench. A win followed in the next game and now, more settled into his new job, he has a positive outlook on this season and his future. "I absolutely love it," said David, who credits childhood coaches like Dicker MacDonald, Jackie MacKeigan and Jigger Andrea for instilling the love of hockey into his life. "For me, it's a dream come true. I never quite thought it would happen in England, but for probably the last five years, I've wanted to find a way to make hockey a job and this is the closest I've been. It doesn't pay a lot, but that's not the point. The point is to be involved at a higher level that's called pro and see what doors this may open up for me."

This article is reprinted with permission of the Cape Breton Post.

MONCTON'S AUDREY LAMPERT HONoured - CONTINUED

discrimination but they may be on income assistance, or have limited education, or are lacking rights not recognized by the law as human beings, for example, gays and lesbians. I know what they're going through."

In making the appointment announcement, New Brunswick's Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty said, "I am confident the commission will benefit greatly from the extensive knowledge

and experience of Ms. Lampert. The man responsible for the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission added, "She has a rich history of community involvement and is a long-time human rights advocate."

SHABBAT ON THE ROCK

BY ERIC MOSES

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Editor's note: Cantor Moses visited St. John's this summer and his passionate reception from the Jewish community inspired him to organize a program to send visiting Cantors into small communities.

I DROVE TO TORONTO'S PEARSON AIRPORT EARLY FRIDAY MORNING, LEAVING BEHIND A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER DAY WITH AN EXPECTED HIGH OF 30 C TO FLY TO ST. JOHN'S TO SPEND SHABBAT IN NEWFOUNDLAND. The flight took less than three hours and when I arrived I was in a new time zone. Newfoundland Standard Time is one and a half hours ahead of Toronto. As we prepared to land, the cloud cover and dense fog did not permit any visibility, so I wasn't sure if there was an island in the Atlantic Ocean below. Moments later we landed in the middle of a torrential downpour. Fortunately I was greeted at the airport by my friends and members of my shul, Arthur and Margaret Shiff. They knew how ill-prepared a Torontonian would be for the elements of Canada's East Coast, so they came equipped with a bright yellow hooded rain slicker. The last time I remember wearing such foul-

weather gear was on the Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls. Needless to say, I gave up fashion for practicality and ditched my leather jacket.

Our first stop was at Georgetown Bakery to pick up bagels and some "Jewish Celebration Bread." Apparently the bakery sells it every Friday and it's purchased by

Jews and non-Jews alike. Next stop was the shul, the Beth-El Synagogue, which was built in 1959. It's quite amazing that no matter where I go in the world, as soon as I walk into a shul the feeling of being in a strange land disappears. I walked into the little sanctuary and saw talliotot, Art Scroll chumashim and Birnbaum siddurim – a sign of a traditional shul. The organized Jewish community in St. John's Dates back 100 years I stayed at the home of the shul's past president, Michael Paul, and his wife, Barbara Grandy. Paul recently finished his term as president after 12 years. I wanted to venture out to explore Shabbat, but the rain and winds were so fierce that I stayed indoors. A pre-Shabbat dinner was held at the home of the current president, Claire Frankel-Salama. She cooked a spectacular dinner for 17 people. The conversation at dinner revolved around the difficulties of obtaining kosher meat, the troubles involved in maintaining a kosher home and the group's passion and love for their community and shul. Most shocking to me was to hear Jewish people speaking with a Newfoundland accent. We left for shul by 7:30 in order to be

there for 8:00pm, davening time. I soon discovered that Newfoundlanders are not in such a rush – 8:00 really meant 8:30. I davened a traditional Minchah, Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv.

The acoustics in the little shul were magnificent. Nobody seemed to be in a hurry, so I took my time and encouraged the congregation to sing along with me. Upon finishing, people approached me with tears in their eyes to thank me. One older woman went so far as to tell me that she had never heard a cantor in her entire life.

The shul's membership is made up largely of doctors, professors from Memorial University, businesspeople and even one meteorologist.

They are fortunate to have in their midst a very knowledgeable Sephardi Jew, Messod Salama, a professor of Spanish at MUN. Messod has one of the largest private collections of Sephardi recordings and manuscripts in Canada. He takes pride in teaching and incorporating Sephardi melodies into the davening and in preserving the shul's traditions according to Halachah.

After services he gave a brilliant dvar Torah, incorporating motifs from the parshiot of Korach, Chukat, Balak and Pinchas, the parshah of the week. An oneg Shabbat followed, with treats baked and laid out beautifully by the ladies, all volunteers. Unlike a Toronto Oneg, this one was served on china dishware. I was impressed.

The most moving part of the evening was the singing of Shalom Aleichem at the Oneg. I began the singing, but the 32 people in attendance sang with such enthusiasm and power that they could have easily been mistaken for 200. I was so moved that I felt the tears of emotion well up in my eyes and I found myself unable to continue singing.

As my first day in Newfoundland drew to a close, I donned my foul-weather gear and dodged puddles as I walked home through

the pouring rain.

The next day I woke up early and prepared myself vocally as I do every Shabbat. I looked out the window and alas, it was dark, windy and raining. Shacharit was scheduled for 9:00am, but as I learned from the previous evening, that really meant 9:30am. Nobody seemed in a hurry. I was greeted enthusiastically by the congregants, who informed me that my new cd, Moses Live, had been aired on CBC Radio on Friday night and Saturday morning. Who would have ever imagined hearing chazzanut on CBC Radio in Newfoundland?

I finished Shacharit and met the shul's ba'al koreh, Ernie Mauskopf, an 82-year-old Holocaust survivor who is originally from Hungary. He read the parshah so flawlessly that he would be the envy of many Toronto shuls.

The Shabbat was very significant in St. John's because the Jewish community was also enjoying a visit from the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Alan Baker, and his wife, Dalia. He recited the prayer for the State of Israel and the Mi Sheberach for Israeli soldiers. At the rear of the shul were the ambassador's two RCMP bodyguards, quietly sitting and wearing Kippot.

At the congregational lunch following the service, Baker addressed the congregation and spoke passionately about the cooperation and support for Israel that he has received from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservative government. It was such a special day in the shul that those in attendance didn't want it to end. We continued singing zmirot and more zmirot with complete congregational participation. Finally it was time for

Birkat Hamazon and I was proud to ask Baker to lead us.

Then it was time to return outdoors and much to my dismay it was still raining, only stronger than before. After my "shabbos shluf," I was ready for my Shabbos walk. Finally the rain had stopped. My host, Michael Paul, took me on a two and a half hour walk and proudly showed me some of the landmarks in North America's oldest city, including St. John's beautiful harbour, Signal Hill, Fort Amherst and the Lieutenant Governor's mansion.

He explained the general differences in construction on the island. Since brick is so expensive and not manufactured in Newfoundland, most of the homes are made of wood covered with clapboard, in an array of different colours. While

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Toronto is flat, St. John's is like San Francisco, with lots of steep hills.

We returned to my hosts' home in time for seudah shlishit, followed by Havdalah. Shabbat ended at 10:00pm. In Toronto that would signal one hour of television and time for bed. Not in Newfoundland! The night was still young and a minyan of Jews descended upon one of St. John's favourite watering holes, O'Reilly's Irish Newfoundland Pub. It was some "malaveh Malkah," featuring local talent singing traditional Irish Newfoundland favourites and drinking East Coast beer. I felt as if I was in Dublin. Was I really still in Canada?

On Sunday morning I awoke to a windy, but sunny day. I finally ditched the rain gear and visited Cape Spear, the easternmost point in North America, which is about a 20-minute drive from St. John's. Several years ago the Beth-El Synagogue created a beautiful tradition. Each year at Slichot, congregants daven a sunrise Shacharit service at Cape Spear. The photos of men in tallit and tfillin blowing Shofar at the place in North America closest to Jerusalem, are proudly displayed in the shul. The shul also has posters of Israel hanging around its social hall, as well as a beautiful painting of a Chassidic Jew on permanent loan to the shul from Memorial University. The community has its own cemetery and Paul and his wife lead the chevrah kadishah. Sadly, I had to bid farewell to my new friends on Sunday. It was bittersweet as they knew that by next Shabbat the excitement would be gone and there was no certainty that there would be a minyan in shul. It was such an uplifting experience for them to have a minyan of 30-plus people and the infrequent opportunity to read from the Torah. Regrettably, the problem facing the East Coast, as well as other smaller Canadian communities, is the lack of Jewish people. My trip to Newfoundland inspired me to try to reach out to the other outlying

Jewish communities that are struggling to survive. The Toronto Council of Hazzanim, in conjunction with UIA Canada Small Communities Division, is planning to have a group of chazzanim perform a concert in a different small community each year. This initiative will give smaller Jewish communities exposure in the broader community, in addition to providing them with an excellent fundraising opportunity.

We are also planning to send a cantor annually to Cuba to lead Shabbat services and to deliver much needed pharmaceuticals and supplies. In Havana, the shul also serves as the community pharmacy.

I was invited to Newfoundland to lead Shabbat services at Beth-El Synagogue by my congregants and friends, Arthur and Margaret Shiff,

who sponsored the weekend together with the Atlantic Jewish Council and Beth-El. In the 100-year history of Newfoundland's Jewish community, services have rarely been led by a chazzan.

Today, Beth-El has 25 member families. My experience there reminded me of my childhood in Sudbury, Ontario, a tiny Jewish community that also has 25 Jewish families. I lived in Sudbury until I was 13. I was always the only Jew in my school and the synagogue was the only possible place to express myself Jewishly. It

was largely due to my experiences in a small community that I chose to become a chazzan and to serve others.

Newfoundland was quite similar to Sudbury, albeit with its own unique flair and Old World charm. My Judaism is strengthened by the resolve and devotion of the Jews of Newfoundland. My Shabbat was enriched by their passion and their singing. If you plan to visit Newfoundland and would like to attend services at Beth-El Synagogue in St. John's or eat a kosher meal, please contact Michael Paul at mpaul@mun.ca. Eric Moses is the cantor of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto and President, Toronto Council of Hazzanim.

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My amazement about the events occurring in Israel has no limit. Each of us, as participants, had our own prior knowledge and impressions about Israel- garnered from our previous visits and readings.

This mission confirmed and enhanced my understanding about the vitality, diversity, and enormous achievements which demonstrate the essence of Israeli society.

The venues were chosen to show us the ongoing hard work in the country and also the problems, especially among the disabled and newly arrived. I was most impressed by the absorption centres and the schools for the disabled.

The highlights for me were the performance by the IPO under the baton of Maestro Mehta and their playing of the Hatikvah, the spending of Shabbat in Jerusalem and the many dedicated co-travelers whom I had the opportunity to meet and from whom I learned a great deal.

Yasher Koach to Jon Goldberg, Perry Romberg and the other organizers and leaders of this most successful mission. Until the next one!

Michael Paul
St. John's Newfoundland

As an evening event in the North, we were grouped in fours and sent off as guests of local residents. The hosts graciously picked us up, had us for dinner and had us back to the Kibbutz Kfar Blum later in the evening. Barb and Frank Cappell, Jamie and I were guests at the home of a psychologist of several of the facilities we visited. The evening quickly became a highlight of my trip. It was most enlightening to hear the grass roots stories of people who have lived on a kibbutz, a kibbutz as it was and as it is now, a privatized community; to learn of the politics and of the society in this new living situation. It was an evening of stories of their four children as soldiers, their war experiences and the aftermath. It was stories of the 2006 Lebanese war, the leaving and the return, and a first hand description of the physical and emotional destruction. We were told of how one son went to 12 funerals of friends in that war.

We returned to our hotel to find most of the others had a special experience that evening as well.

We made new friends in Yoav and Donna, our hosts, and are the wiser for meeting them.

Doreen Levitz
Toronto

Many people will write articles which will detail the events and emotions experienced by the sixty two participants collectively and individually while we traveled the width and breadth of our beloved Israel. This article will simply precis a few personal experiences that highlight any trip, but give heightened meaning in Israel.

During the first weekend which we spent in Tel-Aviv, the Shabbat morning presented an option of a walk to study Bauhaus Architecture in the older quarter of the city. What started as a study in history and of course the fortuitous arrival of Jewish settlers from Germany prior to World War II culminated in a botany lesson that was a lesson in Torah. Amidst this architectural style were trees and plants lining the walkways. Our guide plucked a leaf from a tree with a name resembling TURMERIC. He opened the leaf to show an inky substance and told us that this substance was used by the SOFER to scribe the TORAH. Who would know? That fascinated our group.

Much later in the trip came that inevitable meeting of people we know. It is the Jewish six degrees of separation. Walking on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, Victor and I encountered a fresh faced young man with a newly acquired M 16. This wasn't any young man, but instead Aaron Simon, a cousin from Toronto who has made Aliyah and was that day inaugurated into the army. His late father was Allan Simon (Z' L) and Aaron attended ceremonies in Israel with his mother Jackie, her husband Norman Kahn and his uncle Mark Simon. That was a definite moment!

On Thursday evening in Jerusalem, we fraternized with previous employees of AJC. They were all sorry that Jon could not be with them and wished him a speedy recovery, and happily, their wishes have been heard. We saw Yael Goodman looking great with baby on the way, Sarah Wilner, who has a fabulous job, Jared who is traveling in Israel and will return to Camp Kadimah as well as others with ties to Nova Scotia. They send their collective regards.

Our last shabbat in Jerusalem gave us Rabbi and Tali Grunstein with baby Amichai. They were excited to see all, and traveled from table to table reestablishing acquaintances. However, before we were able to sit down to what was my birthday dinner (and that was a true plus...to have a birthday in Jerusalem...) we were delighted to welcome to the world in New York, Ayelet Batya Medjuck Bruckner, born to Bena and Gustavo. When we finally sat down to Kiddush, more Canadians found us. We were joined for dessert by Keith landy and his wife. Keith is a former Congress president and he brought the Feldmans. They saw the sign AJC mission, and rushed in to see their daughter Jess' friend Nathan Zilbert's parents, our own Kathy and Arthur. Like I said, only in Israel.

This trip was meaningful, fulfilling, and friendship driven. I wish to thank Stanley, Marty their spouses, and Jon and Perry Romberg for the drive necessary to produce such a mission. A special thank you and my love and admiration for Victor's ability to arrive late and to step right into place without jet lag or without missing a poker hand.

May the candles of Chanukah inspire us all to be heroes in our own lives.

Judith Goldberg
Halifax

A Day Not Soon Forgotten

On Monday, October 22 we traveled to Sderot. Sderot lies one kilometer from the Gaza Strip and the town of Beit Hanoon. Sderot was first inhabited by Kurdish and Persian refugees in 1951 who lived in tents and shacks for almost four years before permanent structures were built. It is made up of North African immigrants, immigrants from Kurdistan, Romania and in the 1990s immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Since the beginning of the Second Intifada in October 2000, the city has been under constant rocket fire from Qassam rockets launched by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Despite the imperfect aim of these rockets, they have caused deaths and injuries, significant damage to homes and properties, as well as psychological terror and emigration from the city. We visited the site of a monument erected on the spot of the murder of a young brother and sister by a Qassam rocket and listened while the medic who found them described the horror. Literally, thousands of Qassam rockets have been launched since Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip in September 2005. The day that we visited, unbeknown to us, there were 10 Qassam rockets that fell in the neighbouring area. And since we have returned from Israel, apparently the attacks have been even more constant. Over 110 Qassam rockets have been launched from Gaza towards Sderot in the month of November. Residents live under constant bombardment.

Sderot is a city under siege. Thousands of residents have left for other areas, leaving mostly the poorer residents who cannot afford to move. The economy is in a state of collapse. The restaurant where we ate lunch had not had such business for ages. We wanted to spend shekels in Sderot but could not find anything to purchase. For those residents who remain, they regularly hear the "Red Dawn" alarm system used to warn citizens of impending rocket attacks. When these alarms go off, children are grabbed from their beds, businesses stop, and everyone runs to the closest bomb shelter. They have only a few seconds of warning. The toll on the citizens is enormous. Osnat Ben Haiem, a Jewish resident of Sderot, whose house had a direct hit by a Qassam rocket, sums up this toll as follows: "Physical damage you are able to see. The scar in the heart - that's what you cannot see;" Only two minutes before the missile hit, her six year old son was having a sandwich in her kitchen. Can one measure the destruction that such trauma creates?

And there seems to be little hope. The Annapolis Summit does not have on its agenda the plight of the citizens of Sderot. On the eve of the Annapolis Summit, CBC National News did a feature on the terrorists who are firing these Qassam rockets. They went underground with three hooded young Palestinians, university students according to the report, who showed the CBC journalist how they made these home-made rockets. They acknowledged that they were firing on ordinary citizens in Sderot, but seemed unconcerned that they were targeting only civilians. These terrorists seem to favor Sderot, but the daily bombardment of rockets in this region affects about 180,000 Israelis, including as well the residents of Ashkelon, Netivot, 20 kibbutzim and moshavim, all of whom live their lives in constant terror. And so we were glad that the Atlantic mission went to Sderot so that we saw and heard the story of the residents of Sderot and at least in this far flung corner of the world their anguish is not forgotten.

Sheva Medjuck
Halifax

Editor's note: Morris Strug hand delivered his letter to my office and we had the most fascinating discussion about his trip to Israel. His intention was to write a "happy" letter; however, he expressed the desire to have me include a poignant memory that is ingrained in his mind.

The visit to Kfar Blum, home to a multi use facility, is also the home for a school for children with special needs. This school serves the northern communities, and it was here that Morris Strug saw the value of the work the mission accomplishes, as he was heartbroken to see the children with physical disabilities and the challenges that the face on a daily basis.

I would like to express my personal feelings regarding the Mission to Israel I recently attended. I was awed by the beauty of the country and the character of the people.

We Maritimers spent wonderful evenings singing and dancing. Perhaps the most memorable evening was listening to the Israel Symphony and hearing them play "Hatikvah."

I enjoyed the trip and I especially enjoyed sharing the experience with all the other Maritimers. It has been nine years since my last visit to Israel and the changes struck me immediately. Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are booming with new construction and the country is clean and flowering.

The cities and places we visited were thriving. There are more cars than people and the highway network was very impressive. We were treated royally. All our needs were anticipated and our guide was extremely informative.

Taking everything under consideration, the entire experience was a great pleasure and I will remember it for a long time.

Morris Strug
Halifax

AJC Mission to Israel



New friends and old on the last night. Left to right Annie Thaler, Harold Schwartz, Merle Ames, Mark Wolfson



Farewell dinner at the lovely Taverna restaurant Jerusalem



Baha'i Gardens Susan David, Shoshana Katz & Morris Strug



The one that missed us, Sderot.



Youth demo at school in the north.



The mountain bike trip



Harold Yazer Mina Chatt, Myrna Yazer and Jon Allen, the Canadian Ambassador to Israel



The range rover group looking out over the Hula Valley



Arthur & Kathy Zilbert in Sderot overlooking the fence and Gaza in the background



Yad Vashem: Morris Strug, Jo-anne Nozick, Shoshana Katz, Susan David



The 4 Kings!



The Torontonians at the Mosaic Wall Haifa

When the Atlantic Jewish Council announced they were organizing a mission to Israel for Atlantic Jewry, my mother, Ann Bernick and I jumped on the opportunity. Since I am currently living in Vancouver, I was looking forward to going to Israel where I could reconnect with old friends from Camp Kadimah. What I did not expect was that it would actually be Camp Kadimah that would bond Jews from across the world of different generations.

Camp Kadimah made it possible to be a Jewish girl growing up in New Waterford in the 1960s. While my parents instilled a deep sense of Judaism and Zionism in my siblings and I in the home, Camp Kadimah brought together all the Jewish kids that were scattered throughout the Maritimes for 6 weeks to celebrate their culture and heritage. During my visit to Israel I realized that Camp Kadimah has far exceeded its original goal of unifying Jewish children from the Maritimes. While we were in Northern Israel we had the opportunity to take part in home hospitality for one evening. My mother and I, as well as Jim and Marcy Spatz and Michael and Joanne Argand were delighted to enjoy the gracious, warm hospitality of a family whose daughter had attended Camp Kadimah one summer. That evening, I stopped and realized that there were 3 generations of Kadimah campers in that home in Northern Israel. My mother, and myself had attended camp Kadimah. Not only were we bonded by our common Jewish heritage and a love for Israel but we were all part of the same Kadimah community. What struck me most about this epiphany is that I did not see this as a function of Camp Kadimah while I was in Canada; I only realized this while I was in Israel. While the foundation of who I am was established in my home, it was cemented in at Camp Kadimah and again reaffirmed during this past trip in Israel.

Merle Ames
Vancouver via Cape Breton



Sometimes and even once in a while the forces of nature conspire to create rare and delightful moments. That is how I would describe the recent Atlantic Jewish Council Mission to Israel, rare and delightful and as they say in the big town if you missed it, you missed it. So it might be asked what's a guy from Toronto doing as a player in a trip like this. Well, as everybody knows I'm not from Toronto, I'm only here temporarily (1980) and I am really from Halifax and have never left. I have never left my friends, I'm still going to Camp Kadimah, and although I finished Dalhousie University (which my late parents always thought of as a miracle) much of me remains behind. Some people just do not grow up. Keeping all of these psychoses in mind, one day while on the golf course with my life long friend Martin Chernin I say to him I'm going to Israel because it's time(it had been 6 years since my previous visit) and Martin says to me it's time for him as well and lets go together. There are only a few people in your life who you can say it's time to do something, they know exactly what you mean and I suggested that maybe Jamie Levitz felt it was time and would come. From there with the help of Jon Goldberg and United Israel Appeal the idea grew wings and flew. The upshot of all this is that in 2004 sixteen people went and we had such a wonderful time but the really important thing was when the time came to organize another trip the enthusiasm and support was enormous and sixty-two people participated. It's just amazing what good Scotch and a cigar can accomplish.

It is said that once you leave home you can never go back. Not true, you can. I did it on our Mission. The influences of a Jewish upbringing in Halifax, Young Judaea, Camp Kadimah and Dalhousie University set the stage for the Mission many years before it happened. It was almost preordained as energy was created when we were children which had to result at some time in the future in this sort of emotional catharsis. You can go to Israel in many ways. Bat and Bar Mitzvah trips, various missions, bike trips, studying at institutions of higher learning are all at our disposal. But how many times can you go with your camp friends, university friends, golfing friends, childhood friends and even our wives. The stars were perfectly aligned. That is why the participants performed so magnificently when it came to helping out those far less fortunate than ourselves. The moment was right. The hook was in. Caution was thrown to the wind. Almost everyone knew it and was happy to participate.

To wax philosophical for a moment. One can spend an entire lifetime doing the smart thing or you can view life as doing the right thing. I prefer the latter. It makes me feel better. In other words to put it more simply when you come on a Mission to Israel with Stanley Jacobson, you are on a Mission. So as we begin to discuss plans for another Atlantic Jewish Council Mission in 2010 and with G-d's help I will be a resident again and if I am involved I will do my best to make sure you have a memorable time but you will be on a Mission. It's the right thing to do. In closing, all of the perpetrators thank their wives profusely for allowing us these flights of fantasy from time to time. See you in 2010.

Stanley Jacobson
Toronto via Halifax

2007 Mission to Israel: What Really Moved Us

The 2007 Mission to Israel was a tremendous experience for both Randi and me. It wasn't our first trip to Israel – we were just there 2 years ago. That was a great trip for us too, but the mission last month was even more rewarding.

Believe it, or not, this most moving experience revolved around a discussion we had seated a table with several 16 year-olds. It was during a brief visit we made to an "absorption center" in the western Negev. These were very special teenagers in a very special place.

Absorption centers are set up to receive teenager immigrants. Apparently, the stream of immigrants coming alone to Israel as teenagers amounts to at least several thousand a year. Some come as total orphans, others having simply left their parents behind because they were too poor, to sick, or otherwise unable to emigrate together. These kids are coming from all over North Africa, including Yemen, Algeria and Ethiopia, and also former Soviet satellites like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. African Jews, Asian Jews, Bhukarian Jews.

So, we sat at a table with some of these kids and discussed their lives with them. They told us a bit about what life was like where they came from, the persecution, the lack of opportunity, what their families are up against.

They described their lives at the absorption center. They reside there and get a jump-start education, normally learning both Hebrew and English from scratch, as well as other subjects- but all geared towards preparing these kids for integration into life in Israel. It's a 9-month program and these kids first immigrated only a few months ago. They told us how they looked forward to serving in the army, and their aspirations beyond. And let me tell you, these kids have aspirations.

Several of them described their hopes to us to eventually bring their parents to Israel. One bright girl spoke of her interest in business and finance. My eyes lit up! One boy hoped for a career in astrophysics. These were wonderful kids who felt lucky to have gotten here. And now they were pretty sure their futures looked bright. Experiencing their hope was really the most moving experience for us. I have no doubt these kids will be a credit to Israel's future.

David Adler
November 17, 2007
Halifax

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TRIP TO ISRAEL

It was a dream of a lifetime that I will never forget. My wish was to make a trip to Israel this year. The trip was fantastic and the group extended themselves to me. My daughter Merle accompanied me. I was glad that I was able to participate fully in all the programs, as it really added to my enjoyment of the trip.

One of the highlights of the trip for me was being given the honour to lay the wreath at the Kfar Giladi Cemetery where 12 soldiers were killed during the Second Lebanon War. Thank you, Perry Romberg, for giving me this honour.

I was touched by the visit to the Kotel and participating in the Kabbalat Shabbat. It instilled in me the pride of being Jewish and able to visit Israel. Afterwards there was the Shabbat dinner at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

Merle and I stayed in Israel a few days longer to visit our family who live in Israel. I was also very glad to be able to visit and have a tour of Boys Town Jerusalem, which my late husband Al and I had supported for years. Overall, it was a wonderful trip. I am so glad that I had the opportunity go to. I also enjoyed meeting many friends and family that I have not seen or spoken to in years.

Ann Bernick
Ottawa via Cape Breton

AJC MISSION TO ISRAEL - CONTINUED



Judith and Victor at the Golan Heights



Howard and Kathy cutting the ribbon on the Peace Succah at Alei Giva School



The Petra group on the steps of the Treasury



Marcie Spatz during Hospitality night, with two Israeli alumni of Camp Kadimah's CIT program

HALIFAX LAWYER, SIMON GAUM, AN INSPIRATION TO MANY

BY JOEL JACOBSON

PAGE 31



THERE WAS ALWAYS A SMILE, A JOKE, A BARB MEANT IN JEST, A SERIOUS QUESTION, A MORE SERIOUS ANSWER AND FREELY-GIVEN SAGE ADVICE.

No more.

The man who provided all of the above, and so much more, passed away suddenly September 7, 2007. Taken from us was a kind and generous man who was a friend to all.

Simon Gaum was a man I remember as a short pudgy kid who came to Camp Kadimah in 1952 with a slew of Cape Bretoners I quickly befriended.

My fondest memory, although he would grimace today is he read this, was of Simon standing in the shallow end of the Kadimah waterfront while the rest of us developed our aquatic skills in the deep pool. Simon could not swim, and never really showed a desire to do so.

It was a fond memory only because Simon took ribbing from many of us in stride, yet we could be sure he

would have a comeback for all those who taunted him. And he did.

I was Simon's counsellor for one summer, even though I was only a couple of years older. He was a good kid then, not that he didn't remain so for the next 50 years.

We admired Simon in those days, and would admire him even more in later years, for his knowledge of the siddur, and all things Jewish, which he learned under the guidance of Rabbi Israel Kenner in his hometown of Sydney. While we kids from Halifax had a new cheder teacher almost every year, and would start each year learning the aleph-bes, Simon and his confreres pushed ahead to be "rabbinic" scholars under the constant of a well-respected rav.

I remember Simon at Kadimah - the jock, the athlete, a third baseman and catcher, a basketball guard. I remember Simon partaking eagerly and intelligently in sicha - daily discussion periods on Jewish subjects, and in all camp activities, from song and dance, to arts and crafts, to girl-ogling, and even girl-chasing.

But it is memories of recent times that stand out.

Simon the athlete: When a group of us would gather for "Jew-ball", Thursday night softball, there would be Simon, showing his skills - but now, at 50 plus, playing first base. "I won't have to run too much," he'd tell anyone who'd listen.

Simon, the lawyer, had a decent practice, first in Quinpool Centre in Halifax and latterly at the Halifax Shopping Centre. I was never sure how much law Simon practiced, even though he successfully handled several items for me.

On many occasions, when I was in the shopping center to shop, I'd see Simon wandering through, glasses perched high on his forehead (of which he had plenty, like many of us in that age bracket), sometimes walking purposefully, other times just roaming, but usually with a smile as he greeted shopkeepers he knew well, customers who recognized him, and a few old friends who he would stop and to whom he would tell a joke.

Ah! Simon's jokes! He had a bushel full, always fresh, generally humorous, sometimes groaners, never obscene, always re-tellable to anyone we desired. I was on his e-mail list for jokes and Judaica, sometimes combining the two.

His knowledge of Jewish history, much gleaned from a massive Jewish post card collection and many of them antiques and collectibles, was massive. His devotion to synagogue - both the Shaar Shalom of which he was a member, and Beth Israel where he willingly helped make minyans when requested - was endless. He served the Shaar in many religious positions, specifically when the congregation was between rabbis and needed someone to lead services. Rabbi Kenner's teaching proved invaluable.

Simon had a legion of friends. One who remained close to Simon, speaking with him at least every two weeks until shortly before Simon's passing, was Irv Sherman, formerly of Sydney and now living in Toronto. He loves to tell this story of their first trip to camp, one he would often gladly relate to Simon's wife, Karen.

"We shared a lower (train) berth en route to Halifax and Camp Kadimah," Irv recalls. "Years later, Simon, Karen and I had dinner together in Toronto.

I said to Karen: "You know, Karen, that I slept with Simon before you did."

Yet, while Simon was devoted to, and shared laughs with, his vast array of friends, he will always be remembered for the compassion and love he gave to his family.

His sudden passing shocked everyone who knew him, none more so than Karen, daughters Jennifer and Lesley, their respective spouses, Adam Bobker and Dov Bercovici, and the grandchildren, Lesley and Dov's Rebekah and Matthew.

Lesley calls Simon the "core of the family", involved in every activity in which she, Dov, and their children partook.

"He taught me how to be a good parent," Lesley said in a tribute at Simon's memorial service. "I counted on him to guide me down the right path and he never once let me down."

In her memoriam, Jennifer said Simon "always encouraged me to follow my dreams and never take no for an answer. We always had fun without doing anything special. It was just special to be together."

All Simon's friends and acquaintances feel the same way as his close family.

It was special to be

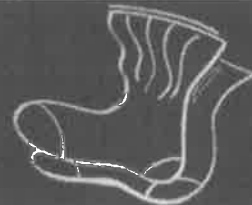
with Simon Gaum, to see that smile, to wonder why his glasses never got smudged sitting atop his head, to wonder if he ever DID learn to swim, to realize the jokes from Simon have stopped, and to regret that his days with us were cut way too short.

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HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH ICON PASSES AWAY AT 95

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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Joe Zatzman with the Honourable Constance Glube

JOE ZATZMAN LEFT A LEGACY OF FAMILY AND LIFE LESSONS THAT WILL ALWAYS BE FOLLOWED. Cantor Ari Isenberg told a large gathering at the December 12 funeral of a man respected by the Jewish and secular communities.

"He lived to the maximum. He was never one to squander life. He lived a productive life, enjoyed his surroundings and contributed to his community. That was Joe Zatzman's mantra," said Isenberg.

Zatzman died at age 95, leaving memories of a dynamic leader, wise mentor to many, a strong family man and a man with a zest for life who loved to tell stories. He did not live in the past, but was always offering advice for the present.

"He'd offer guidance to anyone at any time on any matter," said Isenberg. "His ability to listen to people was sincere. He always said the right thing at the right time."

Zatzman was the first, and only, Jewish mayor of the City of Dartmouth, serving two terms in the 1960s, after several years on city council. He was responsible for the development of Burnside Industrial Park, showing the vision to jump ahead of Halifax in providing such growth.

It was said that council refused to go along with his plan to spend public money to buy hundreds of acres. When he told council he'd buy it himself and

develop it personally, his councillors recanted and gave the go ahead, realizing Zatzman's vision foresaw a fortune to be made. He was right, of course.

Zatzman was born in Saint John, N.B. in 1912, the oldest of four children. He married Leah Flam of Bathurst, N.B. and they moved to Dartmouth where he started a small grocery store and had two children, Karla and Michael. He also leaves a sister, Lily Aronson, Dartmouth, and six grandchildren.

His nephew, Laurie Astroff, fondly remembers Sunday mornings as a small boy, driving with his father Jack from Halifax to Uncle Joe's store in Dartmouth. "We'd walk through the sawdust on the floor, through the deep freeze with the hanging meats, and eventually he'd give me a chocolate bar. It was a weekly ritual."

Zatzman sold the store in the 1950s and built a real estate empire of hundreds of apartment units in the Halifax and Dartmouth areas.

Paul O'Regan, president of one of Nova Scotia's largest automobile dealership chains, saw Zatzman as a mentor from the time he was a young man.

"I was studying at St. F.X. and I'd come to Halifax for weekends. I'd stay with Saul Offman's family and relished the time I'd sit with Saul, Saul's brother-in-law Izzy Lubetsky,

and Joe, and listen to them talk business. I was brought up in an Irish family with lots of uncles, so knew to respect age and wisdom."

"Joe was a sage," O'Regan says. "He was always current. He would always focus, even when we talked about the car business with which he wasn't totally familiar. But he'd give me logical reasons to act on what I was asking him."

O'Regan visited Zatzman two weeks before his passing. "He was still offering very lucid conversations and wise opinion and advice."

Zatzman served his community well. He was chairman of the Dartmouth Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Nova Scotia Resources Development Board,

continued on page 34



FOR WHAT MATTERS

All the Staff & Employees would
like to wish the community a
Happy & Healthy
Chanukah!

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS LEARN TO TEACH ABOUT HOLOCAUST

PAGE 34

BY JOEL JACOBSON

BETTY ANNE MCGINNIS HAS BEEN TEACHING LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST TO HER GRADE 12 ENGLISH CLASS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

"I'm passionate about the Holocaust and the incredible amount of writing on it," says the teacher at Avon View High School in Windsor, N.S. "Working with my students on the subject has moved me more than anything I've taught in my 36-year career. It's just something about studying the lives of so many people who have been destroyed."

Her passion, and that of 20 other teachers from across Nova Scotia, was satisfied recently (Sept 28-30) at the first annual Holocaust Education Conference – Teaching Tolerance in the Classroom, free to whatever teacher wanted to attend. Held in Halifax, the conference was the dream of Michelle Masters, a University of King's College senior from Toronto, who's studying international development and history. She's a member of the Jewish Students Federation of the Atlantic Provinces and the Holocaust Education Week Committee at King's.

"I had worked with the Atlantic Jewish Council on its Holocaust education program and really wanted to get to the teachers in the school system," she says. "I thought of doing it last April (near Yom Hashoah) but there was no time. There was no way the project would be abandoned so we (co-organizer Bobbi Zahra, an employee of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans) planned it for fall. And a one-day event turned into three."

Bobbi, born Catholic but a convert to Judaism 18 months ago, did a thesis at Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax on the Holocaust.

"The more I learned, the more I realized I didn't know and wanted to know and how much others needed to know," she says enthusiastically. "Michelle and I found teachers who were doing Holocaust education in art, drama, social studies, history and English, generated the conference and have a wonderfully interested group."

Among the conference highlights were a showing of the documentary film on Whitwell (TN) Middle School's paper clip project and a discussion from Halifax teacher Wayne MacIntyre, who had his Grade 8 students fill a classroom with 100,000 paper clips hanging from the ceiling, each signifying a person, to denote the vast number they'd need to show the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Dr. Michael McGowan, founding member and director of the Atlantic Human Rights Centre at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B., spoke about tolerance and teaching human rights.

"Many of the teachers want him back next year, and there WILL be a next year, to do a full-day session," says Zahra.

Keith Samuelson, of Prince of Wales Collegiate in St. John's, NL, spoke about the various ways he taught Holocaust education with few resources but a desire to get the message of tolerance across. McGinnis speaks glowingly of the opportunity she had. "I've been able to

network with other teachers here. Bobbi offered so many resources. Listening to the speakers and talking with others makes me realize there's such passion all over the place."

She spends five weeks of each 17-week semester teaching the subject. "The students read, view films, prepare power points, research individuals who've perished in the Holocaust and some who've survived, do art, create models – all in English class. I even had two students who composed their own songs about it." McGinnis says two of the students organized a school assembly for 1,000 people at Avon View last spring, during Holocaust Memorial Week. "They prepared a tremendously moving power point presentation and invited (Holocaust survivor) Philip Riteman (from Bedford, N.S.) to speak."

Zahra and Masters are thrilled to hear responses like that.

I think this will spread," says Zahra.

"Teachers have talked very positively. One even wants to translate it into French."

"I think we can get 120 people next time," says Masters, who had set an original goal of 60 for this initial attempt. "When I look at the faces, I think they can be empowered to talk to their fellow teachers."

Zahra adds, "If we reach one teacher, how many students will he or she reach, and then how many more and how many more?"

She continues. "We've even created a Yahoo news group so the teachers here can stay in touch and lend support. This whole effort was definitely worth it."

HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH ICON PASSES AWAY AT 95 - CONTINUED

vice chair of Saint Mary's University Board of Governors, an honorary degree recipient from that university, and a member of the Order of Canada.

He was one of the first Jewish members of Dartmouth's Brightwood Golf and Country Club at a time when Jews were

barred from local recreational facilities.

In the Jewish community, he and three friends founded Young Judea in Halifax as teenagers. He chaired United Jewish Appeal and the Atlantic Jewish Council, and was a long-time member of the Beth Israel Synagogue (orthodox) until his 80s

when he switched to Shaar Shalom.

Cantor Isenberg stressed Zatzman's love of life. "He greeted each day and year with optimism and passion and understood the value of living."

PHILIP RITEMAN – GENUINE COURAGE

BY EDNA LEVINE, AJC PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

PAGE 35



Philip Riteman 18 months after liberation

I have calculated that during the past few months Philip Riteman has spoken to over 7,000 people in elementary schools, community colleges, jr. high schools, high schools and community centres throughout Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Philip Riteman is committed to fulfilling the requests for speaking engagements and his tentative spring schedule (which is presently



Philip Riteman with a group of students in Newfoundland

wait listed) will bring him to all the Atlantic Provinces. This extensive schedule could not be accomplished without the support and safeguard of his wife Dorothy, her intuitive sense has facilitated his story to reach and affect thousands of lives.

THE FIRST TIME I HEARD
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
PHILIP RITEMAN SPEAK, IT
WAS APPARENT THAT I WAS IN
THE PRESENCE OF GENUINE

COURAGE. His message, undiluted and honest, heightened my sense of compassion. His palpable energy was mesmerizing, and the cliché “you could hear a pin drop” accurately defined the atmosphere.

Philip Riteman relates his personal story of survival unapologetically, in a time when first hand accounts have become a historical necessity. It was interesting to hear the audience respond



Edna Levine, Philip Riteman and Michelle Masters



A closer look at the tattooed number

with questions, which provided a keen insight into his appeal, and clarity as to why my office was inundated with letters of response and requests for speaking engagements. The brazen storytelling of his life experience in the concentration camps is a stark contrast to the meaninglessness experience of daily life, which is often left unexamined. Philip Riteman incites examination and students respond with their most intimate thoughts, personal experiences, hopes and dreams, tears, hugs, and a genuine desire to spread the knowledge they have received.

Talking with Philip Riteman you get a sense of how the numerous recounts of his past have emotionally exposed him, and you are acutely aware of his vulnerability and the strength and courage he possesses to continue retelling the past for the benefit of others. Philip Riteman's personal message is of love and compassion, because he has experienced the harm of hatred. This message resonates as the audience grasps that the direction of the future is dependent on how we choose to respond. I share the same thankfulness that I have read in hundreds of letters to Philip Riteman for being given the responsibility to tell his story and spread his message.



Richard Goldhar assisting during Philip Riteman's busy Q&A's session, Halifax.

VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT SUCCESS TO NOVA SCOTIA

Members of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue, the Beth Israel Synagogue and the Atlantic Jewish Council are actively working on a program to support Jewish immigrants who are interested in coming to Nova Scotia.

The committee is seeking volunteers who would be willing and able to provide some hands on guidance and orientation to potential immigrants in the following areas:

- 1) Housing and rental accommodations (locations and costs)
- 2) School visits and transfers
- 3) Medical services: hospital orientations, locating a physician
- 4) Grocery shopping: locations/kosher products
- 5) Transportation: public, vehicle purchasing, registering motor vehicles
- 6) Orientation to banking
- 7) Financial advising: resettlement costs
- 8) Employment: opportunities and job search
- 9) Community tours: e.g., synagogues, schools, neighborhoods, medical facilities
- 10) Information on ESL programs & tutors
- 11) Social networking

If you are interested in participating in this important endeavour, or desire more information, please contact:

Donna Assh: donnaassh@gmail.com or
Edna LeVine at the AJC: 422-7491 x226 or elevine@theajc.ns.ca.

Thanks!

UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF HATRED: A FOCUS ON THE HOLOCAUST

JACK COLUMBUS

PAGE 37



L-R Leo Adler, Brenda MacIsaac, Dr. Graham Reynolds

"UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF HATRED: A FOCUS ON THE HOLOCAUST", was a day-long conference for elementary, intermediate and secondary school teachers together with the students in the CBU/Memorial University Bachelor of Education Program held at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, N.S. on October 24th. The conference was organized by Brenda MacIsaac, Program Services Coordinator for Elementary Schools in Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, and

addressed the importance of teaching the Holocaust in the Nova Scotia school curriculum and explored some of the newest strategies for effectively teaching students

Graham Reynolds, Professor of History and Education Instructor in the CBU/Memorial University Bachelor of Education Program. The conference

Studies in Toronto. Leo Adler is a criminal lawyer and son of Holocaust survivors. Following the morning session, he presented a teachers workshop on hate on the Internet.

One of the key objectives of the conference was to make the Holocaust both historically and personally relevant to teachers and students. Graham Reynolds, one of the conference organizers, stated that "the Holocaust and other more recent examples of genocide like Rwanda and Darfur, show the power of hatred in our modern



about the Holocaust and other more recent forms of genocide. The main guest speaker of the conference was Leo Adler from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust

world. This kind of hatred is a problem for the entire global community and one of the best ways to combat it is through education. The conference hopefully raised awareness among our teachers and provided them with the rationale and strategies for teaching about the Holocaust."

The conference was sponsored by the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board, the School of Education, Health and Wellness and the Mi'kmaq College Institute at CBU, together with the Atlantic Jewish Council.

STUDENTS' POETRY DISTRIBUTED TO HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS

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BY JACK COLUMBUS

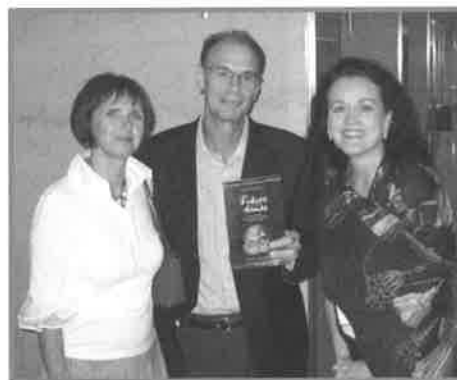
A BOOK OF POETRY AND ART WORK, "THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS", produced by elementary and high school students in Sydney and Sydney Mines, has been distributed to a select group of Holocaust museums around the world by the Cape Breton Holocaust Education Committee.

The anthology was released last spring with the financial assistance of various groups and individuals, including the Atlantic Jewish Council. It has received widespread acclaim as a remarkable work by a young group of Cape Bretoners who display a heartfelt empathy for victims of the Holocaust, despite having no personal connection with the tragic event through religion or family history.

The Holocaust Education Committee felt the anthology deserved to be shared with a representative group of museums and organizations dedicated to keeping alive the memory of the victims of

the Holocaust and sent copies for inclusion in their libraries.

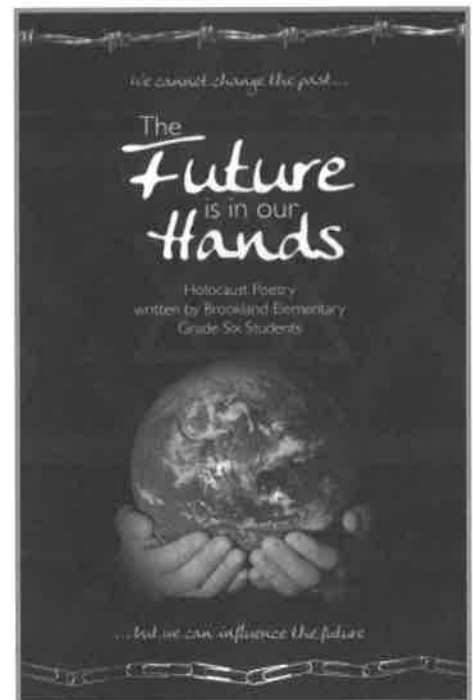
Rachel Cohen of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem stated that the contribution was "particularly welcome because our library not only seeks to serve readers today, but is a repository for published and book-form information about the Holocaust and related items for the generations to come". Ms. Cohen added "The Future Is In Our Hands constitutes an important contribution to Yad Vashem's library."



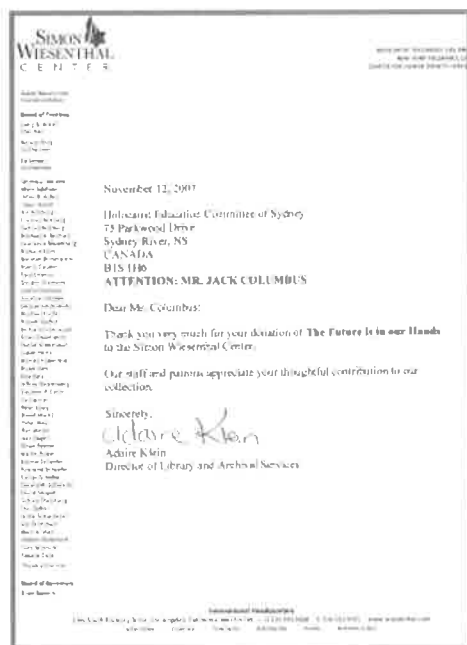
Gail Chernin of Sydney presenting a copy of "The Future Is In Our Hands" to Jon Allen, Canadian Ambassador to Israel and his wife during the recent Maritime Mission to Israel.

Judit Martinkovits of the Holocaust Museum in Budapest, Hungary said they were "honoured that the book was sent to them", and concluded that these "...kind of books and papers can make a better society.... and a better world."

Copies were also sent to the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, the Museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, the



Anne Frank House, Amsterdam, the Anne Frank Centre, New York, and the Sydney Jewish Museum, Sydney, Australia.



Gary Goldsand, clinical ethicist at the Royal Alexandra in Edmonton was the second speaker for Saul Green Memorial Lecture Series this year.

Mr. Goldsand took his audience into the fascinating and complex world of Jewish medical ethics. He gave us a peek into the challenging and often emotional environment that is the hospital.

His job is to provide support to families who have loved ones in a serious medical condition, and offer counsel and comfort. Also, G-d forbid, to be with the family in time of mourning and grief. Jewish medical ethics span centuries, and have matured over two thousand years. Many great Jewish works discuss it. The Talmud, probably one of the greatest

Jewish works, states in Sanhedrin "He who saved one life it is like he saved an entire world." From this we learn that we must do everything in our power to save a life. We are allowed to break the Shabbat in order to save a life. We understand how important it is to save a life but are we going too far. Is it right to keep our loved ones on life support?

In times like this we can turn to our tradition, to our medical ethic. We can also turn to our values, our experience and recently to the ethicist in the hospital.

Mr. Goldsand shared some scenarios which would probably have had most scratching their heads.

Though our sages and Rabbis of old

and new have provided us with great knowledge, we must evaluate each case with time, respect and unbiased views. We can not according to a Talmudic rav give false hope to a dying man. Rabbi Chananya said that almost two thousand years ago and it still pertains today. We look to the Code of Jewish Law which comes to the conclusion that a person is, according to Jewish law, dead when they can not breathe on their own. While the lecture was very interesting, I can not help but feel grateful that it is Mr. Goldsand, and not I, that makes this life changing decision. We can be grateful that we have a wise and dedicated leader in our midst.

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LONE SOLDIER IN THE IDF

BY CRAIG FOX

Editor's note: Craig Fox, native of Halifax, is the son of Cathy & Colin Fox. Craig was an active member in Halifax youth programs and Camp Kadimah.

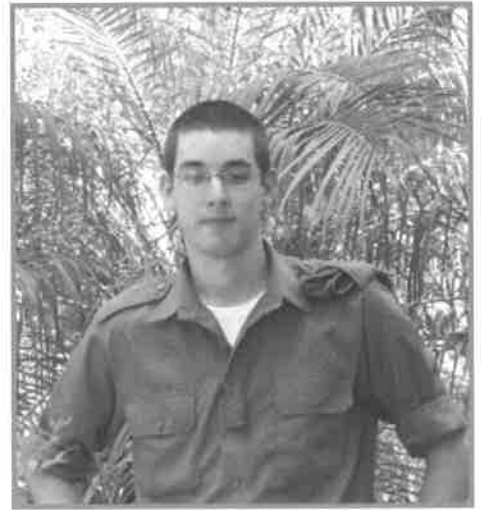
ON DECEMBER 18, 2006 I FINISHED PACKING MY BAGS AT THE LAST MINUTE AND LEFT FOR THE HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. I remember the look on the woman's face from CanJet when I explained to her that I was catching a one-way flight to Israel after she thoughtfully warned me that my bags were near weight limit, and I may have trouble bringing Christmas gifts back home.

I landed the following day and found my new temporary home at Kibbutz Mishmar Haemeq. A day of working in the laundry was followed by a day of Hebrew studies in class. That was my life for the next three months, followed by four more at Kibbutz Kvutzate Yavne, this time getting

my hands dirty milking cows at a "refet". After 7 months of living on kibbutzim and traveling Israel, I thought I had seen it all. But I was wrong.

August 22, 2007. My new favorite color is green. My new favorite shoes are black leather boots. My new favorite time to wake up is between 4 and 5 in the morning. And new name is Creeg Fooks because no one can read my name properly. For the first three months of my service I was sent to a special educational base up in the north for a basic O-2 level training, and a Hebrew course. Surprisingly I learned more from my fellow soldiers there than I did from any of my commanders or teachers. The thing about this base is that everyone there had made Aliyah to Israel. Some of the soldiers had done it with their families and had even been living there for as long as 7 or 8 years, and others who did it alone and maybe had been living there far less time.

25% of Israelis do not join their mandatory draft. 30% of Tel Aviv residents do not join. This is no secret to anyone here. You hear about it all the time from Israelis, yet that is one thing that they tend not to talk about. There are those in the army who are



neither native Israelis, nor have family living inside Israel. They are known as a "Chayal Boded" (Lone Soldier) and this is the group that I fall into. We live on kibbutzim or an apartment that the army pays for. We don't call our family and friends during our hour off on base each night because all our friends and family are the guys on base with us already. On Holidays we get presents from Friends of the IDF and go for holiday dinner with our new family that we met in our units. When you're sick, your commander will come and visit instead of your mother, and when family is allowed to come visit the base on a closed Shabbat, there is

DATELINE HALIFAX

The Halifax Jewish community would like to thank **Lawrence Ferguson** for his hard work and 30 years of dedication to making the Jewish stars that go on the wreaths for the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Mazel Tov to **Ruth Goldbloom** on receiving the Canadian Red Cross Humanitarian Award in appreciation of her longtime volunteer work.



Lawrence Ferguson's Jewish Star.

DATELINE MONCTON

Mazel Tov to **Evvy and Barrie**, the proud grand parents of another grand child, **Benjamin**, brother of **Sarah**, born last Thursday in Montreal

Mazel tov to **Audrey Lampert** on her recent appointment to the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, and on receiving a plaque from the Friends of the Simon Wisenthal Center for Holocaust Studies in appreciation for her work in support of human

rights. **Audrey** is the vice-principal of Queen Elizabeth School in Moncton. She has served as a teacher, vice-principal and principal and instructor for many years in the Moncton area. Audrey has participated in several public speaking engagements focusing on education and human rights issues, and has been an active volunteer for many community organizations.

CANADIAN HADASSAH WIZO

BY EVELYN DAVIS AND SHIRLEY CHERNIN

PAGE 41

OCTOBER 10, 2007. TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL, SYDNEY, NS.

It was a privilege to co-host the Women of Achievement in our community, celebrating 90 Years Strong for Canadian Hadassah WIZO. The festival of Succot is a time for rejoicing and a time to reflect on our mandate, "Changing Dreams into Reality." With a dynamic membership of 10,000 women, founded in 1917, CHW is a volunteer-driven organization which supports programs for children, women and health in Israel.

We are extremely proud of three national presidents coming from Cape Breton. The late Nina (Fried) Cohen, the late Blanche (Wolfson) Weisenthal and Marion (Blonder) Mayman, now residing in Toronto.

In early years, chapters were more social than organizational. It soon became a vehicle for Canadian to define their image to society in ways that reflected their roles as caregivers.

We accept the fact that our membership has declined over the years, but tonight we salute the fortitude and

dedication of three special women who shaped dreams into reality in Cape Breton. Thousands of children, youth and women have had their lives enriched and their futures made secure because of the tireless efforts of our three dedicated volunteers. There is no greater honour than to be recognized by your own peer group. The greatness of their dedication can only be explained in two simple words - they cared.

Community Honouree, Susan Winsor has been an active volunteer for ten years at the Cape Breton Bazaar, working side by side with our members. She is a cancer survivor and has been a top fundraiser for the "Run for the Cure" in Cape Breton.

CHW Honouree, Evelyn Druker is Vice President of the Queen Esther Chapter and a national executive board member. Evelyn's leadership in the Cape Breton Holocaust Education Committee is responsible for the introduction of Holocaust education to our school and bringing Holocaust survivors to our students. She became a mentor for the teachers to teach Holocaust education in

our schools.

CHW Honouree, the late Sylvia Allen, was a music teacher and choir director for the Jewish community. She also directed choirs for churches in the community. Sylvia expanded the rapport between the Jewish community and the melting pot of cultures on Cape Breton, by speaking to school groups and adults about the Holocaust, Jewish holidays and culture.

A musical interlude followed, "Favourites of Sylvia," by Ella Beth and Leon Dubinsky.

There is no future without a past. In keeping with CHW 90th Celebration of Volunteerism, we recognized our dedicated members 90 years of age and older. A presentation of certificates was made by Whitney Karrel as she became a junior member of the Queen Esther Chapter, inducted that evening.

A wonderful social hour attested to the spirit and fellowship of our many guests, both members and community friends.

LONE SOLDIER IN THE IDF - CONTINUED

always someone waiting for you still. As much as an 18 or 19-year-old Israeli has trouble believing that I am a 23-year-old Lone Soldier from Canada, looks of shock are always replaced by smiles, hugs, and then a serious concern for who is doing my laundry and where I am sleeping on the weekend. I met an elderly woman on the train a few weeks ago, on the way back from my new training base in the Negev, and she was asking me why myself and a few of the other soldiers were speaking in English. The look on her face after telling her what we're doing here was all the thanks we ever needed. And it almost broke my heart when she tried speaking to a friend of mine in Hebrew and I

had to explain to her that he has come from South Africa to serve in the army as a combat soldier and does not speak Hebrew yet. He learns his Hebrew as he trains and gets a lot of help and support from his unit as they go. This is the Israeli life and army that you don't read about in the newspapers or see on TV. It's a small part of Israel, but I feel it's an important one. I get a lot of support from people here in Israel, as I know I have moral support back in Canada as well, which is the thing that keeps myself and other lone soldiers going. I remember when I was doing a week of guard duty on the borders outside Jerusalem, I was with a 29 year old lone soldier from America

who joined on the same date as I did. Settlers would drop by and bring us and the border police food and drinks as we "guard their backdoor" for them. The border police were telling us the reason they work the borders is all the nice stuff they get from the settlers. My friend Natan and I however are out here for another reason. We don't need the cakes and pizza for the job we do. A thank you and smile goes farther than a stomach full of treats can. So for another two years I will be serving in the IDF. And I still haven't mentioned where I am, so I'll just leave with a quote we have written around our base. "Only the purple can be Givati".

Around the Region



Fall 2007 AJC board meeting, Halifax



Sarah Ellis making a paper clip chain during Holocaust Education Week, Halifax.



Kathy Zilbert presenting a dedication award to Jack and Barbara Prince



Kathy Zilbert at the Remembrance Day ceremony, Halifax



Menorah lighting, Moncton



Dignity Day, Halifax



Rabbi Mendel Feldman & Mr. Ralph Medjuck kindle Canada's largest Menorah at Halifax's City Hall celebrating the second night of Chanukah



J. Davis, Dan Elman and Norman Hamburg leading prayers on December 5 in Saint John



Allison Pedvis (displaying Chanukah face paint) enjoys potato Latkes, Halifax



Dr. Joseph Arditti lighting menorah at Chanukah dinner in Saint John



Chanukah in Fredericton



Fredericton Chanukah group



Children of the Saint John community singing Chanukah songs at the community dinner.



Making latkes in Newfoundland- Gil Shalev with Shari Ritter on the left and Jillian Gould on the right in the background.



Chanukah preparations in Newfoundland- Katherine Side on the left and Nancy Bennett on the right. The hands are Diane Siegel. In the background behind Katherine's head is Elizabeth Malischewski.

AROUND THE REGION, MONCTON

PAGE 44

BY NANCY COHEN



Children learning about Sukkot in Moncton

Sukkot was ushered in with a wonderful community event at Tiferes Israel. Parents, children, grandparents and friends came together at the synagogue to build and decorate a beautiful sukkah and do some gardening in the backyard of the shule. There were stories, songs and crafts for the children and when the decorating was finished, there was a delicious barbecue lunch.

At Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah we were joined by Rabbi Isaac Yagood and four of his children. His exuberant personality, his learning and the enthusiasm of his children, along with the fellowship of the festive meal added to the joyfulness of the holiday.

In late October we welcomed Rabbi Ellis when he came to Moncton to



participate in an inter-faith dialogue titled "One God Many Faiths". The rabbi was joined by representatives of the Moncton's Muslim and Baha'i communities, and a professor of religious studies from Atlantic Baptist University. The interfaith dialogue was well attended and provided an opportunity to build bridges with our neighbours. Rabbi Ellis was able to stay for a few days, visit with friends, and contribute to the spiritual well being of the community.

The community was represented at Remembrance Day ceremonies in Moncton and Dieppe by Francis Weil and John Sichel.

The synagogue donated a beautiful menorah to the Moncton City Hospital and on the second night of Chanukah we lit the menorah in the presence of several members of the community, as well as the pastoral care staff, other hospital staff members and some hospital patients. The lighting of the menorah was followed by the singing of Maoz Tzur, and guests enjoyed delicious Chanukah cookies. A reporter and photographer from the Times and Transcript were also in



attendance.

On the third night of Chanukah the annual lighting of the menorah took place in front of Moncton City Hall. Rabbi Ellis came to Moncton to participate in the ceremony.

The sixth night was celebrated with a gala Chanukah party at the synagogue that included a beautiful dinner.

Best wishes to Barrie and Evy Carnat as they embark on their new adventure in Paris, France. Barry has accepted an 18 month work assignment with the World Organization for Animal Health. We will miss them very much.

In 1998 the City of Moncton built a park called Israel Park to commemorate 50 years since the birth of the State of Israel, to honour the Jewish community, and to pay homage to Moncton native Justice Ivan C. Rand of Canada's Supreme Court, who was so instrumental in the birth of the Jewish State. This fall the City undertook an impressive upgrade to this small park, with the planting of six oak trees and the installation of beautiful new walkways and benches. This is a wonderful addition to Moncton's downtown.

The community was deeply saddened



Sukkah Building Party in Moncton

this past August by the death of Sarah Gorber. Sarah was an active member of the synagogue right into her nineties. She served as treasurer for the board as well as for the Sisterhood and was always willing to help out with community activities whether it be making phone calls, sending cards or baking countless cakes and challas. Sarah was also very involved in numerous other organizations in Moncton such as the Red Cross, the Elizabeth Fry Society, and the United Way to name a few. She received an AJC Community Service Award as well as an Outstanding Volunteer Award from the City of Moncton. Sarah always had a warm welcome for newcomers to the Jewish community and became a surrogate bubbie to several children. Our sincere condolences to her family.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Luba Lambert of Toronto and formerly of Moncton. Luba was an aunt of Irwin and Audrey Lambert and sister-in law of Harry Lampert. Luba moved to Moncton with her husband Abe Lampert in 1940 and lived here for the next 40 years.

Mazel tov to Robert Leavitt on being named Professor Emeritus in Education at the October 18 UNB convocation. The citation that was read about him during convocation

said: "Robert Leavitt dedicated his academic career to the support of First Nations education and identity through the preservation and revitalization of indigenous culture and languages. Working together with First Nations educators, he helped unlock doors to understanding and discovery for First Nations students and communities, and enhance understanding of the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet cultures in the university as well as in mainstream New Brunswick society.

A Harvard scholar in architectural sciences and education, he taught and developed curriculum materials in reservation schools in rural Maine before he began his distinguished career at UNB in 1981. In 1992 he became a full professor and director of the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Institute."

Robert is the father and father-in-law of Hannah and Jordan Davidson and the proud grandfather of Zev and Eli.

Mazel tov to Albert and Jennifer Bonderenko on the opening of their store in Moncton.. The store will feature unique products such as engravings, soapstone Inuit carvings, knitted items, baskets, iron and bead work



from Africa and original paintings from Hong Kong. There will also be a custom framing shop and gallery.

Best wishes to everyone for a very happy Chanukah.



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REPORT FROM SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

BY DR. JOSEPH ARDITTI

THE BEAUTIFUL COLOURS OF THE TREES ARE JUST NOW FALLING AWAY, AS A REMINDER TO ALL OF US TO PREPARE FOR THE WINTER. In years past, Canadian winters were filled with toboggans and skis, but lately the snow is less and less – a sign of climate change?

Speaking of change, our community in Saint John is preparing for a big change. The Province of New Brunswick and the City of Saint John are building a new Justice Complex at the site of the YMCA, in the center of the city. The synagogue and the Jewish Community Centre, which houses the Jewish Historical Museum, are within two blocks of this project. The City has made an offer to purchase all of the buildings within these blocks. The Board of Directors of the Congregation will soon make a recommendation to a General Meeting regarding the proposed offer. It seems to me that the lifespan of the existing Synagogue and the Centre may come to an end within the next year or two.

If the offer is accepted, the question is where we find a new location for the Synagogue and the Museum. With winter approaching, the cold weather and short daylight hours may seem to be somewhat depressing, just like the thought of losing our historical Synagogue. We may be losing a building, but we will not be losing our identity. "Every man has his hour and everything has its place." Pirke Avot (4:3). There is always the hope and anticipation

of spring and, with the help of Hashem, we will find a place to hold our services and display Museum artifacts. The month of December is a busy one. We will have our annual meeting and hopefully Norman Hamburg will offer to remain as our president for the next term. On December 4, we will start lighting the Hanukkahs in our homes. We also have a large Hanukkah in front of the Jewish Community Centre and, as usual, we invite the Saint John public to join us in the lighting of the candles. It is our custom to have a short speech about the history and the meaning of Hanukkah, and to invite one of the children to light the first candle. The ceremony is followed by everyone joining in the Vestry of the Synagogue where apple cider and cookies are offered. The very few children of the Hebrew School then lead everyone in Hanukkah songs.

It is at this gathering that a Museum-sponsored raffle will be drawn for three prizes. By the time you read this, the prizes will have been won by lucky persons. On December 9, there will be a Hanukkah dinner at the Vestry, where the featured item will be latkes. Anyone who is in the neighbourhood is welcome to join us. At this time, I would like to thank those who volunteer to prepare this meal.

This past season, from May until October, 55 cruise ships visited the Port of Saint John. With the help of volunteers, we arranged 33 Jewish Heritage Tours. The remainder of the ship visits were on

Shabbat or during the Jewish Holidays so we could not participate. We received very positive and satisfying from those who visited our Synagogue, Museum and Cemetery. By February 2008, we will be booking for the next season,



four students who worked at the Jewish Museum over the past summer

*Back row : Brent Peiser, Aaron Washburn
Front row: Maryanne Delaney, Daniel Washburn*

which will bring 83 ships to our City.

During the High Holy Days, we once again had the pleasure of hosting Cantor Jeffrey Spitzer from Boston. He not only gave appropriate and interesting sermons, but also the gift of his melodious voice. Following the Yom Kippur service, the Community held a "break the fast" meal in the Vestry. Succot and Simchat Torah, the Friday night and Shabbat services are conducted as usual with the attendance of dedicated congregants.

Our question now is: Will the Synagogue and Museum stay where they are now or relocate? This I cannot answer. As it says in Yevamot (63b) "Do not worry about tomorrow's troubles, for you cannot know what the day may bring."

I can also offer thoughts from Kohelet (3:1-8): For every time there is a season. A time for tearing down and a time for building up; a time for seeking and a time for losing; a time for keeping and a time for discarding.

If and when changes occur, the readers of Shalom Magazine will be informed in its next publication or by whispering to our friends in the region by phone!

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Saint John, I wish Happy Hanukkah to all readers of Shalom Magazine.

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NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND'S JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVURA

BY RUTH NOEL AND NANCY BENNETT

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THE HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES WERE HELD THIS YEAR ON THE MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. Yosher Koach to all those who participated and helped in organizing the services, especially to Rob Ritter who read from the Torah. This year the community succah was in Ruth and John Noel's backyard. Sharon Koubi and Richard Rivkin designed the succah which was beautiful – and also easy to put up and dismantle. Inbal Bahar brought back decorations from Israel which sparkled and worked with the boughs to made the succah a feast for the senses. The weather was especially cooperative, so the sides were never put down during the entire period. Many meals were eaten in the succah, including a community brunch. Photos of the brunch and the succah-building are on our website: havura.org.

As of this writing, we are planning a latke-laden Hanukah celebration on December 9th with music and dancing. For information about upcoming Havura activities, visit our website or email info@havura.org.

The Havura continues its active membership in the Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador which held a debate for leaders of all three parties on eliminating poverty just prior to the October 9th provincial election. The debate was divided into two sections which were shown on CBC Television on two consecutive evenings in prime-time.

The intellectual life of St. John's got a big boost this fall with the first two of the Havura's three lecture series. Kudos to Steven Wolinetz and Arnold Bennett for organizing these events. The first was MUN professor Dr. Noreen Golfman's balanced presentation on Alexander Trudeau's film, *The Fence*. Noreen is consistently voted "most popular professor" by the student body and has



a national reputation as a film critic and political commentator. It was heartening to hear the comments of Muslim students, Jews and Christians during a Q&A session after the lecture. People seemed to be making a real effort to get past controversy and toward cooperation. The second lecture was by distinguished philosopher and Director of the University of Toronto's Jackman Humanities Institute Dr. Robert Gibbs. His topic, *Breaking Barriers: Jews, Christians and Muslims Reading Each Other's Scriptures*, has already spawned the beginning of such a group in St. John's. Both lectures were very well attended and well received.

Rob Ritter was the speaker from the Jewish perspective for this year's Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue. The topic was *Racism and Bigotry* and all three speakers quoted from their religious texts on the topic. Rob spoke from personal

experiences, including his years as CEO of the Canada Israel Committee. The Muslim and Christian speakers were engineering professor Dr. Mohammed Haddara, who presides over the Muslim Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Very Rev. Marian Parry, Vice-President of the Canadian Council of Churches and former head of the United Church of Canada.

Member News

Mazel tov to the Hon. Tom Marshall who won reelection as MHA for the District of Humber East. Mr. Marshall is the Minister of Finance, President of Treasury Board and Minister Responsible for the Public Service Secretariat.

During the Remembrance Day service in St. John's, Charlotte-Anne Malischewski, along with three classmates, laid a wreath on behalf of the Youth of Newfoundland and Labrador at the National War Memorial.

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NEWS FROM THE ROCK

BY CLAIRE FRANKEL-SALAMA & MICHAEL PAUL

PAGE 49



Three students from the Faculty of English at MUN who are making a documentary about the synagogue.



From L - R, the people are: Randy Mauskopf, Messod Salama and Michael Paul.

The sense of Chesed of some people is truly amazing! This past week, the members of the Jewish community of Newfoundland received a Chanukah package from Rabbi Levi Garelik of New York. Yesterday we received invitations to his daughter's wedding. Rabbi Garelik was marooned here following the September 11th attacks, along with thousands of other travelers. He has never forgotten us. Starting with a surprise gift of Shemura matzah, he continues to enfold us in his warmth and remind us that we are

all part of the same Jewish family across the globe. We wish the Garelik family a beautiful wedding and every blessing for the new couple.

These past few months have been quite eventful, though thankfully less so than the fall of 2001. On September 3rd, the eldest member of the synagogue, Mrs. Betty Barban, turned 94. She continues to take a great interest in community events, and we wish her and her family a Yasher Koach.

On Sunday of the same week in September, the synagogue took part in the Doors Open event once again. This annual event allows the general public to visit buildings of great interest in the city. We had well over 200 visitors in one afternoon. This could not have been accomplished without the efforts of several members of the synagogue and the Jewish Student Association of MUN. Michael Paul, Barbara Grandy and Claire Frankel-Salama manned the sanctuary, while the students welcomed the guests and took them on tours of the rest of the building.



Some of the 50 students from St. Kevin's High School in the Gould's who visited the synagogue. Claire was showing them the Torah.



The theology students from Queen's College at MUN visiting the Sukkah at the synagogue.



The constructing and decorating of the Sukkah.

That same morning, the annual Shacharit service was held at Cape Spear, as it was the Sunday preceding Rosh Hashanah. This is a "new tradition" that we have developed over the past ten years. It is followed by our annual cemetery service on Blackmarsh Road, as there are many graves there that are rarely visited by relatives. Prayers are said and each grave is visited by a synagogue member.

The High Holydays were organized and led by Ernie Mauskopf, Messod Salama and Michael Paul. We had many visitors, including a "Grand Prophet" who was attending the Shriners conference. We were also pleased to welcome our friends, Niso and Ronit Maman, who spend their summers up in Bay de Verde as a welcome respite from Florida. In particular we thank Niso and Shimon Wilansky for helping us with our davening and by blowing the Shofar.

Approximately twenty-five of us broke the fast together in the social hall. Whatever cake was not consumed was frozen to be eaten in the Sukkah which was built the following Sunday. Again, we thank the members of the Jewish Students Association for helping with the construction and decorating. We also thank our resident meteorologist,

Elizabeth Siegel, for arranging such a clement week, as we were able to perform the mitzvah of eating, drinking and welcoming guests all week long. Among these guests were Sandy Brown, who grew up in the Atlantic Provinces, her husband and friends, all of whom were attending a conference of orthodontists. We also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Larry Parker of Toronto. We hope to welcome him and his family back some time in the future. Thanks again to Margaret and Arthur Shiff for bringing us honey cakes from the kosher bakeries in the "old country" (Toronto).

This past fall we have also been very busy with outreach programmes and Shul visits. During the week of Sukkot, we welcomed the students from the School of Theology of Queen's College at MUN. Not only were they treated to a visit and question period, but they also had the opportunity to be "ushpizin" and have a snack in our Sukkah as well. Since then we have had several groups of students visit during school time. As I recently retired from teaching high school in this province, I have been recruited to this task in order to keep my skills from rusting. Thanks as well to Barbara Grandy for her help and support.

Among our visitors this fall was a group of documentary film students from MUN. They were able to record an interview with me and film a visit on site. Fortunately, the sun was streaming through the windows, as if on cue. We will be receiving a copy of the documentary in a month or two.

On Friday, November 23rd, we were pleased to welcome Canon John-Paul Westin of

St. Thomas' Anglican Church, his wife Carolyn, and the members of the Church Youth group. As they had been reminded to read the current Parashat Ha-Shavuah, they were able to benefit from Messod Salama's Dvar Torah. They particularly enjoyed the mandlebroit and rugalach we specially made for the subsequent Oneg.

Our own Shul members have been very busy as well. Michael Paul took part in the UIA/IJA mission to Israel. He was particularly moved by Project Shefachim at a school the Hula valley. This programme works with severely disabled children of all ethnic backgrounds. Upon his return, we were able to interest an anonymous donor in giving to this worthy cause.

This past week we have been preparing for our Chanukah party. Evites have been sent, and the latke makers are working out at the gym in preparation.

We also wish a Yasher Koach to the students and individuals who have been attending the Hebrew class given by the Department of Religious Studies at MUN. We're really proud of their hard work and progress, and wish them great success in their final exams.



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