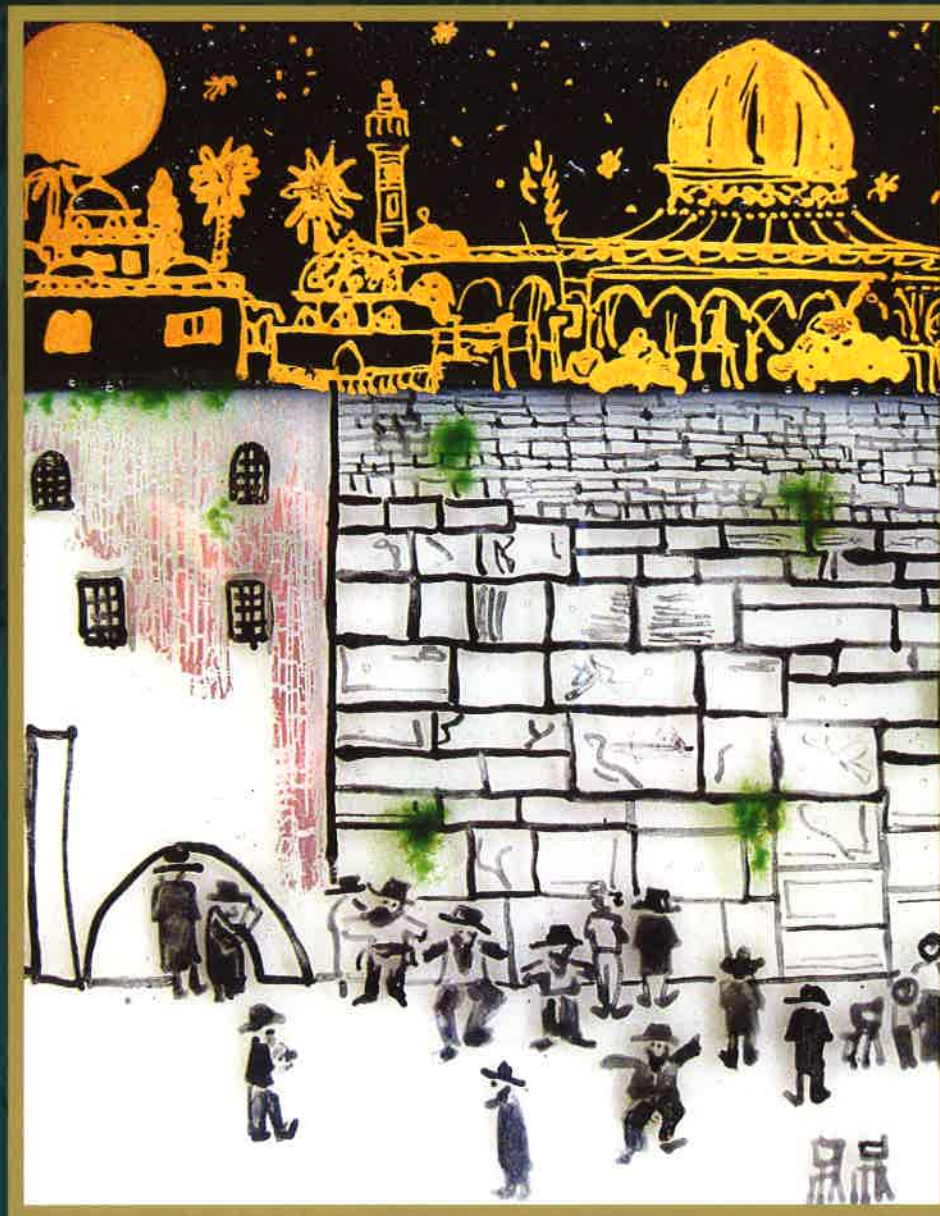


SHANAH TOVAH! SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם!

Fall 2008 Vol. 33, No. 2

Tishrei 5769



Marcela Rosemberg. Original fused and kilnformed glass,
hand drawn design finished in 23 karat gold.

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- › YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATIONS 2008
- › CAMP KADIMAH HIGHLIGHTS
- › NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION



THIS YEAR, I PROMISE TO...

visit my Bubbie more often • live a healthier lifestyle • help other people • go to synagogue more • take a vacation with my family • keep kosher • volunteer • become more active in my community • become passionate about a cause • get in touch with an old friend • help those less fortunate • protect the environment

• **GET POLITICALLY ENGAGED** •

go to synagogue more • take a vacation with my family • keep kosher • volunteer • become more active in my community • become passionate about a cause • get in touch with an old friend • help those less fortunate • protect the environment

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KATHY ZILBERT

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THE MONTHS SEEM TO FLY BY BETWEEN EDITIONS OF SHALOM and each time I get a notice that it's time to write my message I think that nothing much has

happened and I have very little to say. Then I get started and events and activities come back to me and I realize how much there is to talk about.

Yom Haatzmaut was celebrated with special flare this year as Israel began its 60th birthday. There were speakers and events in several communities but Halifax had a fabulous evening at Pier 21 with over 200 people from the Jewish Community and the wider community coming together for a gala dinner, speaker and entertainment. This was a first for the AJC as we took a formal kosher event out to a public venue. It was a smashing success and a fabulous way to start a year of celebration for Israel.

Then a few months later we go from this joyous occasion celebrating Israel to a memorial service for the 2 soldiers, Eldad Regev z'l and Ehud Goldwasser z'l, who's bodies were returned to Israel two years after being captured by Hezbolah. The mood becomes solemn as we show our respect and sympathy for these young lives lost.

In the last few months I've also visited Cape Breton in May as the AJC board held their spring meeting in Sydney. Art and I went to shul in Sydney and as we entered we were warmly greeted as Arthur made the minivan. The service was lovely and shows the dedication of the community to continue to do a full Shabbat service. We had very good meetings but more importantly we had an opportunity to have Sunday brunch with the community and touch base with many Cape Breton friends.

I also had the pleasure of going to Saint John

for part of their homecoming weekend when 150 Saint Johners got together to celebrate and remember their past in the beautiful shul which will close its doors in November. They had time to spend reminiscing and also planning for their future in their new location. Mazel tov to the community of Saint John for organizing a great event.

Then there was a visit to Camp Kadimah for the banquet. Kadimah never ceases to amaze me! The effect this camp has had and continues to have on the youth of Atlantic Canada is unbelievable. With the population of Atlantic kids continuing to shrink it becomes more and more important to have our kids spend their summers immersed in the Jewish religion, culture and heritage. It does my heart good to see our local young people excel at camp winning several of the major awards. As years go by I continue to see the importance of camp in the lives of my own children who are now adults. Leah moving to Toronto with a tremendous network in place to have a full and rewarding life there. Nathan in NYC with a best buddy from camp since the day he went there and 2 more arriving this fall. Camp Kadimah is one of the great gifts we can give the children of Atlantic Canada.

So, I haven't even mentioned the office, staff and administration issues. There is always activity in the office trying to keep the organization strong. Our UJA campaign is gearing up, we are preparing to welcome the first of our new immigrant families and Rosh Hashanah is around the corner.

The next edition of Shalom will feature the AJC Biennial Convention being held November 28-30, when I will finish my 2 years as president and a new slate of officers will take over.

So as we all look forward to the New Year let's plan to send our kids to camp, get involved in some community activity, and make this region a better place to live for all Jews of Atlantic Canada.

On behalf of my family and myself I wish you all a healthy and Happy New Year.

שלום!

President: Kathy Zilbert
The Atlantic Jewish Council
Quarterly
FALL 2008
TISHREI 5769
Vol. 33 No. 2

Mailed under Canada Post
Publications Mail Sales Agreement
No. 40052452

Executive Director:
Jon Goldberg

Editor:
Edna LeVine

Cover:

Marcela Rosemberg, Royal Glass Design, a glass artist, born, raised and educated in Buenos Aires, Argentina, now calls Prince Edward Island her home. Marcela recently won the "Excellence in Product Design" award at the Atlantic Canada Trade Show in Halifax. This award is given in recognition of leadership and excellence in the professional craftsperson's life.
www.royalglassdesign.com

Layout & Printing:
Halcraft Printers Inc.

Address all correspondence including advertising enquires to:

Editor, c/o Shalom
5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 508
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6
Tel. (902) 422-7491 - Fax (902) 425-3722

Email:
elevine@theajc.ns.ca
atlanticjewishcouncil@theajc.ns.ca

Website:
www.theajc.ns.ca

This publication is printed by

Halcraft
Printers Inc.®

Phone: (902) 453-4511 - Fax: (902) 453-4517
Email: sales@halprint.com

FROM THE DESK OF

JON GOLDBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMER SOLILOQUY

WELCOME
TO OUR
HIGH
HOLIDAY
EDITION
OF
SHALOM.

I find it hard
to believe
that another
year has
flown by. It's

a rainy day here in Halifax late in August
the skies are overcast, but I must say I am
in a bright and shiny mood as September
looms ahead in just a few days.

On a personal level I spent a good part
of my vacation attending weddings. You
have heard of the Wedding Planner well
this past month I have been the Wedding
Attender. For those of you who know
me, you know that weddings are not a
subject of which I have much experience
on a personal level. This last month I
have attended three weddings in various
parts of our great and beautiful country.
First I was in Alexandria Bay, New York
State, for the wedding of Tiffany Cohen,
whom is the youngest daughter of my
dear friends Sheldon and Freda Cohen
of Montreal. Their venue was in a castle
built by one of the Waldorfs of New York
City for his wife in the early nineteen
hundreds, unfortunately the wife took
ill and never saw the castle completed,
Mr. Waldorf then sold the castle to the
State of New York. This venue was in the
middle of the St. Lawrence River in the
1000 Island region of Ontario. It was a
beautiful venue and a wonderful drive
from Montreal. I was also pleased that
Sheldon's mother Goldie Cohen, closing
in on 95 years, was able to attend as were
my good friends Michael and Rebecca
Soberman and their beautiful daughter.
The following weekend I was back in
Halifax for a wonderful Simcha hosted by
Andrew and Louise Wolfson, long time
friends and outstanding members of our



community. Their daughter Candace
and her groom Mark were married at
the Westin Hotel by my good friend
Cantor Ari Isenberg. What a wonderful
weekend, so many maritimers and ex-
maritimers brought together to celebrate
such a happy occasion. I have known
Candace since she was a little girl and
to see her and her family so happy, was
indeed a pleasure for myself. I had first
met the groom this past December when
Candace brought him on a cruise to
the Mexican Riviera with the Goldbergs
and the Wolfsons. Imagine the first
Haligonians that he met after Andrew,
Louise and Diana, were myself and
Victor, Judith, Eric and Rachael! A week
together and the wedding was still on, I
knew it was true love.

The following week, I was off to Banff,
Alberta for the wedding of Jonah
Jacobson and Riva Barak. Jonah is the
son of my dear friends Stanley and
Sharon (Shore) Jacobson and Riva is a
native Nova Scotian who met Jonah at
Camp Kadimah. This was my first trip
to Banff, what a gorgeous area of our
country. I drove up to Lake Louise, had
an opportunity to go rafting on the Bow
River with my good friends Frank and
Hedda Medjuck and their son Jacob and
his lovely girlfriend from Vancouver.
Frank tried to push me in the river
but I was able to resist his attempts.
The wedding was held outdoors at the
Banff Springs Hotel, the Chuppa over
looked the Rockies, the Rabbi was from
Calgary and he required a couple of the
Hotel staff to hold the Chuppa down
as there was a wind blowing in from the
mountains. This picture of beauty and
our Jewish heritage will long remain in
my mind. Once again it was a reunion of
maritimers and former maritimers. When
the mother of the bride Joyce Barak
spoke of how much Camp Kadimah
meant in the life of her daughter, it made
me feel that some of our institutions here
in the Jewish Community of Atlantic

Canada have had a lasting effect on more
people than I realized.

Well my friends as you can see it has
been a busy month. Now I am back
and preparing for our UJA campaign
2008. Once again we are very fortunate
to have Howard Conter as our regional
UJA chair and also active in the Halifax
Campaign along with Lois Levine, our
woman's chair and a number of great
volunteer canvassers. In Fredericton
Arnold and Judy Budovitch, in Cape
Breton Bob Cohen, Martin Chernin,
Dave Ein and Curdis Karrel and many
others through the region give their time
and efforts to the campaign and I want
you to know how much I appreciate your
support.

Our UJA campaign allows each of us to
have an impact on others on the future
and on ourselves. By supporting our
campaign here in Atlantic Canada we
stand with the people of Israel, inspire
and support Jewish continuity here in
our region, provide relief for vulnerable
Jews throughout the world and support
social action, which helps to improve
the quality of Jewish life in Canada and
Abroad.

May the New Year 5769 be a year of
peace good health and happiness for you,
your families and Kol Yisrael.

HOLD THIS DATE

*The 17th AJC
Biennial Convention
in Halifax
November 28-30, 2008.*

THEY SAY NOTHING BREEDS SUCCESS LIKE SUCCESS AND I THINK WE MAY PROVE THIS TO BE TRUE. Building

on a very successful year last year, we're making a very strong start to the 2008/09 academic year this September. Student leaders are already in place at four of our Atlantic university campuses. Last year's programming innovations were very well received and the students not only want to continue them, but also want to expand upon them. In addition, improvements to our student house in Halifax were very successful, so much so that the students in Halifax anticipate using the house even more this year than last, perhaps even renting it out among themselves for their own parties (and generating revenue), a sure sign of its new and improved value to them.

Our plan for the upcoming year is to continue building on the foundations we laid last year, so that we have a regional organization of students who are communicating and cooperating with each other, built upon a sustainable programming infrastructure, which we, at the AJC, provide and maintain.

We are working to make sure the student house continues to evolve into a centre for Jewish student life. We are installing the very popular Wii video gaming system and subscribing to digital hockey, football, and baseball channels. Projecting these onto our 8 by 10 foot screen will offer our students experiences they probably won't be able to find elsewhere in the city. These features will allow us to schedule many more social programs based around sporting events, as well as others based on fun and tournament style



Wii gaming. And these are structured programs, beside the added lure they create for students to just "hang-out" in the house.

All of this is based on the idea that the more often we can bring Jewish students through our doors for a positive experience, the more they will include us in their regular lives.

We will also be responding to the great enthusiasm the students showed for our authentic Montreal smoked meat lunches by continuing them and even attempting to hold them on campus (besides holding them in the student house) where we believe even more students will be able to attend them. This is a program for which we charge admission and create revenue. We will of course be shipping these to the small campuses where they are also popular, and will become a reliable and regular draw for the Jewish students.

We're running a national ad in the Canadian Jewish News directing Jewish students to our Hillelatlantic.ca website (the site is part of the infrastructure we developed last year), where they can contact us, join our email list, be put in contact with other Jewish students on their campus, and view the schedule and diversity of programming we offer in the region.

We are again coordinating the visits of all the organizations who promote travel and trips to Israel to take place on the same weekend, so that we can organize an event to which all the Jewish students in our region are invited and which has enough on offer so the students feel it's worth taking the trip to Halifax. Through this weekend, we are also hoping to get students from different campuses to know each other, which will help facilitate another of our goals:

to have Jewish students in this region visit each other's campuses (which we will help subsidize) so that they support each other, and share planning and programming ideas.

Besides these larger items, we're hoping to do another touring program for the region like Remembering Dachau to Defend Darfur, which we're working on now. We've been collecting Jewish-themed movie titles for a movie series in the student house and are planning semi-regular Havdallah services. Regular program staples such as our basketball league, Shabbat dinners, speakers, etc., will of course continue, and we have some ideas for overcoming some persistent challenges we face every year. We also have two different Israel groups in Halifax, this year with different but positive programming orientations, and we've arranged for the political editor from Haaretz to visit the King's Journalism School the second week in September.

So, it promises to be a great and significant year for the Jewish student community of Atlantic Canada.



FROM THE DESK OF EDNA LEVINE - AJC PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

A RANGE OF MESSAGES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM HOLOCAUST EDUCATION, SOME THAT ARE EXCLUSIVE TO JEWS AND SOME THAT ARE UNIVERSAL. Yom Hashoah rituals are still being created and this spring I had the opportunity to attend the program in St. John's, NL where I experienced an outstanding Holocaust education opportunity. The commitment and thoughtfulness of the volunteer committee in St. John's resulted in the creation of a program revolving around the theme "Children of the Holocaust" which filled the Memorial University auditorium to capacity with predominantly non-Jewish people. I was impressed with the scope of the program and the meaningful inclusion of a ritual which permitted every person upon entrance the opportunity to place a stone on the table with the candelabra, establishing an immediate connection with the audience.

This year Yom Hashoah programs were in seven regional communities and they all succeeded in delivering Holocaust education programs which conveyed the importance of remembering. All the programs continue to attract large audiences and are greatly appreciated by the community at large.

Holocaust survivor speakers were kept busy during the spring and summer. Helena Jockel once again spoke in various venues accommodating requests without hesitation. University students responded thoughtfully and her ability to answer personal questions candidly provided valuable first hand account insight, which, as time goes by, is becoming increasingly rare. Helena also participated in a unique musical performance this spring which educated young students on Jewish history and culture and included original music which was composed to the poetry written by the children of Terezin and is presently being recorded professionally, more information on this extraordinary

performance can found on page 37.

Speaking requests for survivor Philip Riteman are endless and although he spoke frequently this past spring, the list continues to grow. This summer Philip Riteman received his second honorary degree from St. Thomas University for his ability to continue to speak with brazen candor. Survivor Israel Unger continued to educate high school students speaking to large audiences with an insatiable desire for information as he responded to questions for almost two hours. This summer Dr. Israel Unger had the honour of giving the opening talk at the Atlantic Human Rights Summer Institute in Fredericton, NB.

Immigration efforts in Halifax have come to fruition with the arrival this fall of several families from Israel and many more families are expected to arrive in the spring. Further immigration efforts are being directed to attracting new immigrants to our region from other parts of the world and to fulfill this directive I have added supplemental information on our regional communities to the AJC website's immigration section and created a new section on the home page with information on the availability of kosher products in the Atlantic Provinces, as our website is often the first contact for people exploring our region.

Recently I met with publisher Margie Wolfe, Second Story Press, publisher of The Holocaust Remembrance Series for Young Readers, which includes the book *Hiding Edith* by Kathy Kacer- the remarkable true story of Edith Gelbard (see Joel Jacobson's article in the last issue of *Shalom*, page 40). Edith will be in Halifax as part of Holocaust Education Week to speak to students and the community.

This month I had the privilege of



Edna LeVine, Leo Adler, Rosalie Simeone

of attending the award ceremony in Charlottetown, PEI, as Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center honoured Rosalie Simeone, Jo-Anne White and Sandra Ireland for their accomplishments in promoting tolerance in their community. This event was also the launch of the annual report by FSWC, *Digital Terrorism and Hate 2.0*, which identifies online sources of hate on the internet. Leo Adler, director of national affairs, introduced the CD which identifies over 8,000 internet hate sites. Adler stressed that hate is democratic, "The global reach and scope of the Internet, combined with the difficulty of monitoring and tracing communications makes the internet a prime tool for extremists and terrorists." The CD is distributed to politicians, educators, and law enforcers; and is available from www.wiesenthal.com.

December 10, 2008 is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I am the AJC representative for Partners for Human Rights and we are busy planning our annual event with the theme "Belonging: Celebrating 60 years of Human Rights" which will be held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex (December 10th). To mark this occasion the Canadian Association of Statutory Rights Agencies has launched a website to connect, educate and inspire Canadian youth on human rights, a link to the site can be found on our website or <http://www.takingitglobal.org/themes/udhr60/>

FROM THE DESK OF RABBI DAVID ELLIS, AJC REGIONAL CHAPLAIN LOOKING TOWARD THE HOLIDAYS

PAGE 7

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER SOME YEARS AGO WHEN I WROTE HERE AN ARTICLE ABOUT A "CHRISTMAS CAROL FOR THE NEW YEAR."

I suggested that Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, despite its setting in the Christian holiday season, in fact has an important message of examining one's life and repentance. These themes are the very essence of our Jewish Days of Awe, the Yamim Nora'im, which we inaccurately call the "High Holidays."

This year I would offer another classic of world literature as an inspiration for the season. It has often been pointed out that Tolstoy's famous short novel, *The Death of Ivan Illych*, is a classic description of the search for authentic life, among the temptation of its facades.

Ivan Illych is an entrant into the Russian high society of the 19th century. He is part of the newly prosperous financial class. He has married well. He meets all the right persons. He attends all the proper affairs and functions, with the accompanying gestures and postures of his new status.

Then at one of these dinner parties, he notices a funny taste at the back of his mouth. He attributes it to something at the meal.

But the taste continues and becomes persistent. He sees a doctor and learns that he has the beginning of a disease which will kill him.

Suddenly Illych's world is turned upside down. All of his social contacts and positions of influence he had assiduously sought are suddenly of no value to him.

As his illness progresses, he is bed-ridden and unable to partake of any of the celebrations he had before. Now these appear to him to have been worthless, certainly of no help to him now.

He is cared for by an illiterate servant, who helps with his hygiene, feeding

and what few movements he can make. Previously he never would have considered such a person to have any proper social standing. Now this caregiver has become his only grasp on life. He is forgotten by his former friends.

We say the familiar U'netanah Tokef prayer on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur - "Who shall live and who shall die..." If anything would seem to be known and obvious about life, it would seem to be that we are living a limited time. Every moment and its opportunities are only before us once. We will be accounted for what we make of it.

Yet many lead lives such as Illych's, pursuing superficialities, neglecting true values, confusing priorities with incidentals. As the prophet Jeremiah said, they carve cisterns which hold no water.

The Talmud tells of a high priest who was known for his piety throughout his life, but then in his last days became a heretic. It was as if he had set up dominoes all his life, only to tip one over toward the end, knocking all the rest down.

We must conclude all the days of our life with faith and good deeds. And when we have failed at our efforts and gone off course, we know from Ebenezer Scrooge, from Ivan Illych and from our prayers on the Days of Awe-that we can still return to the right way.

IS IT KOSHER?

Now that is something they always ask the rabbi. Can we use this for the bar mitzvah? Is it kosher?

Keeping kosher is certainly a long-standing heritage of Judaism, both in religious and cultural ways.

However, is it a good tradition? And what about people who do not keep kosher? Are they wrong? How wrong? What should we do as a community about kosher food?

Isaac Mayer Wise, the leader of the Reform movement in Judaism in the



*Ivan Cohen with Rabbi Ellis and his daughter
Tamar Ellis*

19th century, dubbed Orthodox Judaism as "Kitchen Judaism." The Orthodoxy of his day, he maintained, had become preoccupied with ritual, to the neglect of the ethical and spiritual teachings of Judaism. The point was forced when a "trefah banquet" was served, with various types of shellfish on the menu.

Yet today most Reform synagogues have gone back to keeping kosher kitchens, as has the Reform movement in Israel.

Some of you may have followed the recent stories out of Iowa, about the violations of U.S. immigration law by a kosher meat plant. There are discussions as to whether food must have a hechsher tzedeck.

More than simply checking ingredients, some would say that we must check the conditions under which animals are kept and workers are treated, to make sure they are in accord with Jewish teaching.

Everyone knows anecdotes and inconsistencies Jews have told regarding keeping kosher.

It is told of Chaim Weitzmann, Israel's first president, that when he rode on a plane that he would sometimes have a choice of kosher or non-kosher food. He would always order the non-kosher food. He wanted to make a point. He saw the modern Israel, which he was so instrumental in creating, as a secular state. Rituals such as kosher laws belonged to the

continued on page 12

LET'S GET TOGETHER & FEEL ALRIGHT

BY RABBI ARI SHERBILL

RABBI, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX, NS

PAGE 8

AS SUMMER TRANSFORMS INTO A COOLER AUTUMN, AS THE WEATHER BRINGS US MORE AND MORE INSIDE THE CORRIDORS IN WHICH WE



DWELL, EMERGES THE HIGH HOLIDAY SEASON. How poignant is it that at the time of year which commences drawing inward and indoors is the surfacing of the rich season of Holidays for the new Year. The parallel of the natural world with these spiritual and spirited days is not just coincidental, but is actually the definition as to what these days are about, and how these days can have a lasting effect on our lives.

What creates the magical rich experience of the High Holidays? What is it that engenders the glory of Rosh Hashanah, the awe of Yom Kippur and the joy of Succot? The power and brilliance of these days lies in the Jewish community coming together. Just as the natural world causes a migration inward at this time, so too in the spiritual world: where Jews from all over unite in the Synagogue to celebrate and experience the Holiday season together.

The Synagogue is defined in Torah sources as a place of community; to the extent that if an individual person were to build himself a building to pray in, it is entirely inferior to the level of holiness that a Synagogue has, because the Synagogue has a community within its confines. In fact, the Synagogue is called a "beit haknesset", literally "a house of gathering", a place built for coming together. This means that holiness, Divine experience and encountering God can only happen when a community unites.

When the Temple stood in Jerusalem and all the Jews dwelled in Israel, there was something profound that happened on the holidays. Although the Temple was the place of intense holiness, and amazing miracles were a daily occurrence, what made it the Temple was that on the holidays Jews from all over the land of Israel came together. Imagine! An entire country of Jews from every corner all joined in unison to experience the radiant and awesome holidays.

If one were to write a guidebook on how to come close to God, of how to lead a life that would generate presence of God – what would be the first thing he would write to do? Meditate on a great mountain for many years? Lead an isolated life until he gains enlightenment? The Torah's very first guideline is to get married. Why would marriage be the first Mitzvah – what is that telling us about how to lead our lives? It is telling us that the starting point and essence of living is in building a community. That leading a rich meaningful life begins with and is rooted in community.

A stick does not engender awe, yet a giant tree does: with its myriad of swaying branches and its seemingly infinite roots that lay deep in the ground does a tree generate the experience of awe

and wonder. So too a Synagogue filled to capacity generates the sensation of grandeur like a giant tree. For when Jews unite, greatness is created.

We all seek to lead a good life. We all seek to experience the wonders and splendors of life, the joys and thrills of life. In all our seeking, we cannot seek alone, for what we seek cannot be attained alone. In our yearning and praying for a new year of blessing and success, of plenty and of beauty, of health and of passion, of understanding and depth, of being bestowed the life that we dream of – we cannot yearn and pray alone. We have the Divine command to come together and pray, to come together and celebrate, to come together and live. In our uniting is the splendor of Rosh Hashanah, in our connecting is the intensity and magnificence of Yom Kippur, and in becoming a community is the deep simcha of Succot.

Just as the autumn is a time of journeying inwards and inside, so too may these holidays be for us all a time of coming together inside our Synagogues and homes. May we all merit living the lives that we dream of as we all pray for a blessed new year....together.

CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL

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MEMOIRS FROM A DAY IN SDEROT

BY CANTOR ARI ISENBERG

SPIRITUAL LEADER, SHAAR SHALOM CONGREGATION, HALIFAX

PAGE 9



Editor's Note: Cantor Isenberg is now a Rabbinical Student at the JTS in New York City.

I SPENT A WEEK IN POLAND THIS PAST SPRING AS PART OF THE MARCH OF THE LIVING EXPERIENCE. All four of my grandparents were born in Poland and, unlike the fate of most of their siblings and every one of their parents; they evaded death and eventually made it to Pier 21, where they boarded trains headed further west. I was the first in my family to return to that country and, naturally, was overcome with emotion during most of my visit.

A short story I wish to share with you focuses on the day of the march itself. While the entire trip was called the March of the Living, all 8,000 participants joined together on Holocaust Remembrance Day – Yom Hashoah – to march in silence from Auschwitz concentration camp to Birkenau extermination camp.

Preparing for the march, however, was all but inspirational, all but reflective, all but emotional, and all but respectful. In short, there was complete chaos. Someone over a loudspeaker was attempting to get the various affiliates and groups to line-up in a specific order. It was a logistical nightmare. People were screaming and yelling, trying to find their groups and positions in line. Others who felt slighted by their ranking in the line began complaining to the organizers. We waited and waited and were

unsure what the delays were about.

Eventually more messages over the loudspeaker informed us that we were waiting for the Chief Rabbi of Israel and the Chief of Staff of the Israeli army to arrive by helicopter. We waited. There was so much noise – and yet, the actual March itself is meant to be a silent one. We are standing in Auschwitz and people are complaining, people are smoking, people are listening to their ipods, people are joking, laughing, arguing – everyone is impatient.

Then all of a sudden, seemingly out of nowhere, the blast of the shofar! One long tekiah gedolah. Cigarettes fell to the ground, jaws dropped, silence overtook the crowd. Nothing needed to be said. The sound of the shofar said it all. I have never heard the shofar the way I did that morning.

Could the Jews buried in mass graves in Poland's forests hear that tekiah gedolah, I wondered? I hoped so. Could our enemies who wished and many who still wish to wipe us off the map hear that shofar? I hoped so. I thought about all who have heard the shofar throughout our vast history as a People, and its prominence in every single generation dating back to the children of Israel wandering in the desert. It was the blast of the shofar that brought me to tears and beyond that day.

This year, with each of the 200 blasts of the shofar that we will



hear on Rosh Hashanah, may you feel inspired, invigorated, and connected to your fellow Jew and community. May each blast provide you with insight, wisdom, as well as greater knowledge about yourself.



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CAMP KADIMAH 2008

BY JOANNA MIRSKY WEXLER - DIRECTOR CAMP KADIMAH

CAMP KADIMAH JUST ENDED ANOTHER FABULOUS SUMMER ON THE SHORES OF LAKE WILLIAM WITH GORGEOUS WEATHER FOR MOST OF THE SEASON! Popular programs were repeated such as our 4 day Maccabia (colour war), out trips to the Ovens Natural park and sea caves for our annual Kochot/Machar Hityashvut, camping trips to Kejimikujik National Park and Rissers Beach Provincial Park, and so much more.

In 2008, we instituted some new innovations that we would love to share with you! A new low ropes program was included in the roster this year, focusing on leadership games and cooperative initiatives. Fun was had for all ages! We also ran a newly designed Machar program that allowed for much more choice for our oldest campers. The program was very well received, and Macharniks had a chance to really delve into learning new skills.

We had three schlichim from Israel at camp again this summer, one of whom was paired with a North American to run our "Achla" Judaic/Zionist program. Israel education and advocacy was at an all time high this summer, as 6 Israeli CITs also joined us- 4 from our Partnership 2000 area in the north, and Camp sponsored two more from the S'derot region.

We are holding a 65th anniversary raffle to raise funds to renovate our infirmary for the 2009 summer. Prizes include a cruise for 2 to Alaska or the Mediterranean, camp fees for summer 09, a Visitors Day 2009 hotel and flights for 2 package, and a Toronto Sports Package (2 Leafs tickets and 2 Raptors tickets). Tickets are \$65 each or two for \$118. Draw will take place in conjunction with the 65th Anniversary Reunion in Toronto on November 15th. Call the Halifax office



to get more information on both the raffle and the reunion!

Applications for our 2009 season will be out shortly. Please visit our new website at www.campkadimah.com or call the office at 902-422-7491 ext 225 for details or to place an order for your raffle ticket.

I would like to thank all the campers, staff and camp committee who all helped to make this summer such a success!



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THE KING IN THE FIELD

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN - CHABAD OF THE MARITIMES

ROSH HASHANAH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE JEWISH NEW YEAR, WHEN THE FATE OF ALL JEWS IS INSCRIBED FOR THE COMING YEAR. It is closely followed by Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, during which we pray that all of our sins of the previous year be forgiven. These days have come to be known as the High Holidays.

Preceding the High Holidays is the month of Elul, the final month of the Hebrew calendar. During Elul, we take the time to reflect on all our deeds and misdeeds of the past year. We ask G-d to judge us favorably and grant us a good and sweet year.

The relationship between the Jewish people and G-d is often compared to that of a human king and his constituency. On an ordinary day, the king is in his palace, surrounded by high ranking ministers and guards. In order to gain an audience with the king, one must go through many levels of bureaucracy and protocol before even being allowed to step foot in the king's palace, let alone meet with him personally. Occasionally, however, the king goes for a

tour of the outskirts of his country, roaming the fields and villages, meeting with the common folk residing in the far out regions of his land. It is then

that anyone wishing to meet with the king can simply approach him and make a request. Gone are all the formalities and red tape. All one needs to get the king's attention, is the courage to approach the king and make oneself known.

After such a wonderful encounter with the king, the simple people from the countryside follow the king back to the capital, to reap the benefits of their meeting, and to appreciate the glory of the great king.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad movement,



compared the month of Elul to that time, when the king is in the "field." Certainly, during the rest of the year everyone has the ability to connect with G-d through prayer and study. Yet it is during this month that G-d is particularly accessible, and available to listen to every single Jew's wishes.

We, however, must make the first move. G-d is there, but we must seize the opportunity and make ourselves known. We must tell G-d that we care, and we request that the coming year be a year of blessing and happiness. We assure G-d that the coming year, on our part, will be a better year. It will be a year of greater observance and a year of more diligence in our Jewish behavior. We then anticipate that G-d reciprocate, just as the human king would, and grant that all our wishes come true.

At that point, we all follow G-d back to the "palace," to the High Holidays when we solemnly recognize G-d's sovereignty, and truly appreciate G-d's greatness.

Rabbi Mendel Feldman can be reached at chabadofns@aol.com

LOOKING TOWARD THE HOLIDAYS - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

forgone days of the ghetto.

There was someone I knew once who kept not two but three sets of dishes at home.

Two for meat and milk, the third for the Chinese food they would bring home once a week. Well, another friend said, I guess their stomachs will go to hell, but at least their kosher dishes will go to heaven.

Some keep strictly kosher on Passover but let everything go the rest of the year. And so on, with the endless combinations of observance and non-observance.

More seriously we must look at entire context in which we observe kosher laws.

The prophet Amos decries the people's feasting and celebrations:

"I hate, I despise your feast days, I will not smell in your solemn assemblies" Amos 6:21.

Amos is not talking about the people eating improper food. The text makes clear that they were eating kosher food and observing laws of the holidays. Only that they had forgotten to consider the poor and needy at the time of their festivals.

So it is clear that keeping kosher is part of an entire outlook and practice of Jewish life. It is not something which, contrary to what many misunderstand, can be kept as a separate issue on its own.

So as we come toward the New Year,

we look forward to our good meals and festivities. But let us make sure that we lead kosher lives, as well as eating kosher food.

As for those who eat a non-kosher meal for the New Year? Take it up with the ribono shel olam as you say the al chet. I am looking forward to many news challenges this fall. I will be going consistently to Fredericton for three bar/bat mitzvahs. New directions are being looked for in Moncton and PEI. We are anticipating the move to the new building in Saint John. And the Dubinskys et al. will be tuning up the old melodies for the holidays in Cape Breton. See you all soon!

ONCE
AGAIN
IT IS MY
HONOUR
TO CHAIR
THE UJA
CAMPAIGN
FOR
ATLANTIC
CANADA.

It is even more
meaningful

this year as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. Our campaign plays a vital role in the ongoing social improvements in the State of Israel. Our funds on a yearly basis continue to support healthcare, education and absorption of immigrants in Israel. These pillars of support are vital to the ongoing development and strengthening of the state. A most recent example is the rapid response of the Jewish Agency to the plight of the Jews of Georgia who were under attack by Russian forces. The Jewish Agency which does its work, funded by UJA dollars, worked quickly and diligently to protect the Jews of Georgia. Some were protected in their home republic while many others who needed help were brought to the State of Israel. This work is vital to protect the Jewish Diaspora.

This recent event brings home the key message, as we work to support UJA and Israel, "ONLY JEWS ARE TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR OTHER JEWS."

This responsibility is not only for the Jews of Israel or Jews from the former Soviet Union it also includes our responsibility for the Jews of Atlantic Canada.

The UJA campaign of Atlantic Canada works to support three different populations.

The first comprises local needs.

The second is under the mantle of National Collective Responsibility.

The third is support of the social needs



of Israel and also our very personal relationship with the North of Israel through Partnership '2000'.

Locally your UJA contribution goes to support Chaplaincy in the region as the UJA provides appropriate Jewish religious support to areas of Atlantic Canada that do not have their own religious leadership. We also support senior, youth and adult programming. Camp Kadimah is of course a vital part of the UJA's work in the region as it provides a truly Jewish and Zionist experience for our children.

Under National Collective Responsibility your UJA contribution helps to support Holocaust education throughout the region. It is vital in fighting anti-semitism throughout Atlantic Canada and across the nation. It helps to support Jewish university campus life in all our Atlantic provinces.

It funds programs to better educate the political and non-Jewish leadership and strengthen the importance of the State of Israel on the world stage.

In Israel, as already mentioned, UJA supports the work of the Jewish Agency in its work in the fields of healthcare, education and immigration. But just as important is our unique relationship with the North of Israel through "partnership 2000'.

Through this relationship we have supported the creation of English language libraries, computer labs, greenhouses,

community centers, healthcare facilities and scholarship programs to allow children from the North to attend programs such as Camp Kadimah and the 'March of the Living'.

A great deal of good comes from your contribution to UJA. And of course the more money we raise the more good and vital work that can be supported.

UJA needs to be one of the most important charities that you support because we as Jews can really only count on ourselves.

So, when your friendly canvasser calls make a meaningful contribution. It will make you feel a part of something very worthwhile.

Thank you in advance for your support for this year's UJA campaign.



FOR
WHAT
MATTERS

All the Staff & Employees would
like to wish the community a
Happy New Year!

PARTNERSHIP 2000 – GEISHER CHAI

PAGE 14

BY KAREN CONTER, ATLANTIC REGIONAL CO-CHAIR



IN NOVEMBER OF 2003 I WAS A PARTICIPANT IN A UIA MISSION TO ISRAEL with a number of Atlantic Canadians. I had visited Israel in 1973 with my family, again in 1976 on a teen tour and in 1991 as one of ten Canadians as participant in a Hadassah Aviv conference. In 1998 three generations of our family celebrated our daughter's bat mitzvah which was truly a wonderful experience. The mission, however, was yet a different trip again and taught me a new appreciation for Israel. My husband, Howard, at that time, and still is, Regional Chair of UIA. I felt I wanted to get involved in UIA so, in 2006, when my friend Kathy Zilbert, took on National Chair of Partnership, I took on the role of Atlantic Chair.

Partnership can be somewhat confusing to the newly volunteered lay person, but as I began to attend P2K meetings in Israel and in Canada it slowly became clearer. P2K has a number of different aspects, but the two I like to focus on the most are education and our Jewish youth.

In November 2003 our group made a visit to the north, the Galilee Panhandle. This is the area of Israel that Atlantic Canada partners with. Our communities are: Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, Mevo'ot Hermon, Yesod HaMa'ala and the Upper Galilee Regional Council (which consists of 29 kibbutzim and a field school). While in the north during that time we visited Emek Hahula School. Here we met with a few 16-year-olds who

had been to Camp Kadimah the summer before as CIT's (Counselor in Training). They were thrilled to see us and couldn't wait to show us their photo albums with pictures of their time at Camp Kadimah. Their excitement was contagious, but I wasn't really prepared for what I would experience next. I was looking through one of the albums and remembering my own days at Kadimah when I came across a picture with my daughter, Jenna! Then I really got excited! Here I was, thousands of miles from Nova Scotia, visiting with kids I'd never met, yet way up here in the Galilee is a teenage with a picture of my daughter! Jenna has friends all over Canada, but the connection to other Jewish kids here in Israel and especially in the north, truly blew me away!!!! All of a sudden I felt connected!

As a child growing up in the small town of Kingston, Ontario with a small Jewish community my parents insisted that my brothers and I spend our summers at Jewish camps so that we would have the opportunity to meet other Jewish youth. I spent eight summers at a camp in Ontario and only two summers at Camp Kadimah – and of course the rest is history – as I met my husband there and our children have both attended Kadimah. My connecting with other Jews through a summer camp experience has, needless to say, been a life changing experience. My plans as a teenager to live in Kingston and carry on with our family business definitely went by the wayside as I soon found myself heading for Dalhousie University and a new love affair with Nova Scotia.

UIA didn't have programs such as P2K's Geisher Chai in the 1970's. Our connections to Israel were primarily through family trips and maybe a year or two at an Israeli University when we were older. Certainly the majority of 16-

year-olds, in those days, didn't give much thought to meeting with other teenagers from Israel.

Last week I took the time to drive out to camp and visit with all the CIT's. I not only wanted to meet our Israeli guests but to explain to all the CIT's how and why four Israelis came to be at camp. They didn't just decide to attend a Jewish summer camp in Nova Scotia for something to do for the summer. These CIT's had to go through a selection process. They met with the Israeli CIT's from the summer before, they were required to submit a paper on why they'd like to attend Kadimah and what they expect to obtain from the experience, and they had to display certain leadership qualities and become involved in their communities upon their return home. They also had to obtain good marks in school. I am also proud to recognize that our UIA dollars are instrumental in our ability to offer two 16-year-olds from Sderot to offer the opportunity to have a Canadian summer experience as well.

Our Canadian CIT's were not aware of this selection process, they assumed these were just a few Israeli's who might have found Camp Kadimah on a website and thought it would be a fun experience.

I explained to the group that next

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Editor's note: Max Burnstein is the son of Matthew Burnstein & Marcia Yampolsky, Halifax. Max was part of the Kadimah Cit's 2007 and this summer a participant in Camp Young Judea Israel Program where he spent one week in the North of Israel with Partnership 2000.

LAST YEAR WHEN I WENT TO CAMP KADIMAH FOR MY SUMMER AS A CIT, (COUNSELOR IN TRAINING) FIVE ISRAELIS CAME FROM ISRAEL TO JOIN US FOR THE SUMMER. Some of these Israelis had never left Israel, yet here they were with us, in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia. They were staying in Canada for six weeks as campers in this foreign place.

When they first arrived it was a complete culture shock for them. A new place to live, new people to talk to and connect with, and a new language to constantly communicate in. Within hours of meeting each other we were all friends. With some

help, they adjusted to the 'Canadian way' in no time. Together, united as friends and Jews, we all had the best summer of our lives.

It had been a year since we were last together, but from the second we saw each other it was just like last summer. We had the most incredible time laughing and exploring around, what was to us, a foreign country. Now, it was our turn to have culture shock.

They showed us what it was like to be a teenager in Israel like we had shown them the summer before. The week we spent together in Israel, combined with their summer in Canada, made our connection come full circle, a mix of the old and the new.

The memories from last summer, we will hold on to forever, like the CIT trip, where we traveled through Atlantic Canada sharing a part of our country with our friends who might never return.



And the new memories we have, this time on Israeli soil, like the night where we, as a whole unit, stayed up all night and participated in a normal Israeli teenage pasttime, smoking Hookah. It was the little things like this that will keep us connected for our whole lives and will remind us to keep in touch, no matter the distance.

I would like to thank the Atlantic Jewish Community for continuing to unite Canadian and Israeli youth through the CIT experience at Camp Kadimah. Without the friends I had made in CIT, my trip to Israel wouldn't nearly have been as good or personal.

PARTNERSHIP 2000 – GEISHER CHAI - CONTINUED

summer, those who will be attending Kadimah Israel 2009 will have an opportunity to spend some time in the north of Israel and re-connect with these four new friends. Part of that program is designed for our youth to meet again and experience, in some way, what it's like to live in Israel's Panhandle.

This summer three Atlantic Canadian youths attended Kadimah Israel. Max Burnstein, Hannah Nathanson and Benjamin Burgar along with Daniel Pink as their leader, were fortunate to spend their summer in Israel. As a group of about 20 youth, many of these 17-year-olds were Kadimah CIT's last summer and knew that they would be meeting up with the Israeli's from last summer at camp. They toured the region and were treated to home hospitality while visiting the north.

Geisher Chai or "Living Bridge" programs in all other Canadian centers are generally exchange programs through the Jewish Day Schools. In Atlantic Canada, as we don't have any Hebrew day schools our Geisher Chai program is solely through our children's connection at Camp Kadimah and Kadimah Israel. This program is now in its tenth year and we have hosted 40 Israeli teens during that period. It is not only a wonderful experience for our youth to connect with Israeli youth and form lasting friendships, but is also allows the Israeli's to experience Jewish life in the Diaspora.

As this program grows so to does our partnership with the north and the projects we are able to provide for our brothers and sisters in the Galilee. Through your support of **United Israel**

Appeal – whether it's your annual pledge, or support through **Alie Giva cards**, for example, our ability to give as a region and supply much need medical and educational needs and youth experiences also grows.

When I visit Israel now each trip takes me north. Each time I am reunited with friends who are like family. Whether it's one of the mayors of the region, our UIA professionals in Israel or our lay volunteers – I really feel like I'm home and among family. I encourage you to think twice when you are canvassed this fall for your pledge. Your UIA dollars go much further than you think!!! Our future youth, both Israeli and Canadian, are forming that future now! Be a part of it in a big way!!!

A VISIT FROM

THE COUNSELORS - IN - TRAINING OF CAMP KADIMAH BY CAROL AIRST



ON TUESDAY EVENING OF JULY 22ND, MICHAEL LEVINSON, ALYSSA BYERS-HEINLEIN AND LEAH WALTERS ARRIVED IN FREDERICTON with a bus load of 16-year old Counselors-in-Training. There were 45 of them in total. It was a remarkable feat in itself that they got here. They were traveling from Cape Enrage, NB, which is about 3.5 hours

from Fredericton. The bus broke down and the bus driver got lost. We were ready and waiting for them. We had a delicious barbeque of kosher hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings. They devoured 6 dozen of each along with veggies, chips, fruit, and cakes. After this they retired to the University of New Brunswick residences.

On Wednesday they explored Fredericton during the day. It is a beautiful city and they enjoyed it. We prepared for them a meal at the synagogue that evening. We had pasta

and sauce along with salads, rolls, and ice cream cones. They ate well that night too, but there was pasta and sauce left over, so we donated it to the local Soup Kitchen. They were most appreciative. The Kadimah staff and campers prepared entertainment for us. It was well presented and well received by all.

Thursday morning they left for white water rafting and Camp, but not without food. We prepared sandwiches, apples, and pudding for their long day on the bus. They were wonderful group and we can all be

proud of them and our Camp Kadimah. Although Simmy and I hosted and organized the food during their stay in Fredericton, I would also like to thank all of those who helped make the event such a success, for we could not do it without their help. Larry Heinlein and Byron Stephens were the chefs at the barbeque. Rhoda Fransblow, Sandra Byers, and Shelly Stephens served at the barbeque. Charlotte Brown, Ellen Lupu, and Marissa Blanchard helped cook and serve the meal at the synagogue. Lea Adilman, Sandra Byers, and Rhoda Fransblow all helped prepare the lunches for the bus. Thank you all and thank you to camp for sending this wonderful group of teenagers.



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IMPRESSIONS OF THE ASPER FOUNDATION HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOLOCAUST STUDIES PROGRAM 2008

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the museum. This floor was about the events leading up to the Holocaust starting with Hitler's rise to power. There were television screens and posters on the walls from pre war Germany advertising Hitler and his Nazi Party and showing some of the party's rallies. As I advanced down the hall, I saw books and letters retelling the beginning of the Nazi's takeover of Germany and the deteriorating conditions the Jews had to endure and finally

leading up to the rounded up. I saw posters urging hatred towards the Jews. There were signs posted in the windows declaring the

TV screen. Looking on the TV screen I saw all the types of experiments they performed on the prisoners of the camps. That really hit me; it is one thing to read about it in the books and on the Internet, but it is a different thing to witness a video of the experiments they did.

Going further down the hall I got to more pictures and one of the actual train cars the Nazis used to deport people to the different camps. When you hear survivors talk about the ordeal they suffered through you think it's hard, but when I got into the rail car I was stuck and cramped. People being transported would have died, been sick and used the bathroom all in the cramped space. There are only little slits in the wood for a pin drop of light to go in. It must have been a miracle just to survive in the car without dying from disease or infection.

Next I went across a few bridges to get to another level. If I had to name one part of my trip to the museum which really stood out, it would be the picture bridge and the massive piles of belongings, shoes, clothes, hair even gold teeth, all taken from the Jews when they arrived at the camp. The Picture Bridge was a bridge with pictures surrounding you on all sides. These were taken when

the camps were liberated, some of these images were really graphic. My perspective changed as I got closer to the pictures.

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Editor's Note: The 2008 Asper program participants were: Abby Suissa, Leah MacDonald, Rebecca Wolff, Maya Budovitch, Beth Bumstein, Lewis Novack, Matthew Bugar, Arianne Cohen, Chelsea Coppel and chaperones Lysa Appleton and Sybil Fineberg.

by Lewis Novack, Halifax, NS

"UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM." THESE WERE THE FIRST WORDS THAT I SAW BEFORE ENTERING THE MUSEUM. I HAD NEVER BEEN TO A MUSEUM DEDICATED TO THE HOLOCAUST BEFORE. When I entered through the doors I did not know that I would come out a changed person. As I walked in I was overwhelmed by the security measures they go through before they let you in. Our group met in the lobby by the elevators then we had a briefing on what to expect. The museum consisted of 4 levels each telling a different part of the Holocaust and World War 2.

As I proceeded down the spiral staircase, I saw in the distance big letters that said Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936. They told us before we got on the elevators not to talk so we could watch the video in the elevator about some of the events that led up to the Holocaust. We took the elevator up to the second floor and began our tour of



expulsion of Jews from stores and public transit.

As I proceeded down the hall I got closer to the section that showed the actual rounding up of the Jews. As I walked further down I saw several pictures on the wall, these pictures were taken when the Jews were being deported to the different camps; Auschwitz, Treblinka and Belzek were just some of the many camps which the people were sent to. I continued down the hall to another



People were so thin; you could see their ribcages, every bone sticking out. In some of the photos were of mass graves. There must have been 500 bodies in some of them, all stacked on top of each other.

When each person came in the camps they had their head shaved. They did this because Hitler thought that Jews, Gypsies, disabled people, should have no identity and so they took their names, their hair, and gave them numbers. They used some of the hair for key chains. The other room was full of boots and shoes. They came off the people who came to the camps. You could not believe how many shoes there were. They were old and fragile, but they were still intact and there.

The lessons every Sunday that I have been attending for the past 9-week's really helped me to understand the museum better than if I had not gone. I truly believe that every person should have at least one visit to a Holocaust museum but especially the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum lest we forget the tragedies of not only the Holocaust but also World War 2.

In the classes before the trip we learned many interesting things about the holocaust and human rights. We learned what spurred on the hatred of Jews right from the beginning, how Hitler used bad times as a way to make Jews a scapegoat and about human rights in Canada with Japanese and Native people. My favorite class was when we learned about the march of the living, it really made it all real and had a huge impact on me.

When we got to the Holocaust museum it was overwhelming with all of the things to see but we had lots of time and got it all in. There were so many parts that were scary and inspiring and disgusting. One of the scariest parts was the video showing the medical experiments they performed on Jews in the camps. I had heard about these before but there were really pictures of the people and doctors explaining what they did. The other scariest part was the little

cabinet with all of the everyday things in it taken from people in the camps. There were hairbrushes, utensils, razors and shoes. These people really believed that they would need those everyday things. One part I found really interesting was seeing the barracks. There are so many pictures of people in these barracks sleeping and just laying there. To see the real ones was a very scary feeling, this is where the holocaust prisoners actually slept and your standing in front of them. The happy part was hearing the survivor's stories. Even though the stories are horrible and heart wrenching, you know that they survived and it's a very good feeling.

by Abby Suissa, Halifax, NS

Throughout my entire life I have learned about the Holocaust, but never have I received such a horrifying and eye-opening perspective of it as I did when I visited the Holocaust Museum during the Asper trip. Throughout the learning sessions of the program, I learned not only about the hatred of the Jews throughout history and the genocide of them during the Holocaust, but as well the discrimination of other races and cultures throughout history, some, such as what happened to the Native Americans, an important part of Canadian history that we don't learn about in school today. This truly frustrated me because if we don't learn about it how can we prevent it from happening again? As I walked through the Museum, my friends close to my side, I saw the slow, but steady process of what lead up to the Holocaust for the Jews and it truly horrified me to see how little acts of hatred throughout history could lead to the mass murder of the Holocaust. However, after we walked through the main part of the Museum, our chaperones took us to a part where I learned about "the Protocols of Zion", the literary forgery which explains how Jews want to achieve world domination. After learning that this book is still being sold all over the world today, I saw the importance of education and that if lies

are written as documents, people all over the world can believe they are true, creating a false hatred of an entire nation. This truly scared me and made me feel even more passionate to educate others about the truth about the Holocaust and the Jewish Nation as a whole, so that lies, like "the Protocols of Zion" can eventually no longer exist. Education about the Holocaust is truly important for it can lead to enlightenment in minds all over the world who do not know of the dangers of hatred and what it can lead to.

by Beth Burnstein, Halifax, NS

I feel that fulfilling one my responsibilities as a Jew, learning about the Holocaust, was a very worthwhile and interesting experience. The tragedy of the Holocaust is something we should never forget and the Holocaust museum in Washington portrayed that very well and was full of interesting artifacts.

Something that really stood out to me from the museum was the section with the Jewish people's belongings. The piles of shoes and hair brushes stuck with me and made me realize even more that the Jewish victims were just ordinary people living a regular life, experiencing and having many of the same things that I do. After seeing this, you work your way to the third floor which holds the saddest artifacts from the Holocaust. It made the third floor even harder to take after realizing that these people were just as innocent and regular as I am. To have an innocent person be tortured because of religious reasons doesn't make sense to me because we are all people, we are all human beings, and therefore, we are all equal to one another.

I would like to thank the Asper foundation for this incredible, once in a lifetime, learning experience. I feel that the Holocaust is something that everyone should learn about, especially Jews, and the Asper foundation makes that happen.

SPEAKER OUTSTANDING AT YOM HAHOAH

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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EDWIN BLACK TOSSED A CHALLENGE TO MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE IN THE YOM HASHOAH AUDIENCE IN HALIFAX.

"Do we shed a tear with the beautiful music we just heard, and think of the agony of survivor Phil Riteman (one of Halifax's main spokespersons), or do we look ahead 10 years and say, 'What did we know, when did we know it, and what did we do to stop Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur?'"

The award winning American journalist and author of 56 best-selling investigative books also had this warning:

"Can the generation that survived the Holocaust to create Israel be considered successful when we have threats of nuclear annihilation on our doorstep?"

In a dynamic presentation at the event May 1 at Saint Mary's University, Black, a Chicago-born, Washington-based author, whose parents survived Treblinka, quoted from his international expose, IBM and the Holocaust, a book that is available in 61 countries, 14 languages and 27 editions.

"The Holocaust was special and it has nothing to do with the numbers (six million Jewish deaths)," he said. "It was a 12-year, internationally-advertised, out-in-the-open persecution."

He termed it a protracted plan by propagandists in the United States and Europe – business leaders – who were war criminals.

He said U.S.-based IBM had punch cards on every Jew in Europe, knew where they were, what their abilities were and enabled the Germans to find them and use them. IBM's systems organized the trains that transported Jews and other non-Aryans to the death camps.

He said General Motors provided the trucks that lined the borders of Poland, Austria and other European nations invaded by the Germans. Even Coca-

Cola, he said, invented Fanta as a drink to refresh the German troops.

All this can, and is, happening again because money talks, he continued.

"It took place in the 1930s and 40s and it is happening now because the mid-East has the oil money and has announced its intention to obliterate Israel with missiles. How? They buy what they need with petro-dollars that I helped give when I drove here, that you provide when you drive your cars."

The audience was as hushed during his 15-minute address as it was when candles were lit to commemorate the millions lost in the Holocaust.

It was as silent as excerpts from letters and essays, written in the 1940s by youthful Holocaust victims and survivors, were read by Halifax area youth, both Jewish and Gentile, who had attended the March of the Living and Asper Foundation visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

And the audience was rapt as Halifax musicians Shimon Walt (cello) and Barbara Pritchard (piano) played Ernest Bloch's Prayer, from Jewish Life No 1.

Black, editor of The Cutting Edge News which receives nearly 100,000 hits each month, has worked for the New York Times, and been interviewed on hundreds of network broadcasts such as The Today Show, CNN Wolf Blitzer Reports, NBC Dateline and The Oprah Winfrey Show. He has one million books in print.

His words left many in shock and in awe. People remained silent afterwards, quietly discussing the impact of Black's fiery words.

"We have forgotten but we say we will always remember." He said. "We're forgetting because Holocausts have happened since and no one is speaking out in the right way. Now another nation is pledging to do in 12 minutes what

Hitler tried to do in 12 years – wipe out the Jewish people (in Israel)."

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YOM HAATZMAUT 2008- IN STOCKHOLM

BY MICHAEL PAUL, ST. JOHN'S, NL



Stockholm shul

RECENTLY I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO STOCKHOLM FOR A SHORT VISIT. AFTER A 22 YEAR HIATUS.

The Jewish Community in Sweden was relatively safe during the Second World War. Sweden was officially neutral, outwardly friendly to both the Allies and the Nazis. It was from Sweden that the great humanitarian, Raoul Wallenberg came, to save thousands of Jews in Hungary between 1944-45. In fact almost the entire Danish Jewish community was saved by their transportation across the watery border with Sweden on the eve of their planned deportation by the Nazis.

The Stora Synagogue on Wahrendorffgatan was built in 1870. It is a grand example of the fine Oriental style of buildings that some synagogues in Europe were modeled after at that time.. It was originally built as an Orthodox synagogue, but later became "Liberal" as I was told recently by the Shamash/leader of the Chevrah Kadisha committee, himself an immigrant from New York to Sweden about 30 years ago. About 60 or 70 years ago there was the addition of an organ, to "brighten up" the services.

There are about 18,000 Jews in Sweden centred mainly in Stockholm, which

currently has 3 shuls- 1 Liberal and 2 Orthodox. The latter are much smaller and their centres are rather non-descript for security reasons. Outside of Stockholm there are smaller Jewish communities mainly in Malmo and Gothenburg, with one shul each. The shul in Gothenburg dates back to the 1700's. There are pockets of Jews elsewhere, mainly in university towns such

as Uppsala, but with no synagogues there.

There is a Gemeinde- or central Jewish Committee which deals with all political/government issues that face the Jewish community. This is currently headed by the president of the community- Ms Porush, and the vice-president- Mr. M Cohn.

Sweden does not allow the practice of Shechitah- the kosher slaughtering of meat, as it is viewed by Swedish parliamentarians as barbaric and painful to the animals. Kosher meat is imported from the US, as it is cheaper to do so , rather than bringing in the meat from the UK, due to the current relative weakness of the US dollar.

The shul entrance was guarded by several burly Israelis, who asked for the usual piece of identification, and asked the usual questions. Once satisfied, entry to the shul grounds was granted.

Kabbalat Shabbat services began at 6:30pm sharp, with the usual Ashkenazi rendition of Yedid Nefesh, followed by Lecha Dodi. The officiants were the 2

chazzanim, as the synagogue is awaiting the arrival of its new Rabbi, not having had one now for several years. The announcements included the times for Shabbat services as well as an invitation to join the Yom Haatzmaut services on Sunday, May 11 at 6pm.

We were in for a treat this Shabbat- Parshat Emor, as there would be a Bar Mitzvah- to which the entire congregation would be invited. The young man and his family are transiently living in Sweden, soon to return to the USA.

On Shabbat morning the services started at 9:15. It was interesting to note that it appeared that the Bar Mitzvah guests, many of whom were local Swedish friends of the Bar Mitzvah boy and his family, naturally sat behind him on the right, whereas the "usuals", including me, sat on the left side. The womens' gallery had a few congregants, who likely had the best view in the house.

The Chazzan, whom I remembered from my initial visit many years ago, still had the clarity of a young tenor's voice. He did not need the microphone which was in use.

The aron hakodesh when opened to remove the Torah for this week's parsha reading, held many beautifully decorated and finely dressed torah scrolls.

The service was accompanied by the playing of the organ to assist in some of the tunes. The invited American rabbi

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JEWISH PARTISANS REMEMBERED; THEIR STORY TO HIT THE BIG SCREEN

BY YOSSI MELMAN

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Irving Resnik

Editor's note: Gary Resnik, formerly of Stephenville, NL remembers his father Irving Resnik as a man who never complained or whined about his war experiences, or about losing his family in the

war. "He said, you get up in the morning, go to work (said with a Yiddish accent) make a living (Moch lebin in Yiddish). That was his generation, as kids we knew no different." Gary recalls the simcha in his home when Tuvia Bielski came to Stephenville to attend his brother Allie's Bar Mitzvah. Tuvia was his father's commander and the savior of a generation of Jews. In his father's eyes Tuvia was "the man" and he would often joke "It was better in the woods (Yiddish accent)". Although his father never gave interviews when there would be a reunion in New York his father always stressed the importance of remembering not only the actions of Tuvia and his brothers, but remembering all the young boys who didn't make it out of the woods.

This article first appeared in Ha'aretz and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

"KILLING A MAN IS LIKE SMOKING A CIGARETTE," ITZKE RESNIK, KNOWN AS A MAN OF FEW WORDS, WAS ACCUSTOMED TO SAY. Resnik, who passed away nine years ago in Canada, was one of the intrepid fighters in the so-called Bielski commandos, a Jewish group of partisan fighters headed by the Bielski brothers who fought the Nazis from their base in the forests of Belarus.

They did not hesitate to eliminate Jewish snitches and collaborators and were responsible for saving 1,200 Jews from being killed in the Holocaust. Their courageous story went untold

for decades but later this year a movie based on their tale and starring Daniel Craig, the current James Bond, will hit the screens. The screenplay is based on a book, "Defiance: The Bielski Partisans," written by Dr. Nechama Tec, a sociologist from the University of Connecticut and herself a Holocaust survivor.

The Jewish partisans were remembered last night, in Israel, a day before the Holocaust Remembrance Day, at a concert by the Ra'anana Symphony Orchestra. The event was organized by Holocaust survivors and their children. Gary Resnik, Itzke's son, arrived especially from New York.

"Dad was reticent and always refused to talk to me about what happened," he said. "But one time he opened up his heart to me and told me briefly about his and his friends' doings. He was most comfortable in presence of his brothers in arms. They would occasionally meet, drink and reminisce."

Gary Resnik's visit here is not his first. He first arrived in the country 40 years ago to volunteer to serve in the Israel Defense Forces elite unit, Haruv.

"I came here because I heard there were pretty girls, but mostly because I wanted to be a Jewish fighter like my dad was," he said.

After the concert, Resnik met Jack Kagan who told him his father was "one of the most daring in the group." Kagan, a plastics producer from London, is almost 80, and was only 14 when he joined the Bielski

partisans.

"I was in the Navahrudak ghetto," Kagan recounted. "It's a city in Belarus of which half its population of 12,000 people was Jewish. It's best known as the place where the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz was born." Shortly after Operation Barbarossa, the Nazis concentrated Jews in ghettos and later labor camps. Kagan twice managed to flee the ghetto.

"The second time, two of my toes were amputated because of the cold," he said. His escape was enabled thanks to ghetto prisoners digging a tunnel dug that also allowed 230 others to reach the woods. "We heard about the Bielski brother hiding in the forest and we joined them.

The Bielskis were the sons of a family of farmers from a nearby village. Brothers Tuvia and Zus Bielski deserted their retreating units in the Red Army and joined their brother Asael who ran the family farm. They were tall, blond and sturdy. From the first instance, they refused to go to the ghetto or wear a yellow Star of David. They fled to the woods together with their families. In time, they were joined by hundreds of people.

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J Kagan, Member of Bielski Brigade, Gary Resnik (Son of Irving) Ra'anana, Israel

JEWISH PARTISANS REMEMBERED - CONTINUED

During 1943, they formed a kind of shtetl in the heart of the woods; they dubbed it "Jerusalem of the woods." Villagers from nearby areas cooperated with them once they realized the Bielskis were more dangerous to them than the Nazis: When a local farmer turned in a group of Jews that came to ask for food, they retaliated by killing him and his family, and burning down his house.

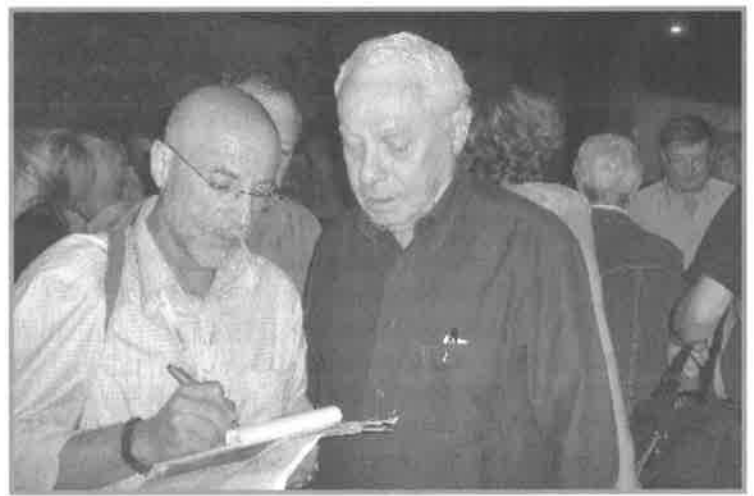
In 1944, when the area was liberated by the Red Army, a group of 700 Jewish survivors emerged from the woods.

Asael Bielski was killed in the Red Army, but after the war the remaining Bielski brothers Tuvia and Zus made aliyah to Israel. They lived in the Tel Aviv suburb of Holon and worked as drivers. Tuvia eventually immigrated to New York where he died in 1987.

"He was a very modest man," Miki

Bielski, his son, said. "He told me: 'You'll see that after my death I'll be more famous than during my life.'" And so it was. After his death he was brought to rest in a military burial on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Irving Resnik came to Stephenville, Newfoundland in 1948, and was married to Ruth Kaplow, they had three children Allie, Gary and Elaine. When Ruth passed away in 1962 Irving remarried and had another son Braham.



Yossi Melman, Ha'aretz journalist, Dr. Pinchas Boldo, member of Bielski Brigade and a good friend of Irving Resnik as well as Mr Kogan Ramana, Israel (April 2008)

Irving Resnick's had a loving reputation as a tough businessman and his businesses included Resnik Style Shop, Irving Stores. In 2000, Irving Resnick passed away at the age of 78.

YOM HAATZMAUT 2008- IN STOCKHOLM - CONTINUED

gave the sermon in English, and the Chazzan translated into the Swedish, even though most Swedes whom I met spoke English fairly well.

The Kiddush following services was held in the Gemeinde building to the side of the shul. At the top of the imposing curved staircase lined by a fine Persian carpet, was the expansive and high-ceilinged community meeting hall. It was lined with oil portraits of former Rabbis and community leaders, going back hundreds of years.

On Sunday, I arrived at the Wahrendorffgatan shul ½ hour early, to be met, as I turned into the street, by heavily armed paramilitary policemen in heavy armour, blocking the entrance to the street. The lead officer said something to me in Swedish, and I hoped that he wasn't saying something like "hands up or I will shoot!". After he had established that I was a tourist whose Swedish was

minimal, he smiled and told me to go around the block to enter via Barzillai Park. There I was met by a barricade manned by young Israelis with earphones who asked the usual "El Al" type questions. Once satisfied that I was there to take part in the celebrations, I was let through and I made my way into the shul. It was packed by members of the Swedish Jewish community and other supporters of Israel.

The programme was in Swedish, as was the commemorative booklet. The service started at 6pm and the moderator was a young Israeli woman who spoke in English. She introduced the many politicians who spoke, including a minister of the ruling party in the Rikstag, a member of the European Parliament, a city official, the leader of the official opposition party in the Rikstag, and the Israeli ambassador- who spoke Swedish fluently! Interspersed were Israeli singers

especially brought in for the occasion.

An American Rabbi led the benediction for the State of Israel, followed by a hearty rendition of the Hatikvah and the Swedish national anthem.

After we filed out of the shul, we were stopped at the exit to the street by worried Israeli security officials who were monitoring a demonstration in the park by a group of young Palestinians and their local political allies, who were calling for a public boycott of Israel and its products. In the park surrounding the demonstrators, were the heavily armed police on foot and on horseback. There was no evidence of violence and I walked by them, snapping a few photos.

Overall I enjoyed my renewal of acquaintance with the Stockholm Jewish community and was very pleased by their overwhelmingly staunch commitment to the State of Israel. Am Yisroel Chai!!

MARCH OF THE LIVING HOLOCAUST EDUCATORS' TOUR 2008

THE LONGEST MILE BY DIANE LEWIS

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Editor's note: In 2008 Diane Lewis received the Educator of the Year award from the Cape Breton Holocaust Education committee. She is in her 6th year as an Itinerant Visual Art Teacher at Greenfield Elementary-New Waterford-base school in Cape Breton. Among other projects Diane has written an essay for CBC Sounds like Canada and has narrated a radio documentary for CBC Maritime Magazine.



Mike Kelly, Diane Lewis, Kevin Linden

I BECAME INTERESTED IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES WHEN I DID RESEARCH ON MY MOTHER'S SECRET WRITING CAREER AND DISCOVERED HER PUBLISHER WAS A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR-NORMAN LIPSCHUTZ. I did not realize it at the time, but this discovery changed the course of my life. The March of the Living has been my latest opportunity to learn more about this dark and shameful time in our past. They say you can not truly know a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes. Although I am not going to pretend to know what it could have possibly been like to be a Holocaust survivor, the March of the Living Holocaust Tour for Educators has simulated for me what it might have felt like. The program began with an Orientation Session in Toronto. 36 teachers from across Canada got to meet and do some group building before our international journey began. When we arrived in Poland, we got on a bus and drove

9 hours to Berlin. Our first tour was of the Wannsee Konferenz Haus where Hitler unveiled his "Final Solution." The contrast between this beautiful villa in the suburbs of Berlin and the intent of that meeting was chilling. Our Israeli Guide pointed out that the invitation to the meeting indicated that over coffee this strategy to rid Europe of Jews would be discussed. He asked us to consider

how such a meeting could take place, in such a nonchalant manner, to discuss genocide. We were also asked to consider when the Holocaust actually started, was it when Hitler came to power? When the camps were built? When people were made to wear stars? Or was it much further back in time?

The Polish government provided a body guard for the group. This is because groups associated with Holocaust studies, especially Jewish groups, have been targets in the past. The week was packed with amazing historical sites. Most of the tour was in Poland but we did spend 8 hours walking to places of interest in Berlin. What was unique about the tour was that the outdoors was our classroom, the building, architecture, monuments and art, our subjects.

I had a lot of trepidation about visiting Auschwitz as did others on the trip. I can not adequately describe the emotions I had when I arrived. I felt my chest tighten, my heart rate speed up, I began to feel overheated and I thought I was going to faint. I had to take my jacket off, stand by the window and turn off my guided tour headphones. If you believe in Karma, this place had very bad vibes. You could feel the sorrow, panic and despair of the people who were captives.

When I discussed this with our survivor Bill, he told me many people found

Majdanek more emotional. I thought I had coped with the most difficult part of this journey but Bill was right, what I was about to experience trumped anything I had ever done. Majdanek is completely in tact and could be made operation with a few days. I got the sense of being processed and I recognized the well documented gas chambers and the crematorium. Our guide asked us to consider before we started why were there and what we were looking for. At that point I broke down sobbing because I was looking for answers not only to the Holocaust but to my own life. I think everybody brings some of their own pain to this type of work.

I started to walk the grounds and came to a warehouse, when I entered I uttered an audible gasp and broke into tears, it was the dreaded piles of shoes. I had seen human hair, personal belongings of all sorts, glasses, children's toys, but for some reason the shoes have always been my emotional trigger. We ended this day on a high platform surrounding a monument encompassing a huge pile of cremated remains. We had a closing ceremony in which we sang Cape Breton composer Leon Dubinsky's song, "We Rise Again", never had the words of this song represented such sadness. But if there is any glimmer of hope from the Holocaust it is that some people did survive and "rise again in the faces of our children."

It would take volumes of reflection to do justice to this program, the experience exceeded my expectation. As a teacher I hope I will have a stronger sense of the urgency of dealing with the underlying causes of genocide. As a person I thank God that I have never had to go through anything close to the misery of my fellow human being 60 + years ago.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY ON A BIKE

BY MARK SIMON

"COURAGE IN MOTION" SEPTEMBER 14-18 2008

It is rare that one has the opportunity to support a worthwhile charity while simultaneously challenging one's physical abilities. Born and raised in Glace Bay, NS, my late father, Dr. Phil Simon taught me the importance of becoming involved and making a difference. I currently reside in Toronto and practice general dentistry in Newmarket.

Two years ago I visited Israel for my second time. I spent one week in Jerusalem as a volunteer dentist and one week touring the country. The memorable experience resulted in my return to Israel the following year to do a cycling tour from Tiberius to Jerusalem. Prior to starting the ride, I had the unique experience of attending my nephew Aaron's graduation into the Israeli tank corp. Aaron had completed his basic training and was about to embark on eight months of service in the IDF.

There is a strong military presence everywhere you travel in Israel. The young men and women who serve in the IDF see active duty defending the State of Israel on a daily basis. Unfortunately, the consequence is over 51,000 disabled war veterans in Israel today. Beit Halochem is an organization dedicated solely to the lifelong care and rehabilitation of these wounded

individuals.

Beit Halochem has centres in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa and construction is set to begin on a new centre in Beersheva. The centres provide a place where the disabled veterans can undergo the various lifelong rehabilitation therapies which they require. The centres range in size from 5,500 square meters to 10,000 square meters.

Upon my return from Israel in November 2007, I felt there was a need to recognize and create a greater awareness of these injured heroes. Lisa Levy, National Executive Director of Beit Halochem Canada, approved my proposal to celebrate the State of Israel's 60th anniversary and pay tribute to our injured heroes with a five day bike ride in Israel, the Courage in Motion cycling event.

Cyclists select from a challenging cycling route of 80-100k per day or a more moderate and slower paced route. All cyclists have the opportunity to cycle with Israel's disabled war heroes who will also participate during parts of the ride.

Some of the highlights include

five days of cycling amidst spectacular scenery, barbecue and bonfire on the shores of the Kinneret, attend Israel's 60th Anniversary party in Tel Aviv, visit a military base and the opportunity to ride with top level disabled Israeli athletes. The ride is fully supported to provide a secure cycling environment. The ride from September 14 through September 18 coincided with Beit Halochem's annual 11 day Mission to Israel from September 11 through September 23.

Further details regarding Courage In Motion can be viewed on the website www.cycleIsrael.com. The Beit Halochem website is www.advi.ca or contact courageinmotion@advi.ca

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K'VOD HA'RAAV, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE KAHAL BY PAULA MENDELSON

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Editor's note: This address was presented by Paula Mendelsohn (Kaplansky) of Montreal, (formerly of Saint John) on the occasion of receiving the Eshet Chayil award from the Shaar Hashomayin Synagogue, Montreal. This is the highest award presented to a woman. The address was delivered in the fall of 2007 as part of a sermon leading into the Yizkor service.

I, TOO SPENT PART OF MY LIFE
IN A JEWISH COMMUNITY BY
THE SEA, A COLD AND GREY AND
FOGGY SEA, IN A COMMUNITY
THAT IS NOW NOT WHAT IT
ONCE WAS.

As our grandparents fled continental Europe the ships first docked in Canada at pier 21 in Halifax and in Saint John, N.B. In the immense new country, free of the restrictions and persecutions of Europe, our families set about rebuilding their lives and communities in these, what were, for them, very new and different, harbor cities. Canada was to prove to be very good for the Jews, and the Jewish communities of the Maritimes flourished. However, inherent in these very same liberties from which they benefited, and magnified by the location of the communities at the periphery of the nation, lay the hazards of assimilation, intermarriage and the potential loss of adherence to Jewish religious practice and cultural identity. The small inter-related Jewish communities in the Atlantic Provinces were scattered, and yet at the same time, tied together in a number of common religious enterprises. They were also bound by the need to confront similar sorts of issues relating to cultural and religious survival.

The first Jews arrived in the Maritimes in the mid-19th century with the largest migration coming from Poland and Russia between 1890 and 1930. It is recorded that the High Holidays were first celebrated in Halifax in 1879. At its apogee, the Jewish community of Halifax

numbered 3,000. The community was prosperous and consciously Jewish. It is still the largest community. But like the other communities such as Yarmouth, Nova Scotia where the beautiful Bluenose was launched, it is now much smaller in number. The once-vibrant community of Saint John, New Brunswick had only 48 people celebrating Rosh Hashanah in synagogue this year. Among the sons and daughters of this Maritime community who moved on were Louis B. Mayer and Samuel Goldwyn, the founders of the MGM movie studios, and many others some of whom are currently active members of this congregation, and who are in this hall today.

There have been three things that have kept the communities alive: the Jewish home, the synagogue and a love of Israel.

Home-oriented religious practices were and are very strong. Proportionately, more Jews in the Maritimes kept kosher than in Montreal, even though the meat had to be ordered a week ahead. The vast majority attends a Passover Seder, and light Chanukah candles. There was not a home in which Friday night was not observed with candles and Kiddush and challah, and the company of the family and friends. Jewish values and practices as taught in the synagogue afternoon schools were put into practice with love at the family table.

Over 80% belong actively to a synagogue. In addition to being a house of prayer the synagogue would serve as a gathering place and the location for the communal dinners and events. Some synagogues provided a large kitchen where kosher meals were prepared by the congregants for community events, such as Bar Mitzvahs. Most importantly, afternoon schools were attached to most synagogues and the children attended. Attendance at Saturday junior congregation was part of the school curriculum. The Jewish literacy that was developed enabled many

of the young to eventually lead services in the main synagogues. Some schools had the policy that parents should bring the children to junior congregation, and then themselves remain for Saturday morning services. Undoubtedly the synagogue was a primary mechanism for maintaining Jewish identity. Unfortunately, there are fewer Jews today in the Maritimes, fewer synagogues, and some of these are barely surviving.

For the youth of the Maritimes and for their parents, it is a love of Israel, an attachment of heart and soul to that country that provides a sense of identity and continuity. Camp Kadimah, a Young Judean Zionist camp in Nova Scotia has attracted hundreds of young people, including my two children, who spent their summers in a Jewish Zionist atmosphere. Their experiences in that Jewish environment have enriched their Jewish lives, and strengthened their communities, wherever they live.

For those of you who have never lived in a small Jewish community, it is hard to imagine how different life can be. There was, and is such a strong sense of commitment to all things Jewish, and to your own fellow Jews. In times of joy, communal meals serve to bring all together; in some communities the Yom Kippur fast is ended in the Synagogue by a meal at which everyone participates. In times of grief the congregants provide their own Chevra Kadisha. People support one another very strongly and care very much about one another's existence, and continued existence of a Jewish community.

The Jews who came to the Maritimes and chose to live and work by the sea have seen their families move all over, including many who are in this synagogue today. Those who have left were not driven out, but left as free and proud Jews. Some left for better opportunity.

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CANADIAN YOUNG JUDAEA ISRAEL PROGRAM

PAGE 26

BY DANIEL PINK

THIS PAST SUMMER I WAS A MADRICH (STAFF) FOR THE CANADIAN YOUNG JUDAEA ISRAEL PROGRAM. The five week trip provided a unique experience for the campers to learn the history of Israel and Zionism through touring, listening to speakers and hiking the land.

Being from Atlantic Canada and also a Camp Kadimah staff I was able to join the previous years CIT's to Northern Israel, to visit with our Atlantic Partnership 2000 program (P2K). This week allowed the CIT's to reunite with each other and also with a group of Israeli's who had come to Camp Kadimah for the CIT program. Together we spent five days touring and volunteering in the north. We stayed at Kibbutz Nofay Gonen, which is located at the Hula Valley's north eastern end, at the feet of the Golan Mountains, overlooking the Upper Galilee. It was gorgeous and the kids take more away from staying on kibbutzim rather than hotels because they get to meet and hang out with kibbutzniks.

Our first volunteer project was in Neve Ur, where we worked with an organization called the Ayalm. The Ayalm are young college students from all over Israel

move to distressed areas, peripheral towns and inner cities, volunteering with the local populations and working to rehabilitate the neighborhoods physically, educationally and socially. Neve Ur has welcomed volunteer workers to help bring new life to the Kibbutz. We spent the morning working within the zoo. We helped feed, clean, garden and even play with some of the animals. I was impressed about how much we were able to help accomplish in just a morning.

Our next volunteering stop was Ayelet Hashachar where we spent the afternoon programming with Ethiopian youth. This was one of the top highlights of the entire summer for the Kadimah kids. With some help from our Israeli friends who helped with translation we ran fun games and activities with Ethiopians children ages 6 - 13.

Besides volunteering we also did some other fun activities. We visited some of Kibbutz Degania, which was the first Kibbutz founded in Israel in 1909. Also, we went to Tzuk Manara where we rode a roller-coaster which was on the side of a mountain.

This was one of my favorite weeks of the trip. I enjoy volunteering with communities in Israel because it makes

me feel less like a tourist and more like someone who is trying to make a difference to our homeland. The Canadian Young Judaea trip is a 5 week trip to Israel for 17 year olds. It is a trip I recommend to anybody who is eligible to go on.

For more information check out the website, www.youngjudaea.ca/trips.cfm



This picture was taken at the absorption center for Ethiopians at Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar in July. The activity was led by the Camp Kadimah group, along with 9 Israelis who joined them for mifgash (5 of whom were CITs at Camp Kadimah last summer and one of them was from Sderot). Approximately 20-30 Ethiopian children from the absorption center participated in the activity. The activity included communication through games - sport contests and various social games. Despite the language barrier, the wonderful cooperation and curiosity on both sides led to a warm mifgash and was very enjoyable for both groups.

K'VOD HA'RAAV, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE KAHAL - CONTINUED

Many, if not most, of the young left in order to find a Jewish spouse, and to build a Jewish future for their families.

On Yom Kippur we read the book of Jonah. After being expelled from the belly of the great fish, he ended up sitting in a primitive shelter on a hot hill overlooking the city of Nineveh. In his mercy, God made a leafy vine grow up rapidly overnight to cover the shelter, and provide Jonah with shade. The next day, in order to teach Jonah how to properly value life and the quality of mercy, God caused the vine to wither.

Our Jewish past is littered with the artifacts of Jewish communities that have flourished and then vanished, like Jonah's vine. However our history remembers and the rich legacy of memory is passed from generation to generation. The Jewish spark that was brought to the communities of Maritime Canada continues to inspire us, their communities, and their people wherever they now live. The Jewish spirit still burns surprisingly brightly, even in those centres where numbers are waning and age levels rapidly rising. The ability to maintain identity speaks

highly of the tenacity of the Jews in small communities.

On a day when we gather to remember, we miss what were once thriving communities, but appreciate their constant struggle to maintain their Jewish identity. This is the lesson for all of us, to never forget those people or the KEHILOT that they founded and nurtured. Theirs is a legacy given to all of us, a legacy that lives on in those maritime communities that still have a Jewish heartbeat.

LIFE IN ISRAEL & THE IDF: 2 YEARS AND COUNTING...

BY CRAIG FOX

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Editors Note: Craig Fox is the son of Cathy and Colin Fox, Halifax. Craig is serving in the IDF as a lone soldier, a soldier in the army who is not a native of Israel nor has family living there. Craig visited Halifax while on leave this summer and will complete his service in November 2009.

I HAVEN'T SEEN RAIN SINCE AROUND APRIL. AND EVERY DAY SINCE THEN HAS BEEN THE HOTTEST DAY I'VE EVER SEEN. But I as soon as I get some vacation time approved and fly to Halifax for four weeks to visit my family the rain won't stop coming down! It's been nearly two years since I've been in Canada and I can see the changes in myself now that I'm back.

Halifax has her treats that would try to tempt me to stay as well (and a cleanish harbor to boot!) no security points, no bag checks, and a public transportation system that works. However, I find myself missing the guard shifts, lack of sleep, and

the feeling of accomplishment every time I finish a day and get one day closer to that precious weekend. But in a few more days and I'll be heading back to the holy land and getting straight back to work.

Since I've been back I've been fortunate to speak in Halifax at the commemoration ceremony of our two soldiers Eldad Regev Z'L and Ehud Goldwasser Z'L, whose remains have finally been returned to Israel after two years. It was incredible to have seen them returned and to give them a proper Jewish funeral at home in Israel, as was deserving to them. But we mustn't forget that there is still one young soldier being held captive in Gaza for two years and still counting.

As always it has been fun to speak and to share stories and a few army jokes with a few of Halifax's own who once served in the IDF as well. As for what's new in the IDF, my unit has gone on vacation (they got a week and I got 30 days to fly home),

we'll spend a week on an army resort for some unit bonding, and then off to several months of unit training which will take us into the winter. A nice rest from the guarding and lack of sleep that we've gotten so used to lately.

So as I head back at the end of this week I want to thank everyone for being so welcoming and supportive while I've been back, and for your continuing support throughout my service in the IDF.

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WHO IS FOOLING WHO?

BY ANAV SILVERMAN

Editors Note: This article was reprinted with permission from Sderotmedia.com.

THE OTHER DAY IN SDEROT. I MADE AN ASTONISHING OBSERVATION. I WAS WALKING FROM THE OFFICE AFTER A LONG DAY AT WORK TO CATCH SOME SLEEP. WHEN I NOTICED I WAS NOT WALKING ALONE. Usually the city is deadly quiet once the sun sets, as parents refuse to let children play outside in the dark. Families prefer to remain at home together after a long day of siren alerts and rocket explosions.

High school kids don't ride around as much with the music blasting, and teenagers don't

walk around listening to their I-pods in case the 'tzeva adom' sounds. There's not much to do at night except maybe watch a movie and hope that Hamas rocket launchers decide to go to sleep, so that those of us living in Sderot can relax just a little bit.

In any case, tonight I actually noticed people outside on the street. For the first time since I started working in Sderot over a year ago, I saw moms walking around with their strollers and neighbors playing cards outside on the porch.

A playground is full of kids shouting and playing—that is one sight that makes me do a double take. Playgrounds are usually pretty much empty here in Sderot.

Then I realized that this is the new playground that everyone is talking about—the first playground in the world that is properly protected from rocket fire.

How?

There are heavy concrete tubes that kids can run to for protection when the siren sounds.

Moms are finally feeling that it is safe enough to let their kids play at a playground. The kids look like they are having fun, what an ingenious idea.

I spoke to Orna Cohen, a local Sderot mom, who's pretty happy with the playground.

continued on page 30

Around the Region



Miriam and Leonard Goldberg (front) with Jon Goldberg (back) are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary at the dedication of the Goldberg Computer Science Building, Dalhousie University



Shirley Burnstein at the Massada Club closing dinner



Former Lt. Governor Myra Freeman, Karen Conter, National Hadassah President, Bette Ross, Leona Freeman



Mel Davis and Pat Srebnik at the PEI Jewish Community picnic



2007 CIT's in Northern Israel with P2K program 2008



"The boys" at the Yazer anniversary celebration, Sydney



Asper students and chaperones in Washington, DC



Brian Golod with his grandfather and Leo Adler at the Israel @ 60 celebration in PEI



Jon Goldberg with Halifax's Israel @ 60 celebration co-chairs Laura Tsiman, Karen Conter and AJC president Kathy Zilbert



Israel @60 celebration in PEI Evelyn & Sol Feldstein with Howard Conter



Moncton BBQ Irving Schelew & David Rubin



Jordan Davidson speaking with Ivan Cohen at the Moncton BBQ



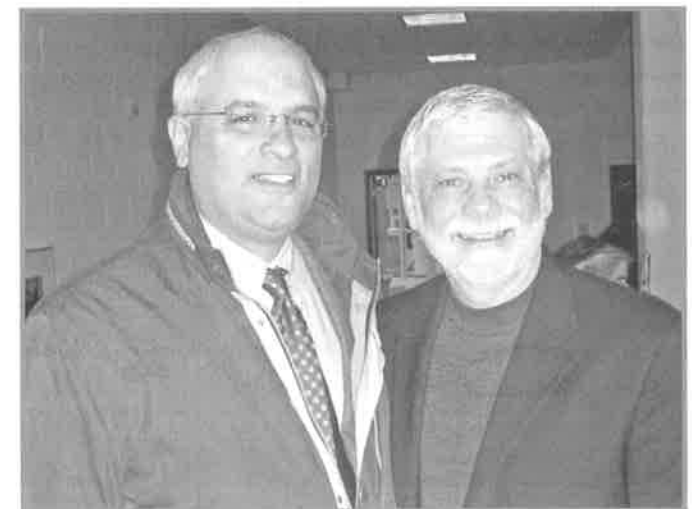
Saint John Shalom Shaarei Zedek Weekend



Halifax immigration meeting back row- Alan Stern, Shulamith Medjuck, Elizabeth Mills Executive Director, Office of Immigration, Edna LeVine front row, Carmelle d'Entremont, Director of Programs-Immigration, Frances Wolfe, Senior NSNP Officer- Immigration, Robyn Webb, A/Manager SmartBusiness- Greater Halifax Partnership.



Edna LeVine, 2nd from left with FSWC award recipients in PEI, Sandra Ireland, Rosalie Simeone Jo-Anne White



Mark David & Edwin Black - Yom Hashoah Halifax

"I can finally let my grandkids outside to play in this new playground, when they come to visit me in Sderot," Orna said. "Usually I have to keep them pent up inside the house. It's nice to have a playground like this where the kids can play somewhat at peace, but it's obviously not a solution to living with the rocket fire."

"I just want the rockets to stop for good so that we don't have to live for these little moments of quiet that are followed by terrible barrages of Kassams."

In any case, the children of Sderot definitely deserve some kind of break. About 70-94% of Sderot children now show signs of post-traumatic stress disorder.

On another interesting note, at the Sderot Trauma Center, director Dr. Adriane Katz, reported that the number of cases of shock and panic among Sderot residents has only risen since the beginning of the year.

"The ceasefire is giving families, especially parents and kids, a chance to breathe a little," Katz. "This is not a real calm, however, because we know the rocket fire will resume soon. Most people anticipate another heavy round of rocket fire based on what happened in the last ceasefire."

Indeed, over 300 Palestinian rockets were fired at Sderot from Gaza during the last Hamas ceasefire from November 2006 to May 2007.

It's also fairly obvious to everyone that this ceasefire has not prevented Hamas from stockpiling its weapons. In the last ceasefire, Hamas stockpiled more weapons and rocket material, and trained more soldiers to attack our troops. They are doing the same thing now. On Hamas's Ezzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades website, a senior Hamas official states that the calm is considered a victory for Hamas, a chance "to recharge power."

You can just visit their English website and see how the terrorist group continues to call for the destruction of the state of Israel, glorifying terrorists as 'martyrs.' If Hamas can't actively fire rockets, then the regime

can passively do so by preparing for the next strategic round of rocket fire. Who is fooling who?

Unfortunately and tragically, in the next round of events, it will be the residents of Sderot and the western Negev who pay a heavy price for this temporary calm.

Although we are all enjoying this nice respite from the hell we've been experiencing this year-over 2,000 Kassams and mortar shells have hit the western Negev since January, killing four people and wounding hundreds-we know that the worst is being planned out now.

For further information about the wealth of community projects on the go in Sderot, and how you can help, please contact;

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"One who saves a life, saves the entire world"

DALHOUSIE NAMES NEW BUILDING FOR GOLDBERG FAMILY

BY JOEL JACOBSON

PAGE 31

A HALIFAX FAMILY THAT BUILT A REPUTATION FOR INTEGRITY, EDUCATIONAL PURSUIT AND PRIDE IN COHESIVENESS HAS ITS NAME MEMORIALIZED ON A UNIVERSITY BUILDING.

The Dalhousie University Goldberg Computer Science Building was officially named recently for a family whose matriarch and patriarch emigrated to North America in the early 1900s and moved to Halifax in 1912.

Seven children of Joseph and Sarah Goldberg succeeded in the medical, dental, legal and business communities, spawning grandchildren and great grandchildren who have carried on the tradition that hard work and pursuit of ideals pays off in success.

A \$2 million gift to the university, endowing four \$39,000 renewable scholarships, two based on academic excellence and two on community service, plus 18 one-time \$5,000 scholarships, were funded by noted benefactors Seymour Schulich of Toronto and his wife, Tanna Goldberg Schulich. Tanna is a granddaughter of Joseph and Sarah Goldberg, whose oldest son Meyer, Tanna's father, left school after Grade 7 to assist his mother in the family business after the passing of Joseph a few years earlier.

"The motivation for this gift to Dalhousie, from which eight Goldbergs have graduated, and other Goldbergs attended, was the admiration the family has in this committee and the close-knit relationship of the Goldbergs," said Seymour Schulich at a press conference prior to the official announcement of the naming.

"It's inspiring to me to see that family relationship," he said. "I grew up in



Tanna (Goldberg) Schulich and Seymour Schulich pose for a photo in front of the Henry Hicks Building, Dalhousie University

Montreal and my family was not anywhere near as close as the family into which I married. It's wonderful to see them get together, and so many, for every occasion."

At this event in late June, Goldbergs travelled from Florida, Boston, Toronto and Washington to celebrate the naming, as well as the 65th wedding anniversary of Leonard and Miriam Goldberg. Leonard, 90, a retired dentist and Dal graduate, is the only surviving offspring of Joseph and Sarah.

Daughter Julia, licentiate of music 1928, and sons Earle, Bachelor of Commerce 1934 and LLB 1935, and Howard MD 1940, were also Dal grads. Grandchildren Marc Goldberg, BSC and MD, now living in Florida, Victor Goldberg, BA, Halifax, Sandra Goldberg Singer, BA, Toronto, and Paul Goldberg, MBA and LLB, Halifax, also hold Dalhousie degrees.

As he talked of the importance of scholarship availability to students today, Seymour Schulich reflected on the importance of financial assistance to him.

"I received a \$1,600 scholarship in 1963 and turned that into \$5,000 by investing in stock," he recalled. That starting his climb toward financial

success.

"I'm part of the Goldberg family," he said. "With the cost of providing a university education much higher than what students pay in fees, this a debt that should be paid to assist the university provide those educations."

Dalhousie president Tom Traves called Seymour one of the great philanthropists, supporting a number of university endeavours in Canada and Israel.

"To have his support for Dalhousie is a statement of the status and quality of this university," he said.

Jon Goldberg, a son of late businessman Morris Goldberg, and presently executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council (Victor Goldberg is a past president of the AJC), said "the family is lucky to have a man like Seymour as part of us, not because of his financial resources, but he's a real good guy, always warm and friendly, and here for most family occasions. He honours our family by putting his own name out there on our behalf."

Leonard says education meant so much to his mother. "It's unbelievable. I know how proud she would be to see her name connected to Dalhousie in this way."

Reprinted with the permission of the Canadian Jewish News



Reception at Goldberg Computer Science Building

PHILIP RITEMAN RECIEVES HIS SECOND HONOURARY DOCTORATE

Editor's note: Jon Goldberg was pleased to attend the convocation ceremony this summer as Philip Riteman received his second honorary doctorate from St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB., in recognition of his willingness to share his painful memories of the Holocaust to make better citizens and a better society.

Ben Mendleson, son of Gerry & Sylvia Mendleson, Halifax, produced and directed a documentary of Phillip Riteman entitled "From Auschwitz to Freedom", the film chronicles the thoughts of Mr. Riteman as he leaves the horrors of the concentration camps discussing his emotional journey to North America as a free man. Ben's film about Mr. Riteman has been selected as an entry to the 2008 Atlantic Film Festival.

Ben Mendleson recently graduated at the spring convocation of the Nova Scotia Community College with a Diploma in Screen Arts. This September, he will join the staff at Eastlink Television as an intern where he will continue to pursue his interest in Media Arts.

This biography is reprinted from the St. Thomas University Summer 2008 Convocation program.

PHILIP RITEMAN SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE MILLIONS OF A PERISHED COMMUNITY THAT CAN NO LONGER SPEAK Born in Shereshevo, located in the Bialystok district of Poland, on the east bank of the Bug River near the famous fortress city of Brest-Litovsk, Riteman and his family were sent to the Pruzhany ghetto near his hometown in 1941. The following year, they were part of a group of thousands, deported and packed into boxcars for a week's journey to the Auschwitz Birkenau extermination camp. Tattooed and branded as prisoner 98706, he would be the sole survivor of an extended family of 30 + members. After spending time in the Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Oranienburg and Landsburg concentration camps, he was among the thousands taken away from liberation and marched as human shields for the retreating

German army. Finally he was freed from the death march by the American VII Army in May 1945.

Following the war, he was sponsored by an aunt and moved to Newfoundland. He later established a successful import trading company in St. John's which later relocated to Halifax. After forty years of silent mourning, Riteman first spoke of his experience as a Holocaust survivor in 1989 at St. Stephen High School. He decided to speak about his experiences in order to give a voice to the millions who died in the, killing pits and camps and to silence those deniers of the Holocaust. Since then, Riteman has spoken at schools, churches and universities in dozens of communities throughout North America. As he continues to bear witness, Riteman hopes to touch many lives and inspire young people with the message that "it is better to love, than to hate", to become better citizens and make a fair but stronger society.



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"NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE" WAS THE THEME ITERATED AGAIN AND AGAIN IN HALIFAX MAY 8 BY SPEAKERS AT ISRAEL@60, A CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL'S 60TH BIRTHDAY.

Yet Alon Pinkas, former Israeli consul general to New York, a long-time advisor to Israeli presidents, premiers and military leaders, a Jerusalem Post columnist and investment advisor, told 300 members of the Halifax Jewish Community, "It has nothing to do with miracles.

"It was hard work, blood, tears, and dedication that turned a country that was proclaimed an independent state in 1948, with 600,000 Jews and \$1.6 million British pounds, living among 130 million Arabs, into what it is today."

He joked. "You'd be thrown out of Las Vegas if you asked for odds and wanted to bet on Israel's success against that 60 years ago."

In response to negative media, he asked "Why is it an issue that Israel can continue to exist, that Israel can survive another 60 years?"

He said Israel is a normal place. "The people are not what the world perceives as Arab-killing, khaki-wearing, pioneers.



Alon Pinkas

Israel is different people from different places, working to foster the country's reputation as a leader in economics, science, technology. It's the only country where the people are threatened and imperilled, but continue to fight back – because it IS a country, with a flag, independence and something to live for."

At Pier 21, the Halifax gateway for immigrants from 1921 to 1973, the large reception and dining room was festively decorated, and tributes to Israel's success were depicted on a large screen.

After speakers from Jewish National Fund and United Israel Appeal praised Israel's triumphs, Marcia Cantor, executive director of State of Israel Bonds for Ottawa and Atlantic Canada, implored the audience to try to destroy the negative image portrayed of Israel by the mainstream media.

"The average reader, listener and viewer doesn't know right from

wrong, truth from falsehood," she said. "We have to let people know Israel is a stable, secure, purified, sophisticated nation, with a free press, healthy economy and strong values."

She stressed, "Israel is a fact. Every road, rail system, power plant, industry, Israel at the forefront of invention portrays this message."

Yet Pinkas cautioned that the doubled growth in the Palestinian birth rate, compared to Israel, should be cause for concern.

"Israel is faced with its greatest dilemma since (David) Ben Gurion decided whether to develop the State. If Palestinians are granted the vote, by 2020, Israelis will be outnumbered," he said after crunching numbers that dropped Israeli's total population from a true 7.4 million people to 4.5 million.

"That does not include Arabs living within its borders, foreign labourers with little to do with Zionism, ultra orthodox who don't care about the state, and Soviet immigrants who are not yet fully assimilated," he said

"The majority rules in a democracy," declared the man with degrees in political science and government, "but if the Mayor of Jerusalem is an Arab in 2020, the last leaving should turn out the lights."

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Part of the crowd at the Israel @ 60 celebration in Halifax

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Rekindling The Torch: The Story of Canadian Zionism

DAVID AZRIELI WITH THE COLLABORATION OF JOE KING

Rekindling the Torch celebrates the participation and significant contributions of Canadian Jews in realizing the central objective of nineteenth-century Zionism—a Jewish homeland—and their support for the modern-day state of Israel.

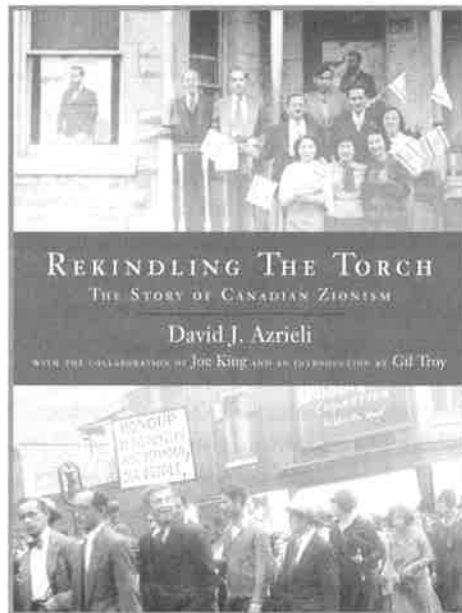
Jewish refugees survived centuries of anti-Semitic laws and pogroms in Europe that culminated in the Nazi genocide of the 1930s and 1940s. Far from weakening their spirit, these tragedies strengthened their collective will to build a homeland. In Canada, Jewish immigrants created strong communities and rose to become captains of industry, leaders in the arts and education, and champions of human rights. At the same time, they actively pursued the goal of Jewish nationhood.

Even after Israel declared its statehood in 1948, the fight for the Jewish homeland continued. Canadians, Jewish and gentile alike, took up arms in defense of the country, raised funds, and helped build an infrastructure for the fledgling nation. Canadian Jewry has also focused on educating its youth, promoting awareness of Jewish culture and the central importance of Israel to the future of the Jewish people.

Excerpt from *Rekindling the Torch: The Story of Canadian Zionism*: Page 115, Swift's Flying Fortress involving Sam Jacobson, twice head of the United Israel Appeal, and pictured on Page 126 showing JNF dinner including Noah Heinisch—one of the great Halifax Zionists.

Swift's Flying Fortress

In 1948, as Israel found itself under attack by its well-armed Arab neighbours, a Flying Fortress bomber with engine trouble was forced to make an emergency



landing at the Shearwater Naval Air Base near Halifax. In theory, the aircraft's pilot, "Swift" Schindler, president of the New England Air Navigation Training Company, was instructing eight student pilots. In fact, he was second-in-command of the airlift of arms from Czechoslovakia to the new State of Israel, and the American-built B-17 bomber was on its way to the Middle East to strengthen the tiny Israeli air force. The Czechs, with the approval of the Soviet Union, were the main arms

suppliers to the Israelis during the War of Independence. The Israelis found themselves with few modern aircraft to combat the largely British-equipped Arab air forces.

As Swift stood, discouraged, on the Shearwater tarmac, he was approached by a portly, balding middle-aged man who offered him a cigarette. "Keep the package," the stranger said. Inside the flap were the words "Follow me."

The mysterious stranger was Halifax businessman Samuel Jacobson, who had been directed by his contacts in Jerusalem to do what he could to free the pilot, even if it meant abandoning the bomber in Halifax. In the end, however, Schindler felt he couldn't abandon the aircraft and the eight experienced flyers who were volunteering to join the fledgling Israeli air force. So he took off at night—without lights—and flew to the Azores, where, under normal circumstances, he could have bribed the authorities to allow him to refuel. When he landed, however, he found that too much publicity about what he was doing had preceded him. Schindler was arrested and returned to the United States, where he served a two-year prison sentence.

This excerpt and photo are courtesy of Key Porter Books. Abundantly

illustrated and extensively researched, *Rekindling the Torch* tells passionate individual stories of resilience, commemorates the struggle of the Canadian Jewish people, and honours their role in the birth and endurance of Israel. A copy of *Rekindling the Torch: The Story of Canadian Zionism* can be purchased at major book retailers and online at www.amazon.ca



Sam Jacobson, twice head of the United Israel Appeal, at JNF dinner including Noah Heinisch—one of the great Halifax Zionists.

TOOLS FOR TOLERANCE

BY BY SHERIDA SHERRY HASSANALI, PH. D
(CANDIDATE, OISE/UT) EQUITY AND DIVERSITY CONSULTANT

PAGE 35

Editor's note: This spring Sherry Hassanali, along with 2 other Atlantic Canadians participated in the Tools for Tolerance program. Sherry is presently seeking to lead the Partners for Humans Rights (the AJC is a member) on this program.

AS A SELF-PROFESSED SOCIAL JUSTICE CHANGE-AGENT, A TEACHER-EDUCATOR, AND AN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY CONSULTANT, I HAVE NEVER BEEN KEEN ON THE WORD TOLERANCE. As soon as the word is uttered, it simply hangs there. Loaded. I never liked the tone, implications and/or the connotations behind what feels to be, a mask. A mask that seemingly hides a persons true feelings or truth. For me, the word tolerance meant simply to tolerate or to put up with. There never seemed to be any room for respect, for building of understanding or for cultural competence. It also seemed so final. Having said this, my views on this laden word recently went through a metamorphosis. As did I. It is this journey of change that I wish to share.

At the end of March of this year, when we Maritimers were all winter-weary, I had the wonderful opportunity and absolute privilege, to lead a group of equity and diversity professionals from across Canada to Los Angeles, California, where we participated in an intense, two-day experiential-learning course called "Tools for Tolerance" at the Simon Weisenthal Center Museum of Tolerance. When we landed in the warm, sunshiny city of angels, we had no idea that over the next few days would we no longer be the same people who had just walked off the plane. The website for the Simon Weisenthal Center, www.weisenthal.com, advertises the Center as an "international Jewish human rights organization dedicated to repairing the world one step at a time". The Center's multifaceted mission generates changes through the Snider Social Action Institute and education

by confronting antisemitism, hate and terrorism, promoting human rights and dignity, standing with Israel, defending the safety of Jews worldwide, and teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations. One of the specialized programs sponsored by the Museum is the Tools for Tolerance course. This unique program utilizes the Museum's unique educational environment to explore issues of diversity and tolerance, as well as cooperation in the workplace and in the community. To date, the Museum has trained over 100,000 professionals, including educators, individuals in law enforcement, firefighters, social workers, health care professionals, attorneys, probation officers, and others.

Our first day of the course was a whirlwind. The day began with "the talk" which set the tone for the duration of the session. The talk began with a quote from Tony Kushner (1995) who stated "tolerance without social justice really isn't respect and change really isn't tolerance". As our conversation developed we were told that tolerance is imperative for peaceful co-existence and really is the fundamental building block for peace. This is where my transformation around this word began. I had never had the opportunity to think about this word, this idea, this concept, in this way.

After this, our group set the goals and objectives for the course: (a) to experience thirty-five different learning modalities in the field of anti-bias education; (b) examine self-awareness and responsibilities in the role of change agents; (c) network and build support for one another and; (d) identify the next step. In addition we determined that the program focus was two-fold: the personal and the collective in relation to self/other/workplace. Quite literally, there was so much to do in so little time.

We then were led to the Museum itself. The unique interactive exhibits at the

Museum of Tolerance provide a hands-on experience - to learn from the past, engage in the present and most importantly, to assume responsibility for the future. While on the tour we were continually challenged to explore the meaning of tolerance and the consequences of intolerances by focusing on history of the Holocaust and the dynamics of discriminations in and around the world today.

The richly heavy and thought-provoking discussion took place at some of the very interesting highlights of the Museum. These included:

Millennium Machine - used interactive technology to inform participants about international human rights abuses and challenges participants to seek solutions. Very hands on.

Ain't You Gotta Right - is a 16 screen video wall that details the struggle for civil rights in America

The entrance to the Tolerancenter was an exhibit itself with two doors that made you stop and think. This piece alone generated incredible conversation.

Globalhate.com based on the ongoing investigation of hate on the internet, is equipped with touch screen computer terminals that expose a selection of the thousands of problematic sites on the World Wide Web. Very visually stimulating.

Point of View Diner serves a menu of controversial topics on video jukeboxes. Participants input their opinions on what they witness. Results are instantly tabulated. For lack of a better word, this place was really cool, as it was set-up as a 1950's style diner with all of the chrome, stools, and other bells and whistles.

The Holocaust Exhibit led participants back in time to witness the events of World War II. Each participant received a photo passport with the story of a child whose life was changed by the events of

continued on page 36

the Holocaust. Throughout the exhibit, the passport is updated, ultimately revealing the child's fate. You cannot help but become attached to the history of this person. The person became real to me. Finally, I learned that the child in my passport, survived!!! I actually wept. I wept even harder when I learned that he now works as a volunteer at the Simon Weisenthal Center. He was here. This child survived.

Berlin Street Café – A recreation of a 1930's Berlin Street Café where citizens are discussing their concerns over the impending Nazi takeover of Germany. Very lifelike.

Wannsee Conference – a re-enactment of the infamous Wannsee Conference where Nazi leaders met to decide "The Final Solution of the Jewish Question" – the destruction of European Jewry.

Warsaw Ghetto – here participants saw a re-creation of the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto

Concentration Gates – here participants saw a re-creation of concentration gates and finally;

Hall of Testimony – where participants witness unforgettable stories of the courage and sacrifice of victims of the Holocaust. We were led into a re-created gas chamber where we heard what millions of victims would have heard before they were put to death. I still cannot think about this chamber without every hair on my body raising. This experience was profound. I

had never before even seen a picture of a gas chamber. It was horrifying.

After our tour, we had the opportunity to meet Bill Harvey, a Holocaust survivor, who shared his first-hand, lived experiences of the death camp to us. At the end of Mr. Harvey's talk, he gave the opportunity to ask him questions. Although I have been working in the fields of education, and equity and diversity for over fifteen (15) years, I still cannot truly comprehend or rationally fathom the concept of hate. I asked him about forgiveness and how he could continually do this kind of work. He said he had two choices: to either forgive those who had committed these horrible wrongs and let them win again, or to simply live. It is through his life that the monsters lose. He said he is simply happy to be alive and that bitterness is life-draining. He asked how each of us are "complicit" in the issues of discrimination, and that it is imperative to "never stay silent". This message became an important thread throughout the duration of the course. These lessons have stayed with me as part of my promise and commitment to and for social change.

Anyone who is interested in working in the fields of social justice, peace, human rights, equity and diversity should, in my opinion, experience this Museum and the Tools for Tolerance course. I will never look at the word tolerance in the same way. From now on, whenever I have the opportunity, I will recount my narrative to illustrate another way of thinking and being with this word. Tolerance. It is no longer a loaded word, nor does it just hang there. It no longer is final. Now, tolerance is a word which offers the possibility of peace. It has moved from being a word that potentially masked hate to a language of hope. This continuum of examining the Holocaust, to exploring the concept of hate, to exposing hate across the spectrum of diversity, and finally learning how to teach to these fluid concepts through various modalities has indeed, changed the change-agent. For the better.

GUBERMAN, GARSON, BUSH

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JEWISH FOLK SONGS IN SAMBRO SCHOOL

BY DAVID LANGSTROTH

PAGE 37

Editor's note: David Langstroth is a member of Rhapsody Quintet and this spring he created an innovative Jewish history project which incorporated the arts. The project was funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

I'M WRITING TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT A UNIQUE MUSICAL AND CULTURAL PROJECT this past June which brought together professional musicians, representatives of Halifax's Jewish community and the children and staff of Sambro School to create some unique performances of familiar folk songs. At the beginning of the project, many of the children involved had had little experience of being creative in music and little exposure to Jewish culture and history. By the end they had created arrangements of Hava Nagila and David Melech using their own ideas, their own voices and their own instruments, facilitated and supported by the professional musicians and sung in Hebrew. As the final performance abundantly demonstrated, commitment comes with artistic input and expression. These were pieces of music that these children had helped to form and create and were sung with great pride to parents and family. These children had not just been taught to sing a song; rather, they had made all the musical decisions about how that performance should go, the speed, the dynamics, how it should be accompanied and what the instrumentalists should play. The standing ovation from the parents was testament to the success of their efforts.

But the project was about much more than developing musical creativity. It was also an opportunity to expose the children to Jewish history and culture. Folk songs in

any culture are windows into the history, traditions and values of a community and learning these songs requires developing some understanding of what they are about and why they are sung. Shimon Walt, who was involved as a musician in the project, spoke to the children throughout the project about aspects of history, language and music as they arose in the learning of the songs. Near the end of the project he also brought in and demonstrated the shofar and told the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho, which was familiar to many of the children from the Christian Bible. On the last day, we were privileged to also have a visit from Helena Jockel who listened to the children's performances with great appreciation and enthusiasm. In some of our conversations about planning this project Mrs. Jockel had told me about the poetry written by children in Terezin. She had suggested it would be wonderful if some of this poetry could be put to music. So, after the children's performance the professional musicians and singers gave a performance of "The Butterfly", a poem by Pavel Friedmann, with music composed by myself.

Mrs. Jockel then got up and spoke to children in an age appropriate way about her own experiences of the Holocaust. The grade sixes had been prepared by reading Anne Frank's Diary and were old enough to grasp some of the enormity of the story. Mrs. Jockel's talk was emotionally difficult for us all but her request to the children to never let this

happen again was such an important moment for them and for us.

I have been running creative projects like this for a long time. I played with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, in the UK for 17 years, and that orchestra had a wonderful community outreach program which fostered interactions between the musicians and the communities in which they lived. Since returning to Halifax in 2004 I have continued with this interest as much as possible, making connections with the Chinese community, the Brazilian, the Argentinian communities, and even with those communities of people behind bars in Nova Scotia. My involvement with the Jewish community developed through my friendship with Shimon Walt and his family. Becoming the new bass player of Rhapsody Quintet has brought me many new friends and new cultural experiences. The other musicians who took part were Anne Rapson, John Rapson, Diana Torbert and Shimon Walt, all from Rhapsody Quintet; as well as sopranos Phyllis Knox and Tasha Miller, and cellist Colin Matthews. The principal of Sambro School was Patricia Legere, without whose enthusiasm and commitment this project would never have happened.



Patricia Legere with Helena Jockel.



Program participants

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Editor's note: Marianne Ferguson is a long time active member with the Halifax Jewish Community and she is a volunteer guide at Pier 21.

Pier 21:

Marianne's Gateway of Hope

Most Canadians are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who migrated here by some means. Pier 21 is the dock and immigration processing site in Halifax, Nova Scotia, through which over one million new Canadians arrived by ship between 1928 and 1971. Refugees, soldiers, war brides, displaced persons, and postwar immigrants entered Canada through this "gateway of hope." Today, Pier 21 is known as Canada's Immigration Museum. Here is just one of its stories.



Marianne Echl in 1946



Marianne (11 years old), her father, and her younger sister walk with their dog Boris in 1936. Life in Danzig became increasingly difficult for the Echl family, who were Jewish. Persecution by the Nazis was on the rise. Marianne was lucky that her father had a German passport that included his family. They were able to leave Danzig for Poland on February 16, 1937. Marianne's 13th birthday. From Poland they sailed to England and then on to Canada.



This is a postcard of the ship Andania, which brought Marianne and her family to Canada. Marianne emigrated with her parents, her maternal grandmother, and her two younger sisters. The voyage took about 12 days and they arrived on March 7, 1937.



Hundreds of immigrants, including Marianne and her family, waited in line in Pier 21's assembly hall to be processed by immigration workers.



This is a rare photo of Pier 21's harbour. Here, newcomers stepped off the ships and onto Canadian soil for the first time.



The Echl family settled in Halifax. Marianne's mother, Melia, talking to the man with the hat, took on the job of greeting immigrants at Pier 21 on behalf of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society.



Four generations celebrate Canada Day at Pier 21: Marianne (far right), her daughter (centre), and her granddaughter have all volunteered at the Pier 21 Resource Centre over the years.

WHO IS RABBI DAVID ELLIS, YOU ASK?

BY REV. DEBRA ORTON

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Editor's note: For many months, Rev. Debra Orton, of the United Church of Trenton NS, had planned a scholars-in-residence weekend for her community. On April 12-14, Dr. David MacLaughlan of the Atlantic School of Theology and Rabbi David Ellis of the Atlantic Jewish Council, met with her congregation.

WELL, I COULD DESCRIBE RABBI ELLIS AS A DEVOTED FAMILY MAN, AND A MAN WHO IS VERY COMMITTED TO HIS FAITH COMMUNITY. He is also a very highly energized individual who loves to chat with others! And true to his faith, he is a wonderful teacher. It has been my experience however, that Rabbi Ellis is much more than what I have said in these few words. Let me explain.

In the fall of 2007 I contacted The Rev. Dr. David MacLachlan, Academic Dean and Register at Atlantic School of Theology. In the course of our conversation I asked him if he would be willing, along with a Rabbi, to come to Trenton, Nova Scotia to live in our community for a weekend, and open up an Interfaith dialogue program. Dr. MacLachlan, not only said yes, he asked me to call a very good friend of his, Rabbi Ellis. Dr. MacLachlan gave me Rabbi Ellis's name because he thought that his friend might be willing to support such a weekend. And without hesitation, Rabbi Ellis said he would be there!

With both men on board, the congregation at First United Church, Trenton, Nova Scotia formed a committee from our Bible study class to prepare for this very special event. And so "Exploring Our Roots: Jewish Christian Dialogue in our Community" was birthed and the entire event took place from Friday April 11 to Sunday April 13, 2008!

An event such as this cannot take place unless all parties are willing to embrace a

loving God in whom all life is anchored and who are willing to let hospitality be the model for a creative and caring interchange between people.

When I speak of hospitality I am not referring to the kind of hospitality that is understood in the twenty-first century: having a friend over for a cup of tea or exchanging cash or a credit card at a hotel



Rabbi Ellis at the Interfaith Dialogue program

or sitting around the fire place in the winter time sipping on a delicious drink and eating finger foods. I am referring to the hospitality of ancient times where welcoming the stranger was a highly valued moral practice, an expression of warmth and kindness, and a response to the life of faith.

And so it was a response to the life of his faith, and a commitment knowingly or unknowingly to the ancient practice of hospitality, that Rabbi Ellis was willing to live and enter into our community with an open attitude toward his fellow human beings. This attitude alone, created a warm and friendly space so that all who came to the event were invited to become more than strangers gathered in a common meeting place, they became

guests and friends.

The creation of such a welcoming place might have been very difficult to achieve had Rabbi Ellis not set the tone for the members of First United Church in their role as student, and he in his role as teacher: to open up a dialogue where all questions were welcome and respective life and/or faith experiences could be shared

primarily as a valuable source for spiritual growth and maturity in our humanity towards our fellow human beings.

The development of a mutual trust was also a key component in creating a hospitable place for this dialogue. The cultivation of such a trust was dependent on "Our Rabbi" and those who came to learn

to be present for one another, not as opponents, but as faithful people, struggling and searching for the same truth: finding value and meaning out of life. Discovering for example, that interfaith dialogue is not about changing people or drawing lines down the middle between one faith community and another. It is a gift that is given to us by God so that we can experience a change within us that will allow us to receive our fellow human beings into our life and hearts without imposing our religious ideologies, dogma or views as the only condition by which to welcome the other as a friend.

And so it was in a very loving and caring

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fashion that Rabbi Ellis in his role as host, allowed many of us at First United Church to discover that our own genuine interest to begin an interfaith dialogue, to learn about the other, and to receive the other for who they are as a human being was worth serious attention. This was accomplished when we were introduced to Sabbath prayers and dinner, a Seder meal and a discussion on Elijah.

Having said this I must acknowledge that the affirmation of the genuine interest of First United Church came in many different formats. The women who cooked the Jewish stew, a recipe that was forwarded to us by Rabbi Ellis, were

very concerned that they follow every single detail, so that our guests would feel welcomed as honoured guests in our community. Additional affirmation for this new relationship and friendship was expressed through the excitement and thanks that was offered to our guests for such a powerful learning experience! Many folks at First United Church are still talking about our weekend together and are looking forward to our gathering in 2009!

It is true that some Christians have made and continue to make some very serious errors towards our fellow human beings. The United Church of Canada

has apologized to the Jewish people for our past mistakes. Making and taking an apology serious however, requires more than words, it demands the creation of a hospitable place where a fearless dialogue between both parties can take place and where we can reveal to one another that we as human beings, God's children, have great potential to love, care and affirm one another for who we are as a human being without the fear of feeling threatened.

It was a courageous step that we all took in welcoming one another. As you have probably already noted we at First United Church have adopted Rabbi Ellis into our hearts and so he is now "Our Rabbi" too!

HALIFAX HADASSAH-WIZO

BY BETTE ROSS

ON AUGUST 20TH HALIFAX HADASSAH-WIZO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS MET WITH NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDY MARTIN AT THE HOME OF KAREN CONTER. Karen formally introduced the President after which Sandy spoke to the gathered crowd. She began by wishing a hearty Mazel tov to Myra Freeman on the occasion of her

receiving her Order of Canada. She then made presentations to Bette Ross and Leona Freeman for their past and present efforts to keep our centre going and for the work they have done on the National Executive Board. She then spoke proudly of the work of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO now in its 90th year. Our initials CHW emphasize our continuous efforts for Children, Health and Womens'

issues and, she urged us to continue and expand. Also we should not neglect our National Convention in Calgary November 15th -18th. We need delegates as well as observers and we guarantee a good time for all. Call me at 422-9205 for details. Many thanks to Karen Conter for her warm hospitality and Happy Birthday Canadian Hadassah-WIZO!

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWS

BY JAMES MUNVES AND ROSALIE SIMEONE

OUR ANNUAL PICNIC WAS HELD AT THE STRATFORD HOME OF LESLEE SACK, WHO RECENTLY MOVED TO PEI FROM BROOKLYN.

Laudatory articles in local press: in Charlottetown Guardian on Nessya Neemron's jewelry shop on Queen Street, where she sells unique objects that she

has designed. Another in the June issue of The Buzz, about Jane Naylor, her music teaching, and how she encouraged her daughter Miriam Rhodes, who plays wind instruments professionally, Jane is head of the PEI Music Teachers Association. Summer resident Martin Rutte is holding inspirational workshops for islanders. Sol and Evelyn Feldstein will be visiting their

son Noah in Thunder Bay in a few weeks, helping him move to another house. Noah practices medicine in Thunder Bay. Their son, Peter, a professional language translator, is visiting them in South Melville for the summer. Jean Leigh, now in residence at Prince Edward Home, welcomes visitors. She shares a room with Sandra Horne Darwin's

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Ada Chinery and Rebecca Rioux's haircut Rebecca had her head shaved as part of the Birchwood Holocaust Memorial full school assembly in PE.

centenarian grandmother. Rosalie Simeone regularly volunteers at the Home. Ann Sherman, widow of poet Joe Sherman, is moving to a new residence on Sydney Street, a few doors from Jim and Barbara Munves. Ann recently returned from a visit to her native Wales. Her daughter Rebecca is currently visiting Ann. Rebecca lives in Toronto. We are all praying for health of the late Albie Goldman's daughter Michel, who was prevented by illness from visiting the island this year and showing her new documentary film on a 1920s kibbutz in the Bronx, NY. Sheldon Opps spends much of his summer leisure time coaching his son and other boys athletics. Anabel Cohen has been

lecturing on music. Myra Thorkelson has been involved in fund-raising activities for CUSO. She and Jim recently returned from a tour of duty in Belize. Pat and Henry Srebrnik have built an elaborate cage for their numerous cats, giving them free access to the house as well as plenty of outdoor area. Marcela Rosenberg, Royal Glass Company has been chosen by Hadassah-Brandeis Institute/Brandeis University of Massachusetts to be part of their new desk calendar that is being launched this month before Rosh Hashanah. The calendar features Jewish women artisans from around the world. Illustrated will be Rosenberg's Pacific Ocean; a unique, kiln-formed, shallow glass bowl with a clear base and bands of aqua, lime green and blue.

Yom Hashoah - PEI's 9th Annual Yom Hashoah Memorial Service was held on May 3rd at Birchwood School in Charlottetown. Our guest speaker was Leo Adler, and he addressed approx. 125 people. Students of Birchwood School, under the direction of Joanne White, again participated in the program. Adler, the Director of National Affairs for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies also spent time with the Birchwood students involved in the Asper Holocaust and Human Rights Programme, and participated in the Birchwood School Yom Hashoah Assembly. Many thanks to the AJC and the conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany for continuing to support our Holocaust programs.

Yom Ha-atzmaut - The PEI Jewish Community participated in a wonderful celebration of Israel at 60. The party was hosted by John and Dorothy McKim, formerly of PEI. Their invited guest speakers were Mark David and Howard Conter from the AJC. The Golod Family led the singing of Hatikvah, and the lavish refreshments were provided by the ladies of several Baptist



Churches.

Accolades from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies have come to the Holocaust Education Committee of Prince Edward Island according to Leo Adler, director of National Affairs for the Center in Toronto. Recipients of the awards are: Rosalie Simeone, chair of the PEI Holocaust Education Committee, and committee members, Jo-Anne White, teacher, and Sandra Ireland, public relations information. They were honoured by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) in a ceremony in Charlottetown September 3rd, and the only awards to be given to anyone in Atlantic Canada for this year.

These three women have led the initiative to plan the program for Holocaust Memorial Day which was established in 1999 by the PEI Legislature. Through their efforts, they have engaged special speakers who are adult or child survivors of the Holocaust, the children of Holocaust survivors and/or people who specialize in dealing with the difficult issues that surround the Holocaust to remember those who perished as well as survived.

As a team, they also have worked with the implementation of the Asper Foundation's Human Rights and Holocaust Studies special initiative, a program that has resulted in a total of 44 participating students from Birchwood Intermediate School, the only Prince Edward Island school that has participated in this program to date.



Barbara Munves, Jim Munves, Mel Davis, Pat Srebnik

CAPE BRETON HADASSAH-WIZO: OUR 40TH BAZAAR!

BY EVELYN DAVIS



Shirley Chernin & Betty Shore Convenors of the Hadassah Wizo Bazaar

jewelry and handicrafts. Once again 15 year old Whitney Karrell filled a booth with toys donated by her and friends. Former residents of Cape Breton in Halifax and Toronto supplied us with clothing and jewelry and local businesses were most generous

ONCE AGAIN ON MAY 28TH, CROWDS OF PEOPLE LINED UP THE FRONT OF SONS OF ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE WAITING TO GET INTO THE BAZAAR. Tickets are \$1.00 which provides entry, a chance at a door prize and entry to the auction in the evening.

Now that there are fewer than 30 families in the area, we are dependent on a group of volunteers known as "Friends of the Bazaar." There are over 20 community volunteers of all religious affiliations who help us every year. Without them we could not carry on.

Co-conveners Betty Shore and Shirley Chernin made sure that the regular booths were available for home baking, new and nearly new clothing, linens,



Faye David & Inez Schwartz at the Jewellery dept.

in donating new merchandise for the auction.

As always a portion of the proceeds from the Bazaar is directed to a local charitable organization. This year's recipient was the Atlantic Burn Camp.

The tearoom was filled all afternoon and Heather, provided personal readings to eager participants. Our customers left laughing, joking, thanking us and said "See you next year."

More news:

The annual AGM of the Queen Esther Chapter of Hadassah Wizo was held on June 18th. Members gathered to hear the results of our Youth Services Campaign and annual Bazaar. Shirley Dubinsky, Chairman, announced that we now have 7 sustainers. Maryanne Cohen gave an overwhelming report of the Bazaar. Diana Schwartz brought in the nomination



Evelyn Davis, Charlene Cohen, Michele Poirier convenors of the clothing dept

committee report.

President- Shayna Strong
Vice President-Evy Druker
Secretary-Edith Lecker
Treasurer- Maryanne Cohen

Following the meeting a Pot Luck supper was held. Our guests were the "Friends of the Bazaar." Evelyn Davis welcomed the guests and invited everyone to enjoy the Pot Luck supper. Shirley Chernin thanked the "Friends" and Betty Shore presented each one with a lovely yellow Rose. Suzanne Winsor, our honoured guest, spoke on behalf of the "Friends" when she explained why she has been a volunteer and how much she enjoyed being part of our Bazaar.



Edith Lecker convenor of handicrafts



Ethel Webber working in the Home bake dept.

HADASSAH-WIZO BAZAAR SURVIVES WITH HELP FROM PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

BY DEBBIE GWYNN, CAPE BRETON POST

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PLANS ARE BEING FINALIZED FOR WHAT HAS BECOME THE BUSIEST DAY OF THE YEAR AT THE TEMPLE SONS OF ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE ON WHITNEY AVENUE - THE HADASSAH-WIZO BAZAAR.

The much-anticipated event with its usual array of merchandise is, just as importantly, an opportunity to see friends and familiar faces who have helped make the bazaar an institution over the past 40 years.

Reva Nathanson, still a mainstay at the event, was the convenor for the first bazaar in 1968.

Following a Canadian Hadassah meeting in 1967, where the group discussed bazaars being held across the country, the idea of holding a bazaar in Sydney intrigued Nathanson.

"The bazaars had been started in some larger centres and seemed to be very successful for them," said Nathanson.

She wanted to consolidate efforts in Sydney, feeling they were in need of something new, something that would involve both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

"The first bazaar was very amateur," said Nathanson.

After the initial event, however, the committee managed to get things organized and the following year the bazaar grew to involve all 140 Jewish families in the area.

"The lunch room became a very social thing, to have coffee or something to eat," said Nathanson, "in those days we also served sandwiches and chowder."

Of course she added they also had a much larger community to draw from in the 1960s.

Now there are fewer than 30 Jewish families left in the area.

"Today, it's a good thing we have lots of

friends," said Nathanson.

This group of volunteers, known as the 'Friends of the Bazaar', consists of about 20 community volunteers of all religious affiliations, who help at the bazaar each year.

"We couldn't carry on if it weren't for these people," said Shirley Chernin, co-convenor of the bazaar for many of those 40 years.

This year's Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar, as always, will take place on a Wednesday afternoon - May 28 - from 1-5 p.m. at the synagogue.

All of the regular booths will be available this year: handcrafts, new and nearly new clothing, jewelry, homebaking, linens. There will be personal readings by Heather and the tearoom will be open. Like the last four years, Whitney Karrell, a young girl from the community, will have her booth filled with toys donated by herself as well as toys solicited from friends.

Chernin said, "one of the very nice redeeming factors of our bazaar is what it's done for our Jewish community, from 15-year-old, Whitney Karrell to 95-year-old Jack Yazer, there's not a family in Cape Breton who doesn't get involved in some way."

The afternoon bazaar will be followed by an auction at 6:30 p.m. with auctioneer Allan Henderson.

Henderson, a graduate of the Missouri Auction School, has been a volunteer at the bazaar for the past 29 years.

"I thoroughly enjoy doing it," said Henderson, "they're a great bunch of people to work with."

All auction items are brand new, donated by local businesses and will be on display throughout the day.

As always, a portion of the proceeds from the bazaar is directed to a local charitable organization, with this year's recipient

being the Atlantic Burn Camp. The camp runs from Aug. 17-24.

In addition to the hundreds of people from across the island who have attended the bazaar over the years, the event has also drawn its share of celebrity visitors, among them, Robert Stanfield, premier of Nova Scotia from 1956-67 and former leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, and Richard Gwyn, an award-winning author and political columnist.

The lineups are lengthy and patience is always at a minimum. To avoid the lines, Chernin advises that advance tickets will be available at five locations, C.B. Curiosity Shop, Moraff's Yarns and Crafts, Abbass Clothing Co., Ein's Men's Wear as well as the lotto booth, North Sydney Mall.

As it has been every year since 1968, admission is only \$1. Which provides both entry into the bazaar as well as a chance to win the door prize, a Sony AM/ FM CD under the counter/remote control kitchen clock radio and also a chance to win one of the prizes drawn every 40 minutes throughout the afternoon's event.

The Hadassah-Wizo Bazaar in Sydney is one of the few remaining bazaars held across the country and co-convenor Betty Shore said it's becoming very apparent that it's going to be difficult to continue.

"But, we never say die until we're laid out," added Shore.

"There are very few occasions where people of all religions can assemble under one roof and enjoy each others company, accept each other and make no judgments," said Chernin.

"I think the bazaar has done an admirable job of bringing people of all denominations together."

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CAPE BRETON: YOM HASHOAH BY EVY DRUKER

CAPE BRETON HELD ITS ANNUAL HOLOCAUST SERVICE IN THE SYNAGOGUE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 4, 2008. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A GOOD TURNOUT IN THE PAST AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION, WITH OVER 300 PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE. MOST OF THE AUDIENCE WAS GENTILE.

We were fortunate to have Joseph E. Tenenbaum as our guest speaker because he was scheduled for eye surgery two days before our function. He was advised by his doctors that he would be unable to fly after the operation. He didn't want to let us down so he postponed his surgery and our service went on as previously planned. Jack Columbus who speaks and writes so well has become our moderator for this event since the death of Sylvia Allen, who used to act in that capacity.

The format usually consists of an invocation by a local priest or reverend, followed by a "Candle Lighting Ceremony", the Mourner's Kaddish, musical selections by a school choir, the presentation of the "Educator of the Year Award", the Guest Speaker, and ends with the

audience singing "We Rise Again", composed by Leon Dubinsky. That song has been sung at times during "The March of the Living" and we consider it our own "national anthem". Then the audience is invited downstairs for a cup of tea.

Prior to Mr. Tennenbaum's speech at the synagogue, Shirley Chernin had a luncheon for our guest since he has become such a good friend of our Cape Breton community. When he returned to Toronto, he sent copies of the book he wrote, entitled "Legacy and Redemption" to all the school principals who participated in the candle lighting ceremony, as well as to some members of the Holocaust Memorial Committee. The introduction in the book is by Elie Weisel, who Mr. Tenenbaum knows personally.



Joseph Tenenbaum with Jack Columbus, Yom Hashoah, Sydney, NS



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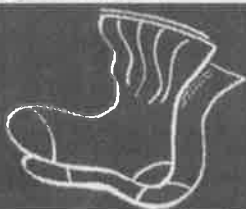
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GLACE BAY WOMAN CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

BY SHARON MONTGOMERY, CAPE BRETON POST

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IT WOULD BE HARD TO TOP
THIS GUEST OF HONOUR.

A luncheon was held Wednesday at the Miners' Village Restaurant in Glace Bay for Fanny Cohen of Glace Bay who was celebrating her 100th birthday.

"She is such a wonderful lady, still sharp as a tack," said Rodger Cuzner, MP for Cape Breton-Canso.

"In her closing comments she was thanking all those who came, quoting William Shakespeare and even reciting three or four lines from Hamlet.

"She is 100! I couldn't do that in my Grade 11 English class."

Cuzner presented Cohen with a congratulatory note from Queen Elizabeth II.

The celebration was organized by Cohen's niece Leone Bushkin and nephew Arthur Bland, both of New York, and included an emotional video presentation of various aspects of Cohen's life.

"The great story of her life is her teaching," Bushkin said.

"She taught for 46 years, thousands of children."

"The letters she has received this week from students she taught 30, 40 years ago in the primary... it is amazing.

"Flowers have arrived from British Columbia - you don't get all this unless you have given."

Cohen was born and raised in Glace Bay and is the last surviving member of the family of six headed by the late Esther and Harry Cohen.

She was always active with the Jewish community and at age 90 was president of the Glace Bay Chapter of Canadian Hadassah.

Cohen was involved with the teacher's union and on a committee instrumental in bringing the Glace Bay Library to Glace Bay, 50 years ago.

Bland said she also has a special charisma.

"It is her humour and her wit. She is also very sharp, has a tremendous memory, able to recall events and details without hesitation."

The day before the party, Cohen said she was excited.

"I am looking forward to this so much, I can't wait. The sentimentality is so engraved in me, I hope it doesn't take over too much."

She was excited about receiving the message from the queen.

"I knew she wouldn't leave me out."

Cohen enjoys crossword and decoding puzzles and is an avid reader, enjoying mysteries.

How is she so healthy at age 100?

"I think I was lucky. I inherited the best genes from both parents," Cohen said. "Add that with my positive attitude to life, that's what does it."

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THE COVE IN SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND

THE COVE IN SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON ISLAND, WAS THE SCENE FOR GREAT CELEBRATION THIS AUGUST ON THE OCCASION OF JACK AND ZELDA YAZER'S 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. Temple Sons of Israel synagogue members, Sisterhood, family, young and old were in attendance. Mrs. Edith Lecker organized all details of this joyous time, from banners, sandwiches and cake to making sure all friends and family were invited and came to share in the happy event. A special gift given by the Yazer children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren was the planting of

a garden of 100 trees in the Canadian forest in Israel.



Jack and Zelda Yazer celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary with daughter Karin Myers.

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES NEW HOLOCAUST CENTRE

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY, FREDERICTON, NB IS ESTABLISHING A HOLOCAUST CENTRE TO RAISE GREATER AWARENESS OF THE PLIGHT OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. AS WELL AS OTHER GENOCIDES THROUGHOUT THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. As part of its education and research program, the new centre will support the Ripples Internment Camp project, the only camp in North America that housed Jewish internees during the Second World War.

"Our centre will be distinct in content and mission. It will educate young people about the tragedies that transpire when prejudice, racism, and hate target groups in society," said Dr. Michael McGowan, professor in Human Rights and director of the new centre. "People learn to hate and they can learn to stop hating by knowledge, understanding and engagement with others."

He said the centre will give recognition to the significance of the SHOAH as a means to develop leadership to prevent similar atrocities. "We want to bring students together from across Canada and around the world to increase their knowledge of genocide and equip them to become leaders in their work for peace, understanding and respect."

The Holocaust Centre will deliver educational programmes for students and professional groups, provide scholarships, organize seminars and conferences, and sponsor public lectures by scholars. The new centre will co-operate with other organizations such as the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Canadian Centre for Diversity, and Yad Vashem.

Three outreach activities are already planned for the year – a study mission

to Germany and Poland, a summer institute on diversity and respect, and interviewing surviving Ripples Camp internees. A fund-raising campaign will be launched for the Endowment Fund of the St. Thomas University Holocaust Centre, and a new advisory board will guide the centre's activities.

At its Summer Convocation, St. Thomas University awarded an honorary degree to Philip Riteman, a Holocaust survivor. Born in Poland, Riteman and his family were sent to the Pruzhany ghetto in 1941 and the following year, they were packed into boxcars for a week's journey to the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp. Tattooed as prisoner 98706, he would be the sole survivor of his extended family. After forty years of silent mourning, Riteman first spoke of his experience as a Holocaust survivor in 1989 to give voice to the millions who



Larry Riteman, Carol Ann Silverman, Philip & Dorothy Riteman & Father McGowan at the opening of the Holocaust Education Centre

died and to silence Holocaust deniers.

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ISRAEL PROGRAM CENTER

THIS MORNING, AFTER ACCOMPANYING THE MEMORIAL STUDENTS TO THEIR CLASSROOM IN THE CASCO VIEJO (OLD CITY) OF LA CORUÑA, I picked my way through the narrow streets in search of my favourite little internet spot, around the corner from the church of San Nicolás. This is the sixth year of Memorial's Spanish immersion programme in this city, also known as the "balcony on the Atlantic", on the northwest coast of Spain. While I did not cross la calle (the street) de la Sinagoga today, I am always aware that this city once included a considerable Judería (Jewish quarter). It also served as a point of embarkation for Jews fleeing to England and Holland, given the geographical proximity of this province of Galicia.

In the 15th century, Spain boasted the largest and most prosperous Jewish community in the world. After the edict of expulsion in August of 1492, in fact, 516 years ago this week, many, including the ancestors of my husband, Messod, fled south to Morocco, some continuing on to the rest of North Africa, Turkey and the Balkans. Given the difficulties and dangers of travel at that time and their lack of funds after being stripped of their worldly goods, others elected to convert and remain on the Iberian Peninsula, risking future denunciation to the Inquisition.

Yesterday, our students were shown the

building housing their classroom and the adjoining church and cloister. Atilano, a former priest himself, explained that the complex is run by the Dominicans, the religious order that created and carried out the Inquisition here in Spain. He then winked at Messod and, as in previous years, stated that Professor Salama is not very partial to the Dominican order. Nevertheless, this country still feels very much like home to the Sephardic Jews, and we enjoy teaching dozens of Memorial students to love it as well.

The week before we left was very busy with preparations, and with several important visitors as well. Dr. Ann Gregory, who retired from Memorial and who is now teaching in Bulgaria, spent



Messod Salama doing "Kal Hamira", the last step in Kashering the building in preparation for the Seder.

several Shabbats with us and sponsored a Friday night Oneg before departing once again. The previous Friday evening, Ernie Mauskopf hosted an Oneg to welcome his son Randy and his young family back on a visit. We also hosted an Oneg in honour of our son Daniel who is doing the Spanish course in the Dominican church this summer as well. The week before that, David and Genia Rouah sponsored an Oneg Shabbat in honour of their two daughters, Ayla and Sophia, who underwent conversion in Texas, and who have captured the hearts of all of us here at Beth El.

This quarter has been busy and successful as usual. As our Purim celebrations wound down, members of the community



Felyks Kohn, child survivor of the Holocaust and special invited guest

began to prepare for the Pesach holiday. Shimon Wilansky worked very closely with Amanda White, a dietician at Dominion, to bring in the best selection of Passover food and cold cuts that we have received in many years. Shimon and I also kashered the kitchen in preparation for our first annual community Seder. With the efforts of Barbara Grandy, June Mercer and Bonnie Leyton, we prepared a traditional Seder for just under 30 attendees, complete with gefilte fish and fresh horseradish. Thanks to Michael Paul, Messod Salama and Ernie Mauskopf for organizing the readings from the Haggadah in which everyone took part.

Shortly after Pesach, we completed the final preparations for the Holocaust Memorial Service which was held at the Inco centre at the University. The moderator, Elizabeth-Ann Malischewski, did an excellent job, as did the St. Bonaventure choir, Elizabeth Siegel and violinist Charlotte-Ann Malischewski. As this year's theme was "Children of the Holocaust", Barbara Grandy spoke about her step father-in-law, Felyks Kohn, who, as a young teenager, was forced to fend for himself in Poland after escaping from a concentration camp. Claire Frankel-Salama spoke of her half-brother who disappeared after being deported to Poland from Moravia with his grandmother and mother in 1942. Prayers, psalms and poems were read by Ernie Mauskopf, Messod Salama, David Feder, Rob Ritter, Max Dawe,



Shimon Wilansky who coordinated the communities' Passover order and Amanda White, the dietician at the Stavanger Drive Dominion in St. John's.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVURA, NL

BY NANCY BENNETT

AFTER THE LONG WINTER NEWFOUNDLANDERS AND LABRADORIANS WERE KEENLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A WARM SPRING AND SUMMER. Icebergs from the north graced our shores keeping the temperatures cool but providing wondrous sights for all to see. Warm weather didn't come until early July and then gardens started growing with a vengeance. Though August was chilly and rainy for the most part, the warmth of our Shabbat services and other activities have made the weather tolerable.

Before we tell you about our activities, our Havura wishes all of you a healthy New Year. May this time of reflection bring you peace and happiness for 5769. When coming to St. John's please join our group for a warm and welcoming Shabbat. You can reach us at www.havura.org or call us at 709-834-7866.

Cards to sell – A real team effort has produced a set of six lovely all occasion cards for \$18 (including shipping) with a beautiful iceberg and other iconic photos by Brad Gibb, partner of Havura Board Member Katherine Side. Also available is a gift card to mark special occasions for a minimum contribution of \$15 (which is tax-receiptable) illustrated with a hand-drawn hamsa by Charlotte-Anne Malischewski.

Passover – A local Dominion (Atlantic Superstore in the Maritimes) brought in Passover food which was made available to Jews and non-Jews alike. This year, the effort was spearheaded by Shimeon Wilansky at Beth El with help from Nancy Bennett. This year cold cuts and other perishables were brought in making the choice greater than in past years. The Havura had several community Seders in homes so everyone would be accommodated. The reading of the Hagaddah, delicious food spanning various cultures, bartering for the afecomen, friendship and laughter made the evening special for all. Many members

are already talking about next year's Seders.

Holocaust Service – Throughout the winter and early spring the Jewish communities in St. John's came together to prepare and host the annual Holocaust Memorial Service on May 4th. This year, as in other communities across Canada, we remembered in a public way those who perished during this dark time in history. Barbara Grandy and Claire Frankel-Salama of Beth-El Synagogue and Gil Shalev of the Jewish Community Havura told their stories of family members.

Havura member Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski was an excellent moderator. Young members of the Havura and Synagogue lit candles of remembrance, and university students ushered and helped in other ways. Havura members Susanne Gulliver, Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Ruth Noel, Gil Shalev and Steven Wolinetz were on the organizing committee. We enjoyed meeting the AJC's Edna LeVine who attended the service.

Outreach – Throughout the spring some of our members were invited to speak in schools and with other groups. Like other Jewish groups in Atlantic Canada, we see this as an important part of our outreach programme for it gives the opportunity for students and other interested groups to understand Judaism and to become aware of customs and beliefs other than their own and ultimately promotes tolerance and understanding. Ruth Noel was a guest at the 60th Anniversary celebrations at a local Pentecostal Church. She gave a talk on Israel and left DVD's for future viewing. The highlight was the cutting of a birthday cake decorated with an Israeli flag made of icing. On the church's "Jerusalem Day" Sunday service, Ruth also spoke to the Congregation about Jerusalem and what it means to her. Many



Arnold Bennett, serving salmon at the Havura's Annual Picnic

Havura members continue to be highly involved in community activities and organizations which help our society and community.

Hindu Dialogue – In May the Hindu Association had their annual dialogue inviting guests from St. John's many religious communities. Arnold Bennett represented the Jewish religion, speaking knowledgeably on the topic Scripture and Spirituality. Arnold spoke about the importance of Torah and Talmud in Judaism, and also about the ethical content of Judaism. His presentation was well received by the audience and he ably answered the many questions put to him.

End of Year Barbeque and Sports Day – Our annual end of the year party was held in June at the home of Arnold and Nancy Bennett. Though June was generally cold, that Sunday afternoon the weather was perfect – hot and sunny. Almost forty people gathered for our third annual picnic and first ever sports day. Paul and Lisa Bendzsa were our sports day organizers and they did a fabulous job. Ten children along with many adults participated in the events. The loot bags prepared by Paul and Lisa were greatly appreciated by the young ones. We feasted on grilled salmon, corn and vegetarian burgers and hotdogs along with a wide array of salads and desserts. A good time was had by all and as one young enthusiast said, "it was the best sports day ever".

News and Notes – During the spring and summer we welcomed out of town guests, members who had departed and returned and several new members. Former members Ann Gregory, Alison Pick and husband Degan Davis were here in August. Ann was teaching at the MUN School of Business and Alison and Degan were back visiting friends and sightseeing. We miss them all and hope they will return soon.

Mazel Tovs – Sharon Koubi graduated

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Havura picnic

with his Masters in Computer Science. Sharon is going into his fourth year in medicine at Memorial University. Sharon's parents from Israel spent two weeks in St. John's visiting him and his family. Rob and Shari Ritter were first-time participants in the "Telly Ten", a ten-mile race sponsored by the Telegram newspaper. Debby Brown celebrated her 75th birthday with family and friends from St. John's, the U.S. and elsewhere

in Canada. Debby is an active member of the Senior Resource Centre acting as a facilitator for the bereavement group. Nancy Bennett is paddling with the Avalon Dragons, a new dragon boat team of breast cancer survivors. After practicing for only three weeks the team held its own in their first race in New Glasgow. Nancy is also doing publicity for the team. And Shara Allan announced her engagement to Gerald Button.

Condolences - to Timothy Margolis and his brother Matthew on the passing of their mother Hina. Both were able to return home to Harare, Zimbabwe, to spend time with family.

The Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador has created a beautiful set of all occasion cards. A gift card with a beautiful hand-drawn hamsa

is suitable for holidays, in memoriam, condolences, get well, mazel tovs, and other special occasions. We'll print the wording of your choice inside. Cost is a minimum donation of \$15 which is tax receiptable. We mail directly to your recipient.

You can also purchase a set of six beautiful blank cards for \$18 (which includes shipping and handling to Canada or the United States). The cards feature iconic photos of Newfoundland by Brad Gibb. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a Torah, as well as educational, cultural and social outreach activities.

Orders can be sent to the Jewish Community Havura, 2750 Topsail Road, C.B.S., NL A1W 4B1. Or call 709-834-7866. Or visit www.havura.org where you can view all the cards.

NEW FROM THE ROCK - CONTINUED



Children of the Jewish communities lighting the memorial candles

Matthew and Nicholas Bendzsa. Seven candles were lit, six by children from the Jewish communities and the seventh by Alexander, grandson of Max Dawe. Anita Best, a well-loved singer of traditional Newfoundland music, sang "Dremlen Feygl", a children's song in Yiddish. The 300 attendees were ushered by volunteers from the Jewish Student Association and Hilary Palevsky, an American student who spent some of her fellowship time here in Newfoundland, and whom we miss already.

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut was celebrated with an Oneg Shabbat featuring Israeli products,

including wine, organic peppers and chocolate.

Unfortunately, just before Shavuot, one of the few Newfoundland-born Jews remaining, Sidney Epstein z"l, passed away. Sid was a former president of the Jewish community and a lifetime member of the Shul. He was well known in the business community and was heavily involved with St. John's Rotary and fundraising for the Health Sciences Hospital. He was also a guest member of the Salvation Army board of directors. The members of the Chevra Kadisha did the necessary preparation, and Michael Paul and Ernie Mauskopf led the funeral services. That evening, Erev Shavuot, over 50 people gathered in the Shul to give comfort to the family. Thirty days later, we had over 60 guests at the synagogue to mark the Shloshim. A further eulogy was given by a religious leader of the Salvation Army.

In early June we had the opportunity to host Sharon Singer, a Toronto journalist

and poet, who gave a Shabbat drasha about the biblical origins of anti-Semitism. She has lectured at several synagogues and organizations on this topic.

In late June we held our annual Shul picnic. This year's event was hosted by David and Christine Wright at their beautiful seaside home at Tors Cove. At that time we were able to welcome several newcomers to our community.

This summer we will be greeting some old friends, including Judy and Dr. Rhonda Wilansky. Rhonda is a mohelet in Toronto. Joining Judy for several weeks in August will be Dr. Douglas Wilansky and his wife, Ruth. Douglas is an excellent Ba'al Koreh, and will be leading some of the Shabbat services in August. Arriving as well will be Rabbi Kieffer from California who will be spending the Shabbat/Tisha Be'Av weekend with us. We have also welcomed numerous tourists from all over North America and look forward to greeting many more.

REPORT FOR MONCTON BY NANCY COHEN

IN ORDER TO ACTIVELY PLAN FOR THE FUTURE THE BOARD OF TIFERES ISRAEL RECENTLY ASKED THE SHUL MEMBERSHIP TO TAKE PART IN A COMMUNITY SURVEY. The Board worked with Perry Romberg, Director of Campaign and Regional Community Services for UIA Federations of Canada to come up with a questionnaire that would help determine the direction the community should take. There was a good response to the survey, and a general meeting will soon be held to discuss the results.

Several new immigrants were welcomed to the Moncton community this summer. Nelly Mishak and her son Ariel, Yevgeny and Irene Yosher and Doron and Michal Levi

and their children Maya and Matan have all moved here from Israel. Everyone will have the chance to meet them at a community barbecue which will be taking place at the home of Betty Druckman in Shediac on August 24. This barbecue will be a great opportunity for everyone to get together before our very short summer comes to an end. Many thanks to the AJC for their contribution to this event.

Tiferes Israel Sisterhood now has a new executive and the year got off to a great start with a lovely dinner hosted by Sisterhood president Betty Druckman. We were wined and dined, with the only order of business being to have a good time.

This past July Tiferes Israel was the target of anti-Semitic graffiti when a large swastika

was painted on the front of the synagogue. Several other buildings in Moncton were also targeted including the mosque, and police believe they are all related. Police are treating the spree of racist vandalism as hate crimes. Members of the shul acted quickly to remove the offensive symbol.

On August 3 an unveiling was held for Sarah Gorber. All of Sarah's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who are spread across the country from Halifax to Vancouver, came together for the unveiling a beautiful testament to the love and esteem they had for her.

On behalf of the Moncton community I wish everyone good health and happiness in the new year.

Shanna tova.

FREDERICTON COMMUNITY NEWS BY SHELLEY STEPHENS

PRESIDENT, SISTERHOOD OF THE SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, FREDERICTON, NB

After a long winter Fredericton welcomed spring and summer with the following events.

At the annual Yom HaShoah event Joshua Stephens (son of Shelley and Byron) represented the hope for the future by lighting a candle.

A Kiddush lunch was hosted by Sisterhood for Doris and Steven Rauch before their move to Ottawa. Sisterhood presented them with a gift certificate from Chapters. I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this Kiddush special.

A farewell Kiddush lunch was held for Rabbi and Shelley Zisook. Sisterhood presented them with a certificate for trees that were planted in Israel in their honour. The community wishes them well on their future in Chicago. Thank you to Ellen Lupu and

her committee for the lovely luncheon.

The CIT's from Camp Kadimah came to Fredericton this summer. They entertained us with a few songs and dances. Thank you to Carol Airst and her committee for coordinating this visit.

We welcomed two young Israeli singers for an entertaining evening of Israeli songs. We ate fallafel and Israeli salads in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary. Thank you to Ruth Chippin and her committee for coordinating this event.

Mazel tov to Alyssa Byers-Heinlein, (daughter of Sandra and Larry) on being awarded an O'Brien Foundation Fellowship at a reception at the Lieutenant Governor's Residence on August 25.

Mazel Tov to Rachel Fransblow (daughter of Steven and Rhoda) on her graduation from Fredericton High School. We wish her well at Dalhousie University.

Mazel Tov to Daniel Chippin (son of



Joshua Stephens lighting a candle during the Yom HaShoah program.

Arnold and Rose) on his graduation from Fredericton High School. We wish him well at McGill University next year.

Wishing a hearty Mazel Tov to all for the upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of Joshua Stephens in September (son of Shelley and Byron), Amanda Brown in October (daughter of Ian and Charlotte) and Michelle Chippin in November (daughter of Arnold and Rose).

On behalf of Sisterhood, and my family I would like to wish the Fredericton Community and all of Atlantic Canada a prosperous, healthy and sweet New Year.

Shana Tova and all the best for 5769

REPORT FROM THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM!

BY KATHERINE BIGGS-CRAFT, CURATOR

PAGE 51

THE SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM IS IN THE MIDST OF ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SEASON. EACH WEEK BRINGS ONE OR TWO VISITING CRUISE SHIPS AND MANY OF THE PASSENGERS LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING OUR MUSEUM. There also many others traveling on their own and many local area residents as well who are interested in learning more about Judaism. All of our visitors express their appreciation of this Jewish community and its determination to preserve and share its story.

The Jewish Heritage Bus Tour continues to be a major draw for cruise ship visitors. Many thanks go to Dr. Joseph Arditti for organizing tour guides and greeting passengers at the dock. The others participating in this program are Marcia Koven, Phil Bloom, Norman Hamburg, Norman Holtzman, Lloyd Goldsmith, Ron Levine, Mark Calp and community newcomers Shlomo and Esther Dekel.

The year's main exhibit is entitled "Celebrating 150 Years of Jewish Life in Saint John" and tells the story of the community from the arrival of Solomon Hart and his family in 1858 to the present day. A series of 26 panels was designed with text and archival photographs, each telling a part of the story - immigration, families, synagogue, organizations, businesses, bar mitzvahs, weddings, the summer community of Pamenec, community reunions and the development of the museum. We have also profiled a number of prominent community members (including the late Samuel Davis (mayor of Saint John), The Hon. Myra Freeman, The Hon. Erminie Cohen, the late Mitchell Franklin) and the sharing of family stories contributed by museum members. The exhibit was produced with the financial support of the Province of New Brunswick through an Exhibit Renewal Grant from the Heritage Branch and a number of private contributions.



Yom Hashoah program

The exhibit will be carried over to the 2009 season with the addition of new panels, photographs and stories.

Each summer the museum receives grants to hire students through the summer months and this year we have been pleased to have three young people from within the Jewish community - Daniel, Aaron and Rebecca Washburn, the children of Bruce Washburn and Karen Koven. Daniel and Aaron have been

with the museum for several years and their experience is greatly valued. We hope that Rebecca will return in future years as well.

The Jewish Museum has re-launched two publications. Marcia Koven's history of the community, *Weaving the Past Into the Present* has been brought up to date and incorporates new

material including a comprehensive list of Saint John Jewish-owned businesses and lists of many of the professionals who had lived in or grown up in Saint John.

At the same time members of the Museum board completed an extensive re-editing and updating of the video of the community's history. Much of the original narration has been retained but many more images have been added and additions made to bring the history up to date.

Copies of both publications are available from the museum at a cost of \$15.00



Guest speaker
Mrs. Esther Bem

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Gary Davis examining
the exhibits

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SAINT JOHN JEWISH HISTORICAL MUSEUM - CONTINUED



Museum exhibits

for Weaving the Past Into the Present and \$20.00 for the DVD of the community's history.

In early May the museum arranged the last Yom Hashoah program to take place in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. A near-capacity crowd of 300 was on hand to hear Esther Bem, a Holocaust survivor from Toronto, speak about the care and concern shown by the Italian villagers who hid Esther and her parents from the Nazis. Many of those in attendance were impressed with her presentation and with the positive story which she had to tell. Esther Bem also spoke to about 500 high schools students while in Saint John, several of whom came forward

at the end of her talk to thank her or to ask questions.

As part of the Yom Hashoah program the Beatrice Cummings Mayer Prizes were presented to a number of high school students who had participated in the Holocaust Study Group sponsored by the Museum and the School District 8 Enrichment Centre in Saint John. Among the projects completed by the students were a timeline of Holocaust events, essays on the aftermath and the Nuremburg trials, original music, several pieces of artwork and power point presentations. Each student presented a very thoughtful piece.

The museum also participated in the recent Shalom Shaarei Zedek Weekend by opening the museum to ex-patriots for a special tour and providing memorabilia for sale. More than 160 people returned to Saint John for a wonderful weekend of nostalgia and to say goodbye to the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

At the close of the current summer tourism season which wraps up at the end of



Yom Hashoah service

October, the museum will close its doors to the public for about six months during which time we will be relocating. The museum, archives and library will join the Congregation Shaarei Zedek in its new home at 91 Leinster Street. During those months, museum staff and volunteers will be hard at work re-creating the exhibits. The museum will re-open in May 2009. Plans will be made for a special grand opening event to be announced.

In the meantime, if you plan to be in Saint John before the end of October, make sure to include a stop at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. We look forward to welcoming you.

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SAINT JOHN JEWISH COMMUNITY

BY SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

PAGE 53

Saint John has been buzzing the past few months with lots of activity. The Museum once again was getting ready for a very busy Cruise Ship season. Our tour guides are all members of the Jewish Community who volunteer their time to meet the ships, take groups on bus tours, greet visitors to the Museum and generally make all of our guests feel the warmth of a Saint John welcome.

The buildings that house the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum and the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue have been sold to the City to make way for uptown development. We are thrilled and excited to announce that the Saint John Jewish Community has purchased the Cavanaugh Funeral building as our future home. This historic landmark was built in 1897 by Charles Peters whose family lived there until the mid-1940s when it was sold to the Emerson family. The Emersons sold it in 1965 to a funeral company and it has been a funeral parlour since. The building, which will house both the Synagogue and

the Museum is in the uptown area and has a chapel with 16 foot ceilings and beautiful woodwork and cove moldings throughout. The building has been renovated and is in beautiful condition. As an added bonus, all of the furniture will be left, including an impressive Tiffany-style floor lamp, which the original owner imported from New York. Move-in will be the end of November, 2008.

The Shalom Shaarei Zedek weekend (reported elsewhere in this magazine) on August

1 – 3, 2008 was a tremendous success and all of our hard work was worth the effort.

Nadia Kashetsky will become our last Bat Mitzvah in our current Synagogue on September 13th. We wish Nadia and her parents, Faith and Herzl Kashetsky Mazeltov.

This year, we are planning a Community Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner in the Vestry. This will be a traditional meal starting with chicken soup and

continuing through each course. The very capable women in Saint John will cater this event. Break the Fast will also be held in the Synagogue following Yom Kippur. This has become an annual event for Saint John.

Mazeltov to Dr. Ricardo and Lois Bessoudo on the engagement of their daughter Lynn to Oren Sadeh, son of Gaula and Asher Sadeh of Toronto. The wedding will take place in the Spring.

Mazeltov also to Rhonda Cyr and Greg Cyr on the recent marriage of their daughter Jocelyn to Michael Roy.

A brunch was held at Janet Holtzman's earlier this spring for three members of our community who had 65th Birthdays within a month of each other. Mazeltov to Norman Holtzman, Ron Levine and Mark Calp.

Nancy Morrison Conley was in Beijing as a Softball Umpire for the Olympic Games. That is quite a coup for Nancy to be selected as one of only twelve worldwide. Way to go, Nancy!

SHALOM SHAAREI ZEDEK WEEKEND

BY SUSAN ISAACS-LUBIN

Editors Note: The AJC was pleased to sponsor the Friday Night Oneg Shabbat with president Kathy Zilbert in attendance.

**Saint John, New Brunswick
August 1 – 3, 2008**

WHAT A WEEKEND – ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY STRONG RETURNED TO THEIR ROOTS IN SAINT JOHN AND HAD AN UNBELIEVABLE TIME. IT WAS A LOVE-IN!

The Synagogue in Saint John has been sold, and many ex-patriots told us they

needed to return one more time before we moved. We sent out the call and Saint Johners responded. They came from far and wide – from the Maritimes to Toronto, Vancouver, various States in the United States, and Australia! The weekend was about fun, laughter, tears, memories, renewing acquaintances and remembering those who are no longer with us.

New Brunswick tartan Kippot were given to everyone in keeping with the rest of the décor for the weekend.

We started with an Oneg Shabbat Friday night at the Synagogue, with a get together after in the Vestry with lots of food, wine and talking. The spirit and the warmth were magical. The Delta Hotel was buzzing until well after midnight at the Hospitality room with more food and drinks.

Saturday morning we had regular Shabbat Services – but with a twist. The morning service was conducted by all of the out-of-towners who were invited to perform various parts of the Service.

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The Koven family - Barnett, Andres, Marcia & Jerry

Rabbi Ellis did the Preliminary Service, and then Shoharit was done by Stan Cohen, now living outside Washington, D.C. Hallel was sung by Dr. Robert Silver, from Toronto. Dr. Eric Davis from Montreal did the service for taking out the Torah, and The Honourable Myra Freeman, Halifax opened the Ark. Susan Davis DeWitt from Toronto did a very moving Dvar Torah. Robert Silver did the Torah Reading and the Haftorah was chanted by Dr. Alan Michelson, from Boston area. Prayers for Israel and the Congregation were offered by Karen Miller, Toronto, and Elise Weisbach, Ann Arbor Michigan closed the Ark. Leslie Ram from Ottawa chanted Musaf. To close the Service the Congregation was led in Shalom Aleichem by Robert Silver, Eric Davis, Stan Cohen and our own Saint Johner Robert Selby.

Perhaps the most innovative part of the Service were the Aliyot. Since very few of our former residents had ever been on the Bimah in our Synagogue, it was thought that doing Aliyot in groups would give everyone a moment of participation. They were called to the Torah by the Province in which they reside, with all those from outside Canada participating as a group. This was very effective and very moving.

Saturday after the Service the women of the community catered an old fashioned "Bar Mitzvah" Kiddush that Saint John has always been famous for. The tables

were groaning, as well as the guests when they were ready to leave.

Saturday night was "casual" night and was given over to a number of house parties. The Hospitality Suite was buzzing. Everyone was out late and fun, laughing and reminiscing were the order of the evening.

Sunday Brunch was held at the Delta Hotel, with emcee "straight man" Lloyd Goldsmith. He's a natural comedian with a "yiddishah tum" and had us all laughing until

our sides hurt. We were entertained when members of various generations reminisced about their experiences growing up in Saint John. Marcia Koven, Stan Cohen, Dr. Mitchell Levine, Lee Cohen, Dr. Ivan Silver, Sally Karlinsky, and Rob Schwartz all moved us to laughter and tears.

International renowned artist Herzl Kashetsky donated a magnificent painting of the inside of the Synagogue titled "Sanctuary" which was auctioned at the Brunch. Lively bidding took place and Ralph and Joy Shepherd became the owners of the magnificent work of art. Imagine the moment when they announced the painting would remain in Saint John

and would be presented to Shaarei Zedek Synagogue in honour of their parents David and Ethel Shepherd. We were overwhelmed with their generosity. The painting will hang in a place of honour in our new building.

After Brunch we attended the Cemetery for a Memorial Service allowing everyone an opportunity to visit their family gravesites and to take a moment to reflect and to remember - with the words of a Jewish Scholar echoing in their heads: "The past is my heritage, the present my responsibility; the future my challenge as a Jew".



Enjoying a laugh during the Brunch Sunday Morning

Our thanks go out to the Atlantic Jewish Council for their generous contribution towards the expense of Friday night and Saturday noon festivities. And a special thank you to the Glace Bay and Sydney Synagogues for the beautiful flowers and the encouraging and supportive message they sent to us for the occasion.

Everyone left Saint John feeling upbeat and euphoric after three days of wonderful memories. The comments, the letters, and the financial contributions we received supported our vision and our plans for renewal and rededication of our Shaarei Zedek community. On a personal note, I would like to say that I never cease to be amazed at the ingenuity, spirit and passion of the Saint John Jewish community.



Linda Hamburg in the Kitchen baking strudel.



In October 2007, a group of over sixty people visited Israel on **The Atlantic Jewish Council Mission to Israel 2007**. The group consisted of participants from New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia, as well as a number of former Atlantic Canadians. The Mission was the largest single Canadian Mission to Israel in 2007. The group visited numerous locations in Israel, focusing especially on areas in the Northern Galil supported by United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada in conjunction with its P2K partners, such as an Absorption Centre in Carmiel, the Hydrotherapy Pool at Mevot HaHermon, and the Alei Givaa Elementary School/Emek HaHula High School. The group selected the Schafim School for children for special needs as a new project to sponsor. In addition, the group visited an ATIDIM program and an IBIM Educational Centre in central Israel, as well as the town of Sderot.

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United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

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