

SHANAH TOVAH! SHALOM! שלום!

Fall 2009 Vol 34 No. 2

Tishre 5770

IGOR KOLODIN. SHOFAR, FUSED GLASS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY HOWARD CONTER

AS WE COME TO THE CONCLUSION OF ANOTHER SUMMER AND ONCE AGAIN APPROACH THE HIGH HOLIDAYS, I BELIEVE IT IS AN ESSENTIAL TIME TO REFLECT ON A LOT OF DIFFERENT ISSUES. The one that I would like to reflect on in this article is the role of the AJC in a very diverse Atlantic Canadian Jewish population. I believe I can make an honest assessment of the AJC and its role, not only because I am currently president, but because I have been involved in many aspects of the Atlantic Canadian Jewry for a long time. I have been involved in Camp Kadimah, Partnership 2000, UIA and by sitting on various boards contributing to areas involving CJC, CIC, Holocaust education, chaplaincy and immigration.

The trend I see in place are in some ways concerning to me. I am worried that some of our communities have somehow lost focus on why we need an AJC, why we need campaign and why we need to continue Jewish life in the Atlantic region. As I have said many times we are truly the "diaspora" here in Atlantic Canada.

We are a collection of small Jewish centers, located a long distance from the hub of Canadian Jewish life. The latest statistics show that our 50% of all Canadian Jews live in Toronto and less than 4% live in Atlantic Canada. Our only true hope at Jewish identity as a region is to work together in as many areas as possible. At this time the AJC is the only model that we have for this interaction and support. The AJC is not now, nor has it ever been, the supplier of



Jewish programming, Jewish education or Jewish religious life. Our function is to enhance it and promote it. Does that mean the AJC has a budget or the manpower to lead all those activities? Absolutely not. Our job is to help with financial aid and manpower when we can. This is most evident in our Holocaust education and chaplaincy program. In this light we welcome the attempts by communities to build on our financial commitment and to enhance these programs. It is the ideal model with the AJC covering the basics and the individuals centers building on this, strengthening Jewish life itself and working to build allegiances with other groups in each city, town or even province.

Immigration has been one major area of concern in several Atlantic Canadian communities. This area does not allow for concrete rules and policies because it is governed by provincial legislation, defining a very distinct set of rules in each province. The AJC has committed to supplying immigration consultants service to all the communities that request our help. This consultant is best able to deal with all the unique differences presented by each community as they work to increase the size of their Jewish population base through settlement. This commitment by the AJC is strong and getting stronger as we, as your Atlantic representative, work to secure additional funding from our national bodies to allow us to offer this consultation service.

The last area I would like to address as we approach another Jewish New Year is campaign. Not campaign as just another fundraising task, but very specifically as an opportunity for the Jews of Atlantic Canada to not only show, but give their support to Israel. The State of Israel is now 61 years old. It would not continue to exist without the financial support

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שלום!

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Igor Kolodin recently joined the Halifax Jewish community after living in Israel for many years.

He is originally from Omsk, Russia, where he attended the Omsk School of Arts. His work is in the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. In the spring of 2009 he had his first solo exhibit at Studio 21 in Halifax, where he is one of their gallery artists. His work can be viewed at Studio 21 Fine Arts, 1223 Lower Water Street, Halifax.

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WELCOME
TO OUR
HIGH
HOLIDAY
EDITION
OF SHALOM
MAGAZINE.

I'm tempted
to say "hi" or
"chai" to all
our readers.

My reason

for doing so is that this September will mark the 18th year that I have served as the Executive Director of the Atlantic Jewish Council. If 'eighteen' signifies 'chai' in Hebrew and chai means 'life', I can certainly say "what a life it's been over these last eighteen years". Don't worry, I will not be retracing these past years in this article. However, I couldn't help but think a few short weeks ago, on a cool summer night, while attending a Paul McCartney concert, when I heard him sing 'The Long and Winding Road', that somehow my route over these past eighteen years always leads me back to the Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada.

As we begin the year 5770, I'm optimistic for many of our communities in the region. One of our major problems has been a lack of teachers and rabbis, except for Rabbi and Mrs. Sherbill and Cantor Ari in Halifax. All of whom are terrific. I'm pleased to say that just yesterday I met Rabbi Yosef Goldman who will be going to Fredericton and I've been informed that Moncton will have the services of Rabbi Yagod very shortly. This is great news and my congratulations to both those communities for their hard work and dedication in locating these wonderful new additions and their families to their respective communities. In Halifax, this past year, we have welcomed thirty new families as part of our Pilot Project with the Provincial Government. What an



experience! To welcome our newcomers and to try to affect a smooth integration into our Community has been indeed a challenge. Many thanks to our Immigration Committee, our volunteers, both synagogues and particularly to Edna LeVine for her continued hard work and diligence. Would you believe that the number of young children now in Halifax, between 0-8 years old, has doubled in less than a year. I also want to congratulate the Immigration Committees in Moncton and Fredericton for their efforts. I'm sure we will be looking to the possibility of bringing new Jewish families to PEI and St. John's if feasible. The other reports from our staff will give the reader an idea of the full gamut of work that we do, both in HRM and in the Region.

Camp Kadimah had a very interesting year. There was outbreak of the H1N1 virus, but thanks to the hard work of our Director, medical staff, senior staff and the Camp Committee co-chairs, the virus was curtailed and our last 3 weeks were flu free. All in all, our campers seemed to have had a great summer. Special acknowledgement should go to Michael Pink, Jim Spatz and Victor Goldberg for their tireless efforts as volunteers on behalf of Kadimah.

I want to thank Bill Chernin, Director of Campus Services, Atlantic Provinces, Mark David, our UJA Administrator and CRC Advisor, Rabbi Ellis, Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement and Nancy Field, Controller, for their hard work and loyalty this past year and I look forward to working with them in 5770.

My friends, many people ask what does the AJC do? I suggest you read through these pages and they will give you some idea of the length and breadth of our activities here in Atlantic Canada. I realize we can't satisfy everyone and probably never will, but we strive to promote Jewish continuity as best we can

here in our Region.

As many of you know, most of our support comes from the United Jewish Appeal Campaign of Atlantic Canada. Every year we try to reach a delicate balance of funding local and overseas needs. Your gift to the UJA Campaign helps preserve and build a stronger Israel, helps to provide us with the essential tools to strengthen and preserve Judaism and Jewish life here in Atlantic Canada. And most important, has helped and continues to help build a Jewish Nation we can all be proud of. I want to thank all those volunteers who canvas and call every year on behalf of UJA and I hope you, our readers, will be receptive when called upon.

The Atlantic Jewish Council is most fortunate to have as its President, Howard Conter. He is a dynamic, outspoken supporter of our Region and of Israel. I want to thank him for his efforts and those also of our Board of Directors. It is indeed a pleasure and an honour to work with someone like Howard, who not only chairs the AJC, but is also Regional Chair of the UJA. It is my hope that the 18th year of my service to the Atlantic Jewish Community will be one of life, vibrancy and vigor for myself and all our people.

Best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy New Year.

Shana Tovah!



AJC President Howard Conter with Tiger Woods discussing the 2009 UJA Campaign in Atlantic Canada.

CAMPUS NEWS

BY BILL CHERNIN, DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS SERVICES,
ATLANTIC PROVINCES

PAGE 4

I WAS SITTING
ON A BEACH
THIS SUMMER
THINKING:
NOTHING. I
HOPE YOU ALL
HAD A FEW
MOMENTS
LIKE THAT
THIS SUMMER:

Not thinking
occasionally is

a good thing. By contrast, I've been
spending many a moment sitting in my
office thinking about the upcoming year
on campus, and since you have picked
up this magazine and turned to this
page, I think you're probably interested
in what these thoughts are, so I'll share
them with you.

For the past two years we've been
building programming infrastructure
and trying to increase the number of
Jewish students participating with us.
This has gone very well. On the small
campus we faced a challenge with
continuity, meaning a Jewish club would
exist one year but then not the next,
and subsequently, time and energy
would be have to be reinvested trying
to reestablish something that had been
established only a year or two before.
We now have Jewish clubs starting their
third consecutive year of operations at
Mt. Allison and Acadia, and we support
young Jewish adults in St. John's, which
includes university students.

In Halifax we developed the Jewish
student house (biyat) so the students
would have a physical center for
their community, we introduced new
programs, and we have successfully
branded ourselves as "cool," or at least
"pretty cool," which in the Jewish
community business, is pretty darn good,
to say the least.

Phase I, the "If you build it they will
come" phase (reference to the movie,



Field of Dreams) is over, and it has
succeeded. Now we are looking to
Phase II. What do we want from the
students? We live in a pluralistic Jewish
society. Our students come from
Conservative, Orthodox, Reform, and
nearly completely secular backgrounds.
There is a plethora of beliefs within
our beliefs. And, to complicate it, one
of the foundations of our success is the
student's understanding that we accept
them as they are, we are not trying to
change them. If you want to fail in the
community development business,
put up this sign "Welcome. There's
something wrong with you, but we can
fix it." Our bottom line is that we want
them to continue being Jewish, and
in some cases, re-start or begin being
Jewish.

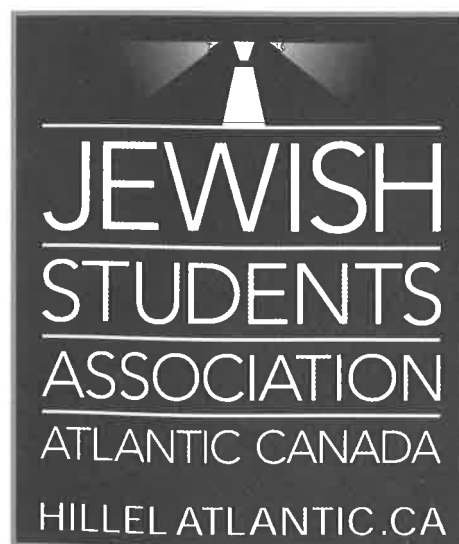
To do this we will focus on raising
awareness among students about aspects
of Judaism they will find surprising,
admirable, and which will illicit pride; In
other words, "Judaism's Greatest Hits."
We are planting and nurturing a seed.

We will seek to increase Jewish content
in our programs through "passive"
learning, which is akin to advertising:
We present the information we want
them to have in our biyat, in a way that
does not interrupt what they're doing,
but which puts the information into
their consciousness for consideration
and/or discussion later, in their own
private spaces. We are planning a
touring program called What Jews
Believe, which will be akin to our
Remembering Dachau to Save Darfur
program, a theatrical, entertaining, and
meaningful program which engages
Jewish and non-Jewish students alike
on the most common questions about
Judaism, again, highlighting Judaism's
Greatest Hits. This should also illicit
pride. Additionally, we will initiate
other new Jewish content programs.
All of this will be compatible with the
programming infrastructure we've built

and will address our distinct Atlantic
Canadian marketing challenges.

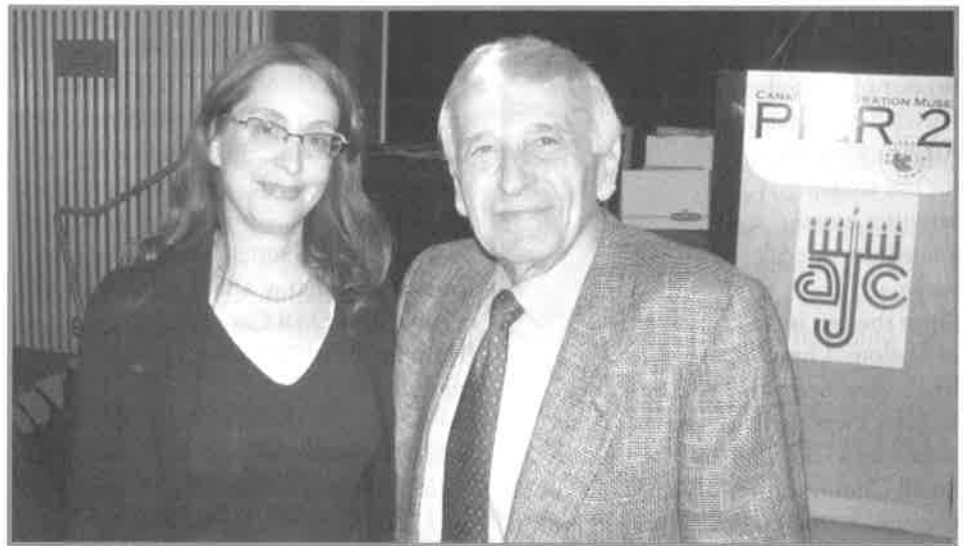
Regarding Israel on Campus, we will
continue in our efforts to educate
the student population about Israel,
celebrate Israel, contribute to respectful
and tolerant campus environments,
respect the principles of Academic
freedom, protect our student's sense of
security, and oppose those anti-Israel
groups which violate these. We seek
to make positive contributions on as
many campuses as we can in Atlantic
Canada, and do not limit ourselves to
campuses with Jewish clubs. As with
everything else we do, we are trying
to adapt to our environment, and a
national organization wishes to partner
with us to develop one of our initiatives,
the "Propaganda or Education?" poster
campaign. This is another new "passive"
tool that can be used on any campus but
was conceived of to particularly address
the challenges faced on campuses with
few Jewish students.

I'm anticipating an exciting year, full of
positive changes, in which we find new
programming participants and partners
within our Jewish community, and
without it as well.



EARLY THIS SPRING I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO ATTEND THE AZRIELI FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR MEMOIRS SERIES 2 BOOK LAUNCH IN MONTREAL. The event was a reflection of the dedication and passionate determination of Dr. Naomi Azrieli in her mission to publish first hand testimony of Holocaust survivors living in Canada and distribute the books free of charge. In Halifax, I coordinated the volunteer university students to help Holocaust survivors transcribe their stories for submission to the Azrieli Foundation; Helena Jockel has completed her testimony and is awaiting publication while David Korn, Philip Riteman and Morris Strug are in the process of recording their testimony. And this fall the Azrieli Foundation will conduct a Holocaust education workshop for educators as part of Holocaust Education Week in Halifax. While in Montreal I had the opportunity to visit the Cummings Jewish Community Center where Benita Goldin, Coordinator of Community Relations, provided me with a tour of the center and introduced me to the services they provide. The willingness of staff members to share their expertise was truly a generous gesture.

Once again this year there were Yom Hashoah commemorations in all 7 Atlantic Jewish communities. In Halifax, at Pier 21, Holocaust survivor Max Eisen recounted his difficult story of survival, as he spoke in a gentle voice we became privy to his horrific journey during the Holocaust. The evening also included the extraordinarily insightful exhibit Holocaust and Memory by Halifax artist Lynn Rotin. This exhibit is available for display in other communities, please contact Lynn for more information at thestudio@eastlink.ca or visit her website www.lynnrotin.ca.



Edna Levine with Max Eisen

In the face of the recent immigration wave in Halifax creating a settlement infrastructure became a necessity. Mila Voihanski, Executive Director, JIAS Canada provided her professional expertise and I worked closely with her during her visit to Halifax last spring to establish relationships with local settlement organizations. Mila also attended the AJC board meeting in Fredericton where we held a joint immigration meeting with the Fredericton and Moncton immigration committees to share information and explore the services Mila could provide to each community.

This spring and continuing throughout the summer I was extremely busy with the continuous arrival of new immigrant families in Halifax, including organizing settlement volunteers and coordinating weekly information workshops. To help in the initial stage of their settlement Lea McKnight coordinated community volunteers to greet each family at the airport. Ruth Goldbloom welcomed the new families to Halifax with a personal tour of Pier 21. The AJC sponsored a BBQ, complete with on-site babysitting services, for the newcomers to meet each other, exchange information and express their settlement needs. As a result we

formed the Newcomers Programming committee and a series of workshops and conversational café sessions were scheduled throughout the summer. I was impressed with the determination and genuine enthusiasm expressed by the newcomers as they cope with the challenges of settling in a new home.

This summer I attend the launch of the Greater Halifax Partnership's Connector Program, designed exclusively for new immigrants to facilitate their entry into their professional field of employment. Cindy Dean, Project Coordinator, was keen to offer her assistance to our newcomers and agreed to conduct a special network information workshop to explain the concept and benefits of networking. Participation in this program is an important aspect for successful settlement and integration.

This year Partners for Human Rights (I am the AJC representative) will commemorate International Human Rights Day (December 10th) at Indian Brook Reserve. We are busy organizing our annual event to celebrate and promote an awareness of human rights by recognizing individual and community contributions in the advancement of human rights.

FROM THE DESK OF MARK DAVID, UJA CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATOR

While I am nominally the Administrator of United Jewish Appeal for Atlantic Canada, my day to day activities entail a much broader scope.

Since the last issue of Shalom, I have had a very interesting and busy time. In May, I was privileged to visit Israel as part of a Canada-Israel Committee Small Communities Advocacy Mission. Our small group traveled from Jerusalem to the Golan to the Galil to Tel Aviv to Sderot. While I have visited these places before, every trip brings new experiences. Perhaps the most touching moment was our visit to Save A Child's Heart in Holon - where Israeli doctors share the most advanced pediatric cardiac pro-



cedures are made available to those in need, regardless of country of origin. I have spent considerable time advancing the cause of pro-Israel advocacy, both directly and indirectly. To that end, I am assisting the AJC on its work with Canadian Jewish Congress on a submission to The Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism in Canada, as well as on a submission to a Canadian Museum of Human Rights "Content Committee" roundtable.

As is normally the case, there have been many interesting visitors to our area. We were privileged to welcome Max Eisen to our Yom HaShoah ceremonies, as well as Lisa Avedon to a ceremony at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic marking the 70th anniversary of the tragic voyage of the SS St. Louis. Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy (CIJA) Hershell Ezrin was in Halifax in July for a brief visit. Most recently, I met the Israeli

delegation to Canoe '09, the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships held at Lake Banook in Dartmouth. I have also enjoyed meeting many of the new families that have joined our community. As summer comes to a close, the time has come to ratchet up the materials and activities for the 2009 UJA Campaign. Kick-off events for the various communities are being coordinated with Perry Romberg of UJA in Toronto. In Halifax, we are looking forward to hosting Nachman Shai, a Kadima Member of Knesset, in mid-September.

In any event, when a canvasser calls, please remember those in our communities, whether in Atlantic Canada or Israel, who need our help, and please be as generous as possible.

In closing, please accept my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 5770.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of the Jews from around the world. The UIA campaign and its sister campaign of Partnership 2000 are our opportunities to contribute to the ongoing existence, growth and development of the State of Israel. This campaign supports not only Israel but Israel programs that benefit Canadian Jews. It allows for Jewish identity on campus, it supports Israeli and Jewish advocacy and it continues to help fund the ongoing fight against Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israeli sentiment in Canada and around the world.

I have heard statements that Jews of our region do not want to give to UIA because they do not want the money to go to the AJC. These statements unfortunately show a lack of understanding of the role of the Atlantic Jewish Council. Our work is

essential; it encompasses chaplaincy, Holocaust education, Israel and Jewish Advocacy, campus support and recently immigration consultant support. The majority of the Atlantic Jewish UIA Campaign dollars raised go to the Jewish Agency in Israel to support this ongoing work. We continue to maintain a very high percentage of funds that go to Israel vs money that remains nationally and locally. The UIA Campaign shows the rest of the country that we care about Israel and that it is a vital part of what the AJC does and what it means to be "diaspora" Jews who believe in the importance of having a Jewish State to call our own. Please keep all of this in mind as we once again begin our campaign in support of Israel and world Jewry. The bottom line is that Jews can

only really count on other Jews.

I hope this article helps in some way to explain the AJC of 2009 and the role it tries to play in Atlantic Canada, the Canadian country as a whole and the State of Israel.

If we cannot work together to strengthen our region, if we can no longer get our voice heard on the national stage and if we can no longer understand the need to support the State of Israel then the immediate future as we move into 5770 is not very bright. I ask all of you to do your utmost to continue to put your best effort forward and work for community, country and our homeland.

Karen, Adam, Jenna and I wish all of our Atlantic Jewish family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

AS I HAVE TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE REGION OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE SHARED STORIES WITH YOU FROM SMALL COMMUNITIES- Yarmouth, Trenton, Spring Hill, Dunstaffnage, Campbellton, Dorchester and Digby. My message has been that, contrary to what one might expect, there is often a great deal of knowledge and interest in topics Jewish in these places, even though there are very few Jews and no organized community.

The past few months brought me to two more places, to some of the most unforgettable events I have experienced.

Last April, I was called to Bass River, Nova Scotia (There is also a Bass River, New Brunswick.) for the dedication of a new cenotaph. The town was once known for the furniture made there, but now there are only a few hundred people in the town. Yet there were nearly 200 persons present for the dedication, from the surrounding area as far as Truro.

Along with the dedication, there was a specific commemoration of the Holocaust, on the day itself.

I will not recount the event. Its organizer, Dr. Karen Ewing, has submitted an article which you will find herein.

I would only repeat a quotation from Karen's presentation, which captured the message of the day. She said, "Once you realize what happened at the Holocaust, you understand that your life is no longer yours, but must now be dedicated to help anyone affected by the tragedy."

I have read many things about the Holocaust. I do not believe I have found anything as illuminating about it as the succinct words of Dr. Ewing on the banks of Bass River.

Then another small town, immortalized in literature by Longfellow-Grand Pre, Nova Scotia. I was invited to participate

in a commemoration of the expulsion of the Acadians from Grand Pre, in the 18th century. The event is noted every year on July 28.

I have always noted the comparisons between the Acadians and Jewish history-their exile and return, the difficulty of being a minority in a larger culture. But this day at Grand Pre, all came together in an eloquent way, in a mixture of English and French.

The ceremony noted that before the Acadians settled the area, the Micmaws had lived there for centuries. The story went on to speak of the French settlement and expulsion. But then the ancestors of those who forced the Acadians out, the English Planters, added to the message.

While I added greetings from the AJC and our Jewish communities, it was clear from the selection of readings that the entire event heavily borrowed from Jewish sources, as was acknowledged by many of the contributors. The settling of a land and ties to it, the exile and return, the vision of a reconciled future-these were pages right out of the Jewish prophets. I was informed by some of the participants that there were in fact contemporary writings of the Acadians which consciously borrowed from Jewish tradition.

Everything was said, nothing was omitted. Wrong doings were stated but not dwelled on or used for recrimination. The entire focus was now and for the future.

All of the groups who had lived there in the past are still living there. They will now live together, accepting the past without being determined by it, looking for a positive vision to share together.

It was like a grand symphony, with some playing major roles, some minor, and some accompanying ones-the main point being to hear the symphony itself,

regardless of the players.

It should be noted that this whole commemoration was organized by David-Roger Gagnon, of the United Church. So while in the next few weeks, the United Church and various Jewish organizations would be involved in the annual August contesting and posturing over resolutions at the church conference over Israel; we in Grand Pre were reading Jewish texts and history, applying them to the experience of other peoples and finding positive directions for future projects and discussion.

I could not help but think-would this be a model for the current situation in the Middle East? Do not all sides need an understanding of who everyone has been and what all have contributed there?

We are not there yet. But someday, what the bitter seeds of religious and nationalist extremism have been sucked dry and found tasteless-some will look toward the time when the lion and lamb will lie down together, and a child will lead them. If they look, they will find a beginning of that story every year on July 28 in Grand Pre.

I am looking forward to seeing all the communities during the upcoming holidays.

JEWISH SINGLES

Rabi David Ellis is available to introduce Jewish Singles in the region.

All inquiries and discussions are strictly confidential.

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BOB MARLEY: BRINGING JUDAISM TO THE PEOPLE & THE JEWISH ROOTS OF RASTAFARIANIS

BY RABBI ARI SHERBILL, BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX, NS

WHEN ONE THINKS OF BOB MARLEY, THE FIRST THING THAT CONJURES UP IN THE MIND IS PROBABLY NOT HOW JEWISH HIS MUSIC IS – AND EVEN HIS LOOK, YET BOB MARLEY AND MANY RASTAFARIANS EXPRESS THE MESSAGE, SOUL AND EXPERIENCE OF JUDAISM.

Bob Marley is known and respected not so much for his talent and music – but what he put into the music, and what it represented to him. When his album, “Exodus” was named the album of the century by Time magazine, Time said, “Every song is a classic, from the messages of love to the anthems of revolution. But more than that, the album is a political and cultural nexus...” More than mere entertainment, his music has a message and Bob Marley lived it. In the words of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame upon his being inducted, “His lyrics mixed religious mysticism with calls for political uprising, and Marley delivered them in a passionate, declamatory voice.” What made Bob Marley a legend was his soul, passion and vision that he infused into his music – that is what drew the people to him and his music, what made him an icon of idealism and wisdom. What people don’t know however is that those are the roots and soul of Judaism and the Jewish experience.

“Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds!” Is a quote of Bob Marley, but is based on the essential teaching of Judaism to immerse one’s intellect in the study of wisdom: “Freedom cannot be experienced without being immersed in the study of Torah”, is a quote from the Oral Teachings of the Kabbalah (Jewish Mysticism). For Judaism and the Kabbalah teach that wherever the mind is, the person is – and so freedom can only be found in he / she who has a mind filled with Divine Intellect



and wisdom. In fact, Bob Marley’s encouragement and the Rastafarian religious practice of cannabis use is based on the same premise. They say that in order to experience the mind one needs to use cannabis and that it brings a person to enlightenment and awareness; That idea is a Jewish ideal (without the cannabis), to live a higher life, to free our minds, to feel our soul and the soul of God.

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov teaches, “When a person intimately knows that all that happens in ones life is for the best, as everything that happens in ones life comes from God – this is an experience of the world to come” In that lesson, Rebbe Nachman teaches that we live a life of duality: good days and bad days, people we like and people we don’t, pain and pleasure, love and hate – but life is not intended to be lived in a duality. The “belief” in one God is horribly misunderstood – for in Judaism there is no such thing as belief, for belief is an idea. In Judaism we experience, we know, we live – we live the oneness of God that expands all boundaries and limitations of understanding – God is one means that there is only God – all that we do, know and experience is God – ONE, and that is something to experience. The pain of life, the bad days and hatred that we experience all stem from a lack of experiencing the oneness of God, the all encompassing reality of an intimate relationship with God. When a person works on this through meditation, study of these works and learns from true teachers – a person can

live a redemptive, heavenly and expansive life of the “good days” where all is good. This is the soul of Jewish experience and the inner yearning of every one of us. Bob Marley just used different words.

Bob Marley sang his soul for people to leave “Babylon” and yearn to return to “Zion”. Babylon represents all things mundane, lacking soul, lacking intellect, negative, hatred, racism, abuse, sadness, etc – but especially people and nations who do not seek spiritual enlightenment. While Zion represents the redemption of all those lackings and exiles, all those stresses and evils to a life of good, peace, love, music and soul.

This has been the teachings of the Jewish people for eternity. The depth, mysticism, soul, music, yearning, striving, studying, praying and singing is the soul of Jewish experience – but we’re in exile, in Babylon; but even worse is that we don’t know it anymore. More Jewish people in North America than ever would associate Woody Allen with Judaism before Bob Marley; would associate boring services and sermons with Judaism before a soulful concert and would associate negative connotations and experiences before an uplifting, enlightening, incomparable and awesome experience when thinking of Judaism – because we are in exile.

Bob Marley spread the message of Judaism through the medium of music, but his listeners did more than listen: they thought about his message, they chewed it over and rethought about their lives. Writer Christopher Farley said the following regarding Marley’s song, “One Love”, ““One Love” is, of course, a Jamaican reggae song. But most listeners don’t see it as being part of any one region - it has been embraced around the globe as an anthem to the human spirit. The song’s title has also become a greeting - people the world over will say

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REFLECTION ON A SUMMER'S DAY

BY CANTOR ARI ISENBERG,

SPIRITUAL LEADER SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE, HALIFAX, NS

PAGE 9

HALIFAX IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE SUCH EXTREME HUMIDITY.

Today my apartment was unbearably hot, making it uncomfortable to sit in.

Consequently, I retreated to the breezy Halifax waterfront for some relief. With a bottle of water and my laptop in tow, I found an ideal shady area to relax in, near Bishop's Landing. There I was, on a summer day, in beautiful Halifax - a city that I, in unsuspecting fashion, fell in love with and quickly began to regard as my home.

On this particular day, I found myself in a pensive state. It was in 2001 that I made my first High Holiday appearance on the bimah of Shaar Shalom Congregation. I was 19 years old and still had a full head of hair (take comfort in knowing that you were not the cause of my hair loss; I have genetics to thank for that). I am now a 28-year old man entering my second year of intense study in pursuit of rabbinic ordination and a Master's degree in sacred music. As I reflect, I consider how nurturing these years have been for my own development. This High Holiday season will mark my fifth consecutive year as your spiritual leader and my ninth High Holiday season as your cantor. I can hardly recall what life was like pre-Halifax! Suddenly, a gust of wind blew the knitted kippah I was wearing right off my head. A bystander caught it and returned it to me. For one reason or another, the force of the wind made me contemplate the constant renewal of the seasons, and I realized that today is Friday, July 31st. In exactly seven weeks, to the day, we will gather for Rosh Hashanah services. Time seems to fly faster than the wind!



Yesterday was Tisha b'Av - the 9th day in the month of Av. Most consider it to be the saddest day in the Jewish calendar year. Why? For it was on the 9th of Av, so often throughout history, that our nation - the Jewish People - was persecuted, tormented, and torn from its home. Most notably, both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed on Tisha b'Av and our ancestors were subsequently sent into exile. Born out of that tragedy was a need to reinvent our national identity, restructure our worship patterns, and reassess our strengths, goals, and purpose. In modern times, our Jewish calendar is structured in such a way that there are exactly seven weeks between Tisha b'Av - the saddest day in our year - and

Rosh Hashanah, the opportunity for renewal. The Haftarat chanted on each of these seven Shabbatot are labelled "the seven Haftarat of consolation and comfort". After destruction and duress, we, the Jewish people, are commanded to spend seven weeks reflecting, re-creating, and rebuilding, so as to be ready for our new year, our new opportunity for development. Why seven weeks? Perhaps this is symbolic of a shiva. After all, when mourning the loss of an individual, the mourner emerges from sitting shiva faced with a new reality. The shiva itself, seven days, could be seen as a time for reflection and re-creation

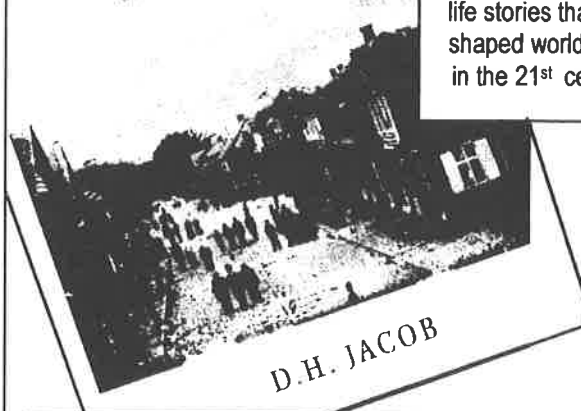
- an opportunity for development and to identify newfound roles and responsibilities.

Perhaps it is because of days like today, days so hot that all one wants to do is remain stagnant, that the Jewish calendar established a set time for communal evaluation. My hope is that we take these seven weeks, this shiva period, and foster opportunities for reflection, reassessment, and re-creation, forging a stronger sense of who we are as a community and what actions are required for our continued development. This year, our new year will begin on Friday, September 18th. Reflection. Reassessment. Renewal. Shanah Tova u'Metukah.

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AVINU MALKEINU - OUR FATHER, OUR KING

BY RABBI MENDEL FELDMAN, CHABAD OF THE MARITIMES

THE THEME OF G-D AS PARENT AND KING DOMINATES ROSH HASHANA.

The Baal Shem Tov taught that the love that G-d has for each one of us is analogous to the love that a father has for an only child born to him in his old age.

Rosh Hashana is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. Thus, it corresponds to the rebirth of humanity and we reestablish our relationship as children of G-d on this day.

The sounding of the shofar is connected to this central motif of Rosh Hashana, that of G-d as our Divine Parent and King.

To better understand this we look to another parable of the Baal Shem Tov: An errant prince, an only son, traveled far from the palace. After many years, the prince yearned to be reunited with his father, the king.

However, by the time he returned to his native land, he had forgotten his mother tongue. From deep within his soul a cry emerged, a cry that ~ no matter how estranged the child ~ the father could recognize and identify his son.

This fervent broken-hearted plea, of "Father, it is I, your only son, help me!" broke through the barriers separating father and son more eloquently than any words the prince might have uttered. At

that moment, the king embraced the errant son.

Throughout the year the Jewish people might wander, we become preoccupied with our day to day life. At times, we even seem to have lost our means of communicating with our Father, we seem to have forgotten our mother tongue. We are very much like the proverbial prince, who when facing his father the king could only cry.

We are in pain not only because our self-created barriers separate us from G-d, but also because even when we wish to return we encounter all sorts of seemingly insurmountable obstacles born of the national and spiritual exile of our people.

The Shofar represents the wordless cry of the only child within each of us. Chosen because of its simplicity, it symbolizes the incorruptible nature of the soul that is always connected to the essence of G-d.

Transcending the conventional modes of communication, the shofar's shattering wail arouses in us an awareness of the most powerful bond uniting Father and child. No matter how far we may feel we've strayed throughout the year, no matter how muted or inadequate our ability to communicate with G-d, the shofar of Rosh Hashana enables us to reconnect in a more fundamental and powerful way than previously envisioned.

The "Great Shofar" that will signal the



Messianic Age, will pierce all barriers and penetrate beneath the surface of our very beings. When G-d will sound the Great Shofar we will be able to express, completely and openly, the fundamental child/parent relationship we intrinsically have with G-d. The shofar of Redemption will usher in a time when the love between G-d and the Jewish people ~ concealed throughout our trial-ridden exile ~ will be fully revealed.

May we witness the revelation of our righteous Moshiach, and may he redeem us speedily in our days.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year.

*The Attis Family of Moncton, NB, wish to thank all our friends
for their condolences on the passing of
Morton (Morty) Melvin Attis, Mordechai Moshe Ben Yacov.*

ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS

BY YORAM ELRON, CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL

PAGE 11

IT IS AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ATLANTIC CANADA FOR THE YEAR 5770.

As we enter the New Year, the State of Israel continues to face many obstacles on the long road to peace. Earlier this year, Israel was yet again forced into a bloody confrontation with Hamas in Gaza after having borne eight years of unrelenting missile attacks targeting our civilian population in the south.

Despite this and the growing threat of regional instability posed by Iran and its terrorist proxies throughout the region, Israel remains as determined as ever to seek peaceful relations with all of nations and peoples in our neighborhood.

Israelis also continue to build a modern and flourishing society, with justice and liberty for all of its citizens. This we do in accordance with the principles enshrined in our nation's declaration of independence.

As Jews we share a rich history and heritage that spans from the time of the prophets of Israel right up until the present day. The solidarity that ties the Jewish homeland with communities throughout the Diaspora is as invaluable as ever as we face the challenges of tomorrow.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulating the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada for your strong interest, engagement and devotion for my county.

May the Shalom continue to illuminate your hearts, Israel and the world entire.

Shana Tova!



New Novel by prizewinning writer Ilana Stanger

Sima's Undergarments for Women

(February 14, 2008 / \$27.50 / ISBN: 978-1-59020-089-6).

She has an eye for the extraordinary stories - in this case Brooklyn's orthodox Jewish neighborhoods - and our rapidly changing modern world. This crossroads is located at Sima's hidden shop, where word-of-mouth and local loyalty keep customers of all generations pouring in.

From Entertainment Weekly:

Despite the excitement of owning her own lingerie business, Sima's childless life seems an empty shell - until an Israeli woman named Timna walks into her Brooklyn shop and becomes the daughter (and seamstress) she never had.

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KADIMAH ISRAEL 2009

BY RACHAEL GOLDBERG

PAGE 12

THIS PAST SUMMER I WAS ABLE TO PARTICIPATE ON THE CYJ ISRAEL EXPERIENCE. The first four days of the trip were in Poland and it was really Poland that changed my Jewish outlook forever. The first day in Poland was spent by touring a cemetery that was the burial house for many of the Holocaust victims. We also went to a memorial for the Holocaust, which is housed in the centre of Warsaw. Day two took us to a park where we studied the statues and we also went on a walking tour of what was the Warsaw Ghetto. That was difficult to fathom. The third day we went to Ticochin, which was an old village where all the Jews were rounded up and brought to a forest and murdered. This day was also spent in Treblinka, where we reflected on the lives lived because only one stone remains with a person's name, while the spirit of millions can be felt. The fourth day was spent at the Umlachplot, which was the train station where the Jews were herded on trains to their deaths. We also went to Majdonek on this day. At Majdonek, we were able to tour some of the barracks that show the horrors of the camp. Poland is a powerful journey which I will never forget.

After the five days in Poland, we flew to Israel. When we arrived in Israel, our first stop was a city built by King Harrod, known as Cesaerea. This tour was followed by a visit to a mall for lunch. Later, we met the rest of the group and went to our separate buses and went to the kibbutz where we would stay. The first week of the trip we spent up north mostly touring and doing Tikun Olam, or projects for the betterment of the world. The best part was the disco cruise the first Saturday night. It was fun and a terrific icebreaker for our across Canada group to become acquainted. Israel was just getting into our psyche.

In the north of Israel, the Atlantic region shares a partnership with our Israeli family. The Kadimah group had the opportunity to spend five days with our Israeli CITs from last summer. During these days, we saw all that Canada has done for Israel. Actually, we visited a school for children with severe learning difficulties, as well as the Canada Centre with its ice rink. A former Maritimer, Phil David, was there because he was coaching the senior Canadian Maccabiah hockey team. Our cousin, Noah Gold (whose mother is Rhea Simon), orchestrated our tickets to watch the

hockey game. We also went to a science camp and to a home building project where we helped out. The group also did some hadracha

activities which are leadership training units. Israel is a country that is able to cater to all of its citizens.

The rest of the trip flew by quickly. The five days that were spent in the army were definitely an experience that we will never forget. We have a new found respect for young Israeli adults. Visiting the Bedouins and Masada were both amazing. Jerusalem is filled with a lot of history and Sde Boker shows Ben Guiron's hard efforts to create a culture of Kibbutzim. The beautiful beaches were so picturesque; it could be on a postcard. Israel is a country that I hope to return to soon. It is truly the land of the Jewish people.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

hello and goodbye with the words "One Love." A few years ago, the BBC chose "One Love" as the song of the century." The impact is not only universal, but even more so it was personal. The reason why his music, lyrics, energy, passion and vision had such an impact was because it was true, and truth hits the soul.

During my nine years of studying in Israel, one of the most powerful experiences for me was the realization of how the Jewish people today have

not experienced what Judaism is and can be. When in Israel, we studied around the clock - staying up till 3 in the morning, waking up at 6 or 7, and going strong all day (some naps here and there!). The more one learns the more one experiences the infinite amount of material, wisdom and knowledge there is available and how finite we are. Davening was something that took hours and hours everyday as we felt the power of praying to God, talking to God, yearning

for a greater reality and loving and appreciating the life we live. We danced and sang during daily minyan as the level of passion was only matched with the level of vision and how badly the Jewish people need Jewish souls to learn and experience what it means to be a Jew, to bring the Jews from "Babylon" to "Zion", physically, emotionally, spiritually.

Let us all forget everything we have ever learned, thought or experienced in Judaism to make way for a richer, truer

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CAMP KADIMAH 2009

BY JOANNA MIRSKY WEXLER, DIRECTOR, CAMP KADIMAH

PAGE 13

THE 2009 SEASON WAS ONE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR A LONG LONG TIME. WE STARTED WITH SINGING AND DANCING WITHIN MINUTES OF THE FIRST CAMPERS' ARRIVAL, AND THE FEELING OF EXCITEMENT FOR ANOTHER SUMMER ON THE SHORES OF LAKE WILLIAM WAS PALATABLE IN THE CHADAR OCHEL. We made many new friends this summer who were new to Kadimah and new to Halifax as well! Welcome to our Kadimah family!

We had an exciting early Maccabia that kept everyone on their toes and all of our favorite events took place- the swim meet, track meet, regattas, marchpast, songs, cheers and plays with an impressive fireworks show!

An unwelcome visitor came to camp this summer - H1N1. Although it certainly was a challenge to orchestrate isolation with fun programs for campers who needed to stay in quarantine but were feeling better, CITs, campers and staff pulled together to keep the summer going. Thanks to all who made such an effort during this trying time- camp felt as fun as always because of you!

As we gained control over the flu, we wrestled with another historic decision- to cancel Visitor's Day due to the circumstances. While we missed our friends and family, we had an exciting

exit off the swim docks by Blackbeard!

The sun came out in force for the last three weeks, and we relished every second swimming in the lake, canoeing, water-skiing, sailing and getting the most out of our summer. We still got in some amazing out trips as well- to Blomidon Provincial park, Rissers Beach for camping and fun, Kejimikujik National Park, and our fabulous CIT trip through New Brunswick including the very popular tidal bore rafting on the Fundy Tides.



Jacinda Solomon, Dana Griesman, Zach Novak

We participated in several programs this summer- We had a six Cornerstone fellows this year, run through the Foundation for Jewish Camping. These fellows were instrumental in planning a creative T'sha B'Av program, and ran mentorship programs throughout the summer. We participated in an Israeli Programming Fellowship as well, through UJA Toronto, and received a special grant for our New Leadership



Jillian Zuckerman, Director, Joanna Wexler, Josh David, Ezra Wexler, Jonah Epstein

on the Trail Ahead Jewish camping initiative, where tripping and exploring in Atlantic Canada connects with thoughtful programming about Judaism and Israel. With the help of the AJC, Jon Goldberg, and our fundraising efforts, we were able to bring in 13 CIT, Machar and Kochot campers from S'derot and other regions in Israel. They were an amazing asset to camp, and we all found ourselves speaking more and more Hebrew during the summer than ever before.

Applications for our 2010 season will be out shortly. Please visit our new website at www.campkadimah.com or call Diane at the office at 902-422-7491 ext 225 for details or to make a donation to help keep these important programs running.

It's hard to believe another summer has passed, and as we enjoy the last days of this season, we are already thinking to next summer when we will see our friends once again at Kadimah.

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



Karin Kuksin, Ilana Bloom, Hallie Benjamin, Kfir Kochav Lev



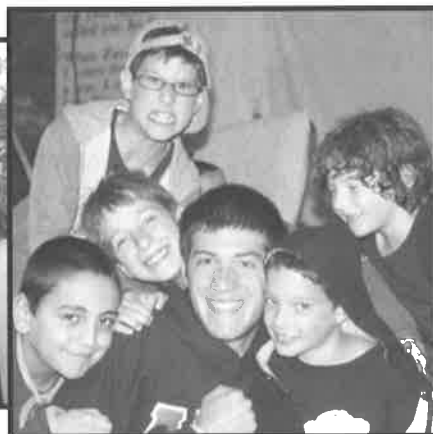
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ISRAELI KIDS AWED BY CAMP KADIMAH

BY JOEL JACOBSON

PAGE 15

"I FELT IT WOULD BE THE BEST SUMMER OF MY LIFE – AND IT WAS."

Yonatan Daniel, 15, of Sderot, Israel, smiles warmly as he relates stories of six weeks at Camp Kadimah, near Barss Corner, Nova Scotia, 100 km southwest of Halifax.

"The people I met made it special. The staff made me feel at home. Everything. It was so great," he says, beaming.

Yonatan was one of 10 children from Sderot, ages 13-16, attending the 65-year-old summer camp. It gave them a chance to escape being in the midst of confrontation.

Amalya Rachamkin, 16, from Mishmar Hayarden, was in the counsellor-in-training program. "In six weeks, we became like relatives. We listened and talked to each other so that the Canadians realized we have a regular life like they do."

She said she and her Israeli friends might do army service while the Canadians "have fun and chill out, but we watch the same TV shows and listen to the same music. Even though we do army duty, we still have a normal life."

She smiles. "Israel is my favourite place, but Kadimah is certainly second."

It was the first overseas trip for the Sderot area children, plus six others from northern Israel. Saar Ben Zeev, 16, of Kibbutz Shamil, remarked on the "cold" temperatures that sometimes dropped into the low teens (Celsius) at night. "Israel is usually

in the high 30s and 40s in the summer."

Amalya said she'd make a deal with Canada. "We'll give you sun. You give us rain" (and there was plenty at Kadimah through the summer).

Yonatan said he was shocked by the (cool) temperature of the water in Kadimah's Lake William. "It took time to adjust because swimming in lakes at home is like a bath in comparison."

The CITs went white water rafting, rock climbing and to Moncton, New Brunswick as part of their development program. "(The Jewish community of) Moncton made us feel important and special, even though they didn't know us," Amalya said.

Though homesick for a day or so, Saar said she'd tell any youngster from Israel that Kadimah is a great experience. "I would tell them 'don't waste time missing home' ", she said. "I've made many friends and will keep in touch by e-mail and Facebook."

Despite a summer-long threat of swine flu, some kids living in quarantine, and almost all taking tamsflu for several days, Yamala said none of the Israeli kids were affected by the illness. "Our counsellor got it, and they thought all CITs should be quarantined, but after a few hours, they let us out.

"We're kosher – no swine," she laughed.



Developed in 1944 for Jewish youngsters from Atlantic Canada, Camp Kadimah now attracts more than 75 per cent of its campers from Ontario and another 15 per cent from other locations in North America as the Atlantic region's Jewish population diminishes.

For the last 10 years, Kadimah has hosted four children from Israel's north. Two summers ago, two children from Sderot came to camp. Funding for the 10 Sderot children in 2009 came mostly from the Atlantic Jewish community, with UIA Israeli branch and The Jewish Agency coordinating camper recruitment.

Michael Pink, Halifax, co-chair of the Camp Kadimah committee, said, "Kadimah is all about forging relationships between children from Atlantic Canada, Ontario, plus those from Israel."

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GEISHER CHAI AND CAMP KADIMAH BY JENNA CONTER

WAY, WAY BACK MANY CENTURIES AGO, A PRECOCIOUS SEVEN-YEAR-OLD BOARDED A BUS FOR A SUMMER CAMP SHE COULDN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF. SIXTEEN YEARS LATER SHE FINDS HERSELF BIDDING HER SECOND HOME GOODBYE TO FOCUS ON HER CHOSEN CAREER.

Though my camp years have come to a close, I am proud to see Kadimah's legacy carry on and open its doors. For the past nine years Camp Kadimah has been working with Emek Hahula School in the Galilee to build a tremendous partnership in an effort to allow Israeli children the Camp Kadimah experience they would otherwise not have. Now entering into its 10th year, P2K, or Partnership 2000, has worked with their Israeli counterparts to include Israeli youths in Kadimah's Counselor In Training program (CIT).

Since the initiation of this program back in 2000, Camp Kadimah has expanded to a wide variety of different schools and

has been host to over 35 CITs from the Northern Galilee. In addition to allowing Kadimah to learn more about the youth in Israel, they in turn were able to learn about Jewish life here in the Diaspora. Just as these CITs have come to Kadimah through the P2K project, over 170 Canadian youth have been to Israel since the initiation of this program.

Each year, through Canada Israel Experience, a mifgash is arranged where the Canadians spend a week in the North with their CIT Israeli friends. Without a doubt, this relationship has created a lasting bridge between not only two cultures but also between two countries. It is no secret that the Gesher Chai program here in Atlantic Canada, is quite unique when compared with other communities. Though the Maritime Provinces are without Hebrew day schools, however our Judaic strong hold for our youth has been Camp Kadimah and having this lasting opportunity to bring Israeli youth to our shores and our youth can be quite an

educational experience.

This summer has been particularly special as one of our Israeli CIT's, Yuval Zel-Zion, was the recipient of an award for best camper in their section. Described as a true 'Kid Magnet', Yuval, according to his sectional staff, would count down the days to being on placement with his kids. The drive and chevrah that Yuval brought to camp made him stand out within his section and he truly took full advantage of his time at Kadimah. Not only was it an opportunity for our camper to have his moment in the spotlight, but also gave us truly a sense of pride knowing that without the P2K program, Kadimah would have never known what they were missing.

As I bid my final farewell to my "happy place", I am thrilled to see the role that Camp Kadimah continues to play in, not only linking the Jewish youth of Atlantic Canadian with other Jewish youth from North America, but also linking our youth with the State of Israel.

SHABBAT AT SEA BY MICHAEL PAUL

Editors note: Dr. Paul is a long time leader of the Beth El Synagogue in St. John's, NL.

MY WIFE BARBARA AND I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A CUNARD CRUISE LINER OUT OF SOUTHAMPTON ENGLAND TO ICELAND AND NORWAY. We had spent about 10 days visiting various ports of call when we found ourselves sailing at sea when Shabbat was about to start. Unfortunately we had missed the previous week's Shabbat service as we were on a land tour when the service was held at 5:15pm. The sun sets in July, close

to the Arctic Circle, at about 11:55pm. Interestingly enough Shabbat services are advertised regularly in the ship's Friday bulletin to take place at 5:15pm in the Card room on Deck 3. We were very intrigued and decided to attend. As 5 pm came around we took the elevator down to the 3rd floor. In the elevator a man with a British accent asked us if we were going to Shabbat services! I guess he saw that we were dressed up and going to the 3rd floor so he assumed that we were heading there. He wondered if his lack of proper attire would be noticed and I assured him that all Jews would be welcome at services, as they are back home in our small shul in

St John's. He was very pleased to hear this and he decided to join us.

A gentleman from London was there with his wife, as were 2 other British couples. We introduced ourselves and we were the only ones from Canada.

Eventually there were 21 people from various parts of the world- the US, UK, and Israel. The man from London asked me to lead the service. He had done it the week before, but there were very few people present at that time, likely due to the fact that the ship was in port and services were so early.

continued

RALPH MEDJUCK, JOE ZATZMAN INDUCTED IN NS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME BY JOEL JACOBSON

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TWO MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CHANGING THE FACES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITIES ARE TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NOVA SCOTIA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME JUNE 16.

Developer Ralph Medjuck, 75, of Halifax altered the city's skyline in the 1960s and continues to revamp its face today with new downtown development. He built many city office and apartment buildings, hotels and senior citizens residences.

The late Joseph Zatzman, former mayor of Halifax's sister city, Dartmouth, led the drive for the first major industrial park in the region, spearheaded a second bridge crossing between the two major cities, and built new schools, a police station and City Hall. He also operated one of the largest property management companies in the province.

They join five other members of the Nova Scotia Jewish community as laureates in the Hall. Sydney's Harvey Webber, a retailer who generated a "Buy Atlantic" program, was inducted in the inaugural class of 1993. Halifax grocery and restaurant magnate Norman Newman followed in 1995. Glace Bay's Irving Schwartz, a developer of furniture stores and a cablevision business, was inducted

in 2003. Jim and Simon Spatz, major housing and shopping centre developers, were inducted in 2007.

Medjuck, a graduate of Dalhousie University Law School, was honoured by the university with a Doctor of Law in 2006 for his work and contributions to the community and development professions. Outside Nova Scotia, he did construction and development in the Atlantic region, Edmonton and downtown Toronto, where he completed the Yonge Richmond Centre and the Cambridge Suites Hotel.

Medjuck, a member of Beth Israel Synagogue, served as Director of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Canada Israel Foundation, Chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress - Atlantic Region, United Jewish Appeal, Camp Kadimah and the State of Israel Bonds - Halifax.

In the secular community, Medjuck was chairman of the Neptune Theatre Foundation, a director of the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Foundation, and a council member of the Halifax Board of Trade. He received the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia's Tourism Vision Award.

"My personal effort hasn't so much been to build better buildings, as it has been to build better people as well. I want to see everyone develop to their full potential. That's what made our company successful and this region a great place to work in," he says.

As mayor of Dartmouth in the late 1960s, Zatzman's leadership and "get-things-done" attitude created an image of a man of integrity and strength whose vision led to a prosperous community and province.

Beginning in 1934 with a small Dartmouth grocery shop, Zatzman eventually entered property development and management. His Maplehurst Properties company became one of the largest property management companies in Nova Scotia.

After his two terms as mayor in the late 1960s, he became chairman of the Nova Scotia Resources Development Board where he was instrumental in rescuing Nova Scotia's fishing industry from financial ruin. In the 1980s, Zatzman headed up the Business Development Corporation. He was issued an honorary Doctorate of Law from Saint Mary's University in 1979, was awarded the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada medal, and, in 1997, was named

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SHABBAT AT SEA - CONTINUED

The ship's crew had done a very good job in preparing the room for the service. They had arranged the chairs in rows, moved the card tables to the sides of the room, and had prepared the Shabbat candles in graceful silver plated candelabra for the mitzvah of lighting. They had also baked two challas, and had several plates of gefilte fish and red horseradish for a small Kiddush. They even had 2 types of kosher wine- Manischewitz red and white varieties.

We passed around copies of the services

which the crew had photocopied. I asked people to identify which tunes they wanted for the various prayers and so we had a mélange of songs from the different heritages/countries. Two women passengers came up to light the candles and one man came up to say the bracha over the wine. I said the haMotzei and tore the bread up into many pieces to distribute while the others poured out the small cups of wine for the group. The people came up and we had nice chats about everyone's experiences. Several

people had been to St John's previously and so it was nice to discuss our home city. I told many of them about our small shul community and some expressed a wish to visit our close knit community should the chance arise.

Barbara and I felt pleased that we were able to continue our strong tradition of Kabbalat Shabbat, even while rolling on the waves at sea.

Yasher Koach to the staff of the Cunard Line who made this possible.

S.S. ST LOUIS REMEMBERED 70 YEARS LATER IN HALIFAX

PAGE 18

BY JOEL JACOBSON

LISA AVEDON WAS ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD IN 1939 BUT HAS VIVID MEMORIES OF HER FIRST RECEPTION IN NORTH AMERICA AS A PASSENGER ON THE S.S. ST. LOUIS.

"There are a few pieces I remember today," the Toronto woman, 74, says, speaking at a ceremony in Halifax commemorating the fateful voyage of the ship. More than 200 people crowded the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in an event coordinated by the museum and the Atlantic Jewish Council.

"I know I was seasick most of the trip and saw only my stateroom and a bit of the deck. But I'll never forget sitting in Havana Harbour, where we were refused admittance at the last minute after being granted visas weeks before."

Lisa says her uncle, living in New Jersey at the time, came to meet Lisa and her family and was sitting in a boat beside the ship that held 907 German Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. "I called to him, 'Take me with you' and I was ready to jump off the deck."

Soon, she was on her way back to Europe, as the Jews were also refused entry into the United States and Canada. The St. Louis' captain docked in Antwerp, Belgium, and the passengers found refuge outside Germany. When the Nazi machine moved into those countries months later, 255 were swept up and exterminated in the concentration camps.

"The fact that this is (memorial event) considered important in Halifax is important to me. It's vital that we're not forgotten," she says. "When I think of the trouble many refugees have today (gaining entry to Canada), the story of the St. Louis has to be carried on. What's going on elsewhere is no different from my story."

With fire in her 74-year-old eyes, Lisa adds, "What is the United Nations doing? Are they helping anyone? There is no reason for humans to treat others this way. Considering the resources we have today, are we doing anything differently? People should be pressing their leaders to show compassion."

Museum historian Dan Conlin reviewed the story of the St. Louis. He told how Canadian prime minister MacKenzie King was ready to admit the Jewish immigrants until his Immigration chief, F.C. Blair, known for his hatred of Jews, sent King a secret memo explaining the passengers didn't qualify under immigration laws. The oft-quoted phrase, "None is too many" has been attributed to Blair. Conlin emphasized, "This should still



Dorothy Riteman speaking with Lisa Avedon

haunt our minds (as Canadians) today."

Each name of the 255 who died in the camps was recited. A replica of the ship, built over 250 hours by museum volunteer Tom Power, and other artefacts, were on display and will be a permanent exhibit starting in October.

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NS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

to the Order of Canada. Additionally, he served as chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and the Israeli Bond Committee, was a governor of Saint Mary's University, vice president of the Nova Scotia Liberal Association, and a director of the Victorian Order of Nurses and Kiwanis Club.

His son, Michael, says his father, who died in 2007 at age 95, was concerned with "improving local business, making a fair living and putting food on the table. He had no interest in being a huge success, just wanted to serve the public, work for the underdog and even the playing field for everyone. He was always extremely

fair in all his dealings. What I learned from him was to give back. You owe a debt to the community in which you are successful."

Since 1993, 56 individuals have been inducted into the Junior Achievement Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame.

ISRAELI PADDLES AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DARTMOUTH, N.S.

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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THE 21-YEAR-OLD ISRAELI KAYAKER FROM KIBBUTZ EINGEV IN THE JORDAN VALLEY LOOKS ACROSS THE START LINE ON THURSDAY AUGUST 13 FOR HIS 1000M K1 HEAT AT THE WORLD CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA.

He sees Canadian champion and 2004 Olympic medalist Adam Van Koeverden in the next lane and Russian champion Anton Ryahov on his other side.

That's competition he's never seen before but after practise two days earlier, Eran was asked if he'd be satisfied with third in his heat. He smiled. "First would be fine."

He finished seventh in 3:52.3, behind heat winner Van Koeverden (3:36.1) and runner-up Ryahov, but still qualified for the semi-final the next day where Eran finished eighth (3:47.1) and missed the A final.

Later Thursday, Eran was seventh, and eliminated, in the K1 500m. His time of 1:57.6 was 10 seconds back of heat winner Van Koeverden.

"I could have paddled better but I think I did OK for my first senior world's," he said.

More than 1,000 athletes, coaches and officials from 70 countries participated in the four-day event. Eran, Israel's lone athlete, was accompanied by coach Anatoly Bshadov and team chief Moshe Yizhak.

It's Eran's first world senior event. He competed at worlds before, but at the

junior level. Moshe, of Kfar Tvol, admits Eran, at 21, is several years from his peak.

"Most world class senior paddlers and kayakers are 28 and above," he says. "This will be a good experience for Eran."

Eran has been kayaking for 11 years, has attended three junior world championships and the last two Europeans. His older brother was a paddler. That built Eran's enthusiasm.

"I live on Lake Kineret (a paddling hot bed with two of three paddling clubs in Israel located there)," says Eran. "The opportunity is there for me."

Moshe notes Israel had several fine paddlers who have now aged and turned to coaching and outside work. Included is Michael Kolganov who won a K1 500m bronze medal in 2000 in the Sydney Olympics, the first-ever Olympic medal for the Israeli Canoe Federation, and Israel's only medal that year. Kolganov won gold in the K1 200m at worlds two years earlier in Hungary.

Eran's goal was to get to the nine-person B final but he didn't qualify. The world's best will battle for gold in the A final. The third tier kayakers qualified for the C final.

"If he can be in the middle of the pack, that will be very good for Eran," said Moshe, prior to the competition.

After practicing on a damp, cool morning, Eran says his best time in the 1000 K1 (single kayaker in the boat) is about 3:40. The top athletes go below 3:30. He has reached 1:44 in the 500 K1 while the best finish under 1:37.



From left – Eran, Moshe and Anatoli

Moshe is pleased with Eran's work. "It's cold here, though," he says in 18C temperatures. "Right now in Israel, it's in the 40s. Eran's (two-a-day) training regimen has slowed down so he'll be fresh when the competition begins."

Eran will complete his three years army service in October. Moshe says Eran has been able to train morning and night and do six hours of army work in the middle of the day.

"They have a special program for elite athletes," he says. "It's hard to qualify for that posting (in the army)."

The Israeli contingent is staying in a Dalhousie University residence. Eran and Moshe twice attended Shabbat Eve services at nearby Beth Israel Synagogue. Saturday, while Eran trained, Moshe returned to shul.

"It was enjoyable," says Moshe. "The young rabbi is from Israel and we had a great discussion. They even invited me to Kiddush," he adds with a smile.

BOB MARLEY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

experience. Let us listen to our inner yearning for a spirited, spiritual, deep, meaningful, lively, soulful, mindful, expansive and I-let-my-Jewish-soul-rock-out-with-God experience of Judaism.

We have begun a number of gatherings, learning sessions, discussions, classes, Kabbalat Shabbat Guitar Services and more here in Halifax to strive to actualize the potential of the Jewish

people, singing, "Let's get together & feel alright".

May all your Chagim be beyond your wildest dreams.

SURVIVOR MAX EISEN CAPTIVATES HALIFAX YOM HASHOAH AUDIENCE

BY JOEL JACOBSON

THEY ARE HERE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE – HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, EDUCATORS, POLITICIANS, PROFESSIONALS, BUSINESS PEOPLE, JEWS, NON-JEWS, MEN, WOMEN AND TEENAGERS.

They fill Pier 21 Auditorium in Halifax to overflowing to honour the six million who died in the Holocaust. They are here to listen to Toronto's Max Eisen tell his story of heartbreak and survival, many wiping tears as he talks of man's inhumanity to man.

They hear introductory music on Hebraic themes, played by Halifax newcomer and accomplished violinist, Viktoria Brunets.

It's Yom Hashoah 2009.

In several Atlantic Canadian communities, large crowds fill halls and synagogues to light memorial candles, recite names of those who perished, and hear testimony from people like Max Eisen. Two nights earlier, he spoke to 200 people at Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney April 19 and is now bringing his message to Halifax.

Elly Gotz, a retired engineer from Toronto and, like Eisen, a speaker with Toronto's Holocaust Centre, addressed audiences in Saint John and Fredericton, N.B. Halifax resident and long-time Holocaust spokesman Philip Riteman, a survivor, addressed a large crowd in Moncton. Fredericton's Israel Unger, also a survivor, spoke in Charlottetown, P.E.I., while survivors, led by Ernie Mauskopf, spoke to their home community of St. John's, NL.

Eisen, 80, said in Halifax he knew he

was home when his ship docked in Quebec City in 1949.

"Canada afforded me a new life, a new start, a family and success in business," said the retired Toronto manufacturer.

"I came alone (after being in concentration camps and on death marches for the last year of World War II). Only two cousins survived with me."

He said Germans lived by three words concerning Jews – excommunication, expulsion and extermination.

"Just today, I read of a speech given by the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at a human rights conference in Switzerland. What I heard Hitler say on radio in 1938, when I was nine years old, that Jews should be exterminated from the world, was the same as I read today. What's so upsetting is that, even though people today walked out from that speech, many sat and applauded after he finished."

He stressed this should be a warning to everyone. "The Germans took our freedoms away. How can we live in a world today where these choices could be taken away again!"

Born in Czechoslovakia, Eisen was 15 in 1944 when he and his family



Max Eisen and Viktoria Brunets

were uprooted from Moldava, then in Hungary, and taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Existing on about 300 calories a day, a skeletal Eisen toiled in labour gangs, with his father and uncle, the only survivors from his immediate family. They were soon subjected to medical experiments and slain.

"This was a world no one can imagine unless you lived it. Their aim was to grind us away body and soul. But I had a tremendous will to go on. I didn't want to wind up in the gas chamber."

When liberated by the American 761st Black Battalion on May 6, 1945, Eisen's extended family of 70 people was nearly decimated. He lived in an orphanage for three years, and arrived in Toronto in 1949, where he married, had children (now has great-grandchildren) and retired in 1991 to become a volunteer Holocaust educator.

"As Jews, we must continue to say, 'You can't do this to us, or anyone, in our cities, in our country, in our time.'"

We at the Atlantic Jewish Council encourage input in the form of articles relating to Jewish life in Atlantic Canada.

Please address correspondence to ellevine@theajc.ns.ca

TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE HOLOCAUST, MAX EISEN SPEAKS OPENLY ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES TO PASS ON THESE VITAL MEMORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

On April 19th, Max was the guest speaker at the Yom Ha'Shoah observance at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney.

Born in Moldova, Czechoslovakia in 1929, Max grew up in a large family of Hungarian descent who were also Orthodox Jews. He started school at the age of 6 where he learned to speak Slovak, German and Hebrew. With a wonderful childhood with family and friends, it was hard to imagine the horrors that would come in the years ahead.

In 1944, Max and his family were

forcefully taken from their home, allowed to take only a few meagre personal belongings. He, his parents, three younger siblings, grandparents, aunt and uncle were herded like cattle in railcars and transported to Auschwitz.

When he entered Auschwitz-Birkenau at the age of 15, he was immediately sent to the labour section of the camp along with his father and uncle, who were subsequently subjected to medical experiments and slain.

With the flick of an SS officer's wrist, the rest of his family was marked for termination and marched directly to the ovens.

When Max asked a guard the next day when he would see his family, the man laughed. "He said, 'Your family has gone up the chimney.' That was the only way out."

Subsisting on about 300 calories a day, a skeletal Eisen toiled in labour gangs, cleaning swamps and lining them with lime, among other duties. On May 6th, 1945



L-R Avvie Druker, Evy Druker, Shirley Chernin

Max heard the sounds of tanks. He was able to crawl outside to see Allied soldiers and finally taste freedom. Even after liberation however, it would be a slow and long road to recovery before he would have his normal life back. He would need to slowly get his body used to consuming regular foods again, but the worst was over. He lived in a boys' home in Czechoslovakia for a few years until moving to Canada in 1949, where he met his wife and started a successful manufacturing business.

Today, Max is retired and his children have taken over the business. He spends his time speaking to the general public to share his stories. He knows that education is a vital part in ensuring that those who lost their lives will never be forgotten.

As has become the tradition at the Sydney Holocaust Memorial Services, an award is presented annually to recognize contributions made in the furtherance of Holocaust Education. This year, Avvie and Evy Druker received the honour. They have worked tirelessly as a team for many years organizing the observances and are worthy recipients of the recognition.



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VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY IN BASS RIVER, NS

BY DR. KAREN EWING

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THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK IS A UNIQUE PLACE; UNIQUE IN ITS DESIGN, PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

Located in rural Nova Scotia near the shores of the Bay of Fundy's historic tides, these sculpted gardens are a 'living memorial' to those who served or continue to serve in Canada's Armed forces.

Three intersecting gardens: The Garden of Sorrows – designed as a WWI trench; The Garden of Remembrance – a heritage garden with only white blooms; and The Garden of Hope – a vibrant international garden, all intertwine in the form of a Celtic flower bringing to mind the horrors of war, the need to remember and hope for peace.

The gardens were designed by the local doctor, a transplanted Newfoundlander. After visiting the Western Front with her cousin and retracing the steps of a Great Uncle, a member of the Newfoundland Regiment, and her Grandfather, a member of the Royal Navy, both from WWI, she returned with a conscious determination to 'do something' to remember and commemorate the enormity of the sacrifice witnessed in that journey. Being a conservationist, a 'living memorial' – a park, was most fitting.

With a committee formed, local fund raising and help from the Municipal and Provincial governments, the gardens were created by the people of Bass River and surrounding areas in the spirit of community, with donations of time, effort and materials, in the summer of 2008.

The purpose of the park is to provide a year-round venue for reflection, remembrance and education. The park provides a unique opportunity for the visitor to experience in some small way the horrors of war. Entering the Garden of Sorrows gives the visitor the illusion of stepping down into a WWI trench as over 1000 sand bags rise on either side.



Dr. Karen Ewing

An upturned soldiers' helmet is a stark reminder of the sacrifice. John Oxenham's poem, "Tread Softly Here" is displayed and sets the tone for your journey. Blood red roses climb the barbed wire at the edge of the trench, isolating the visitor. As you turn the corner, away from war, the white Heritage Garden comes into view with familiar sights and scents from years past. Five granite pillars house the names of over 300 soldiers who served or currently serve in Canada's military. Three benches are available and have been dedicated to the families of soldiers, for the parents who lose children, children who lose parents and spouses; innocents whose lives are torn apart by war. Behind the Garden of Remembrance, the Provincial, Canadian and United Nations flags are flown, and are lowered to half mast to mark the deaths of our soldiers on Peacekeeping missions.

The park's scope is wide ranging and inclusive. It is a place to remember and it has become more – a place to listen as Veterans come here to tell their stories and here they are collected to help preserve these memories for our young people. It is a place to celebrate, a place to reflect, a place to hope.

To date, the Veterans Memorial Park has

hosted celebrations for Canada Day (with its' grand opening on July 1st, 2008); International Day of Peace, Sept. 21st; Remembrance Day, Nov. 11th and, most recently, Holocaust Remembrance Day at dusk on April 21st.

On that day, the parks flags were lowered at sunrise and a CD of names of Jews killed in the death camps (downloaded from Yad Vashem and recorded by Elizabeth Shein, a member of the Jewish community) was played throughout the day. Pictures of scenes from ghettoization, deportation and the death camps were displayed in the Garden of Sorrows. Pictures of liberations and some of the 'Righteous Among the Nations' were displayed in the Garden of Hope.

The day started out cool but clear. In mid afternoon the skies opened with wind and rain. Undaunted, at dusk, 50 people gathered around a stylized, wooden Star of David, made by one of our local Veterans. The star was placed in front of the granite monument reserved for those who have paid the Supreme Sacrifice. Each person gathered was given a candle with the name of a child killed at Auschwitz written on it, followed by the words "remembered by" after which they placed their own name.

continued

NEWCOMERS IN OUR REGION

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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AS FORMER ISRAELI DAVID KORN OF HALIFAX SPEAKS HEBREW TO HIM, NEWCOMER ARTUR ITZHAKOV SMILES WARMLY.

"Please," he says. "Speak English. I can already speak Hebrew."

Artur, and wife Ella, are among more than 30 couples who have uprooted from Israel in the last year to bring their families to Halifax and Atlantic Canada.

The newcomer program, initiated by the Atlantic Jewish Council, and with cooperation from regional immigration programs, is designed to increase the Jewish populations of declining small communities.

So far, so good.

The newly-settled families, most with young children, are enthusiastic about starting over in a new land.

Isaac Moscovich arrived from Ashdod, Israel, in early July, followed in August by his wife, Maya, and son Bar, 6, and daughter Shai, 3. Unlike many of the immigrants, Isaac found a job at once, in

the web development field because, he says, "I looked for a job and found it."

The prime reason for the move by Isaac and Maya, a legal administrator in Israel looking for work in Halifax, was for the children. "There are better educational opportunities and there's no threat of war here," Isaac says in very presentable English.

He notes the friendliness of the local people has been a pleasant surprise. "At the supermarket, the cashier talks to you and asks how you are. Not like in Israel."

Artur Itzhakov the Moscovich's, Nana Shteinberg, and Ines and Michael Gutman are attending a Conversational Café at the Bayit in Halifax. The program, runs weekly throughout the summer, was one of the programs organized by the Newcomers Programming Committee, chaired by Danny Dechitar. The Dechtiars were the first immigrant family to settle in Halifax in September 2008.

"We organized these sessions so we could be involved in the Canadian Jewish culture and to improve our English by speaking with Canadian families,"



Joel Jacobson interviewing Michael Gutman

says Artur, a committee member who arrived in early June 2009. On this late August evening, half a dozen locals are chatting amiably and animatedly with the newcomers.

"I speak Russian, Hebrew and English," says Artur who moved from Petach Tikvah, near Tel Aviv. "In September, I hope to take English as a Second Language course which will help me get a job. I was a systems administrator in computers in Israel but so far haven't found work here. I find people aren't as open to immigrants who can't speak English well enough to deal with customers."

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VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - CONTINUED

The service opened with a quote found on a piece of paper by a soldier liberating one of the death camps:

"The burden is now yours, though you do not know me, remember me,"

Rabbi David Ellis recited a prayer of mourning in Hebrew and then in English and reminded those gathered that good things must come of even the most horrible acts. And that perhaps one of those good things was our gathering together, on this night, to remember.

There was a moment of silence throughout which they only thing heard were the recorded names. The service continued with a poem followed by six stories. After each story, a candle was lit by a member of the Jewish community, one

candle at each point of the star, for each of the million Jews killed in the camps.

Remarkably, at this point in the service, the rain stopped and it became very cold - cold enough to see your breath. At this time we were reminded of the sacred spark from Shekhinah's flame, and each person in attendance lit their candle, remembering the child, the sacred spark that candle represented. Each person then placed their candle in holders on the Star of David. By the end of the service the star was completely illuminated and candles placed on the ground below. The candles flickered and reflected off the granite monuments and the names of the soldiers engraved thereon. As the service ended, people remained silent, gathered around the star.

This service was the first of its kind for our area. It has been reported as informative, moving and meaningful. Yom Ha-Shoah Ve-Hagevurah, a Holocaust Remembrance Day service, will be held every year at the Veterans Memorial Park of the 27th Day of Nisan.

Though we did not know them, we will remember them.

When you travel to the Fundy Shore of Nova Scotia, please visit the Veterans Memorial Park located on Highway #2 in Bass River, Colchester County. You are welcome.

For more information please visit www.veteranmemorialpark.com

His wife, Ella, was a school English teacher and also taught Hebrew in an Israeli day care. She already has found work in Halifax as a substitute day-care teacher.

Like most of the immigrants, Ines and Michael Gutman are highly-skilled.

Michael, looking for a job opportunity in Halifax, is an electronics engineer who spent 14 years in Israel in research and development in the telecom and datacom industries. He says many positions that are available are filled from inside and aren't advertised "which makes it impossible to submit an application. I really thought it would be easier to find a job."

Ines, with two girls under 10 years old, has 10 years experience as an industrial engineer and is looking for work, too. "I love it here except for the fact I can't find work. (Job hunting) is a totally different process here."

In Israel, she says one resume can be sent to anyone and there was no requirement for a cover letter. "In Halifax, you have to target your market and send a different cover letter with each application. My English isn't perfect so I have to find someone to help me prepare it."

Ines, born in Kazakstan and raised in Moldavia until moving to Israel with her family at age 16, says the political and religious situations in Israel compelled she and Michael to move to Halifax.

"After a couple of months here, I have no regrets," she says. "It's exactly as I imagined Halifax - a quiet, small city."

Anticipating a cold winter doesn't concern her. "I grew up where there is snow and



Isaac & Maya Moscovich & David Korn at the conversational café

cold, and Michael is from the Ukraine, so he knows it, too."

Ines misses the larger quantities and variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and finds them very expensive in Halifax. "We ate salad twice a day in Israel and still do here. But the meats and fish are more plentiful here, even though they, too, are more expensive. But we know this is where we are, and we have to get used to it."

Zohar El was one of the first Israelis to arrive with her family. It was August 2007 when she touched down in Moncton from Ashkelon in the Negev.

"It is a big change," she says in an e-mail. "It was hard leaving family, friends and jobs. It was a long process and it wasn't easy at the beginning to adjust to the new culture, weather, food (it's very hard to find kosher) but with time, we've found that Moncton is really peaceful and the people are very nice. The landscape is beautiful, too. During the winter, we continue to find more ways to enjoy the snow."

She writes that there is less pressure in employment and education in Moncton than there was in Israel. "It is more easy going," she says. "People in the Maritimes are very nice."

Zohar, her husband Ury and sons Noam, 12, and Nir, 8, have settled in nicely. Ury attends shul every Saturday where Zohar serves on the education committee. She's also on the Jewish community's immigration committee. In their first year, they were invited to Shabbat dinners with community people and now meet regularly with many of those friends.

The children found the first year difficult



Judith Goldberg conducting a School information session for our new families in Halifax. L-R: Nana Shteinberg, Judith Goldberg, Michael & Ines Gutman, Artur and Ella Itzhakov

with adjustments to the language and culture. But now they are happy and doing well in school. They also are active at the YMCA of Greater Moncton, where Zohar is a community support worker. Ury is a computer technician by training, but is working for Kent Building Supplies. When Zohar arrived in Moncton, she took a course at the multi-cultural association, through which she found a job at the Y.

"The people at the YMCA made my adjustment much easier," says Zohar. "They made me feel welcome and it's really become my second home."

Jon Goldberg, executive director of the AJC, loves to hear those positive comments.

"When we heard a number of Israelis were leaving there to find new homes, we decided to make Halifax an option for them. We knew that many had emigrated to Toronto and Winnipeg through the years and, with the Nova Scotia government keen on immigration, we pushed ahead."

The governments of the four Atlantic Provinces began to encourage immigration, but with



Ines Gutman & Nana Shteinberg

continued

different programs, so committees in each Province were on their own, say Jon.

"In Nova Scotia, there is a Nominee Program that expedites the process for immigration. We've been able to get 42 families nominated to come to the area, and we have about 30 already here, in Halifax at this point."

Jon suggests the need for newcomers is immense. "Our young people go away for jobs after university and don't return. If we want to sustain levels of population, we have to bring in people. A recent census of children, ages one to 13, shows that particular population has doubled in Halifax because the newcomers have young families."

Integration is vitally important to keep the newcomers happy and connected. That has been a constant effort of a local committee. "We're running programs for the kids in conjunction with the combined Hebrew School. We've twinned a number of families with age-alike counterparts in the Jewish community. A young professional group held a barbecue

recently and many of the newcomers showed up. The synagogues have reached out. We're really working on integration."

Nana Shteinberg arrived in Halifax from B'nai B'rak in November 2008 with husband Ian, children Sharon, 9, and David, 5, and Labrador mix dog, Lucky. "It wasn't an easy decision (to move to Halifax)," Nana says. "It was probably easier for me than for Ian because my parents are in Belarus but his are in Israel."

She admits it's been interesting to develop a new home. "Sharon is entering Grade 4, is taking ESL and doing very well. David is going into primary. They've made friends because we live in a neighbourhood (in Dartmouth) where there are lots of children. Children meeting children means the parents will meet, too."

Nana says she and Ian, like many of the newcomer families, met each other in Israel before they started leaving there. "We've stayed in touch here but have friends in the wider community, Jewish and non-Jewish. You don't make friends

because of nationality. People are either good or not."

Nana grew up in Minsk where winter was normal. "I didn't mind the cold last winter," she smiles. "People here said it was the longest and coldest winter they'd had in years, but to me, it wasn't so cold."

They really didn't mind moving (to Halifax), she says. After very large Minsk, and the hustle and bustle of the Tel Aviv area, they find Halifax small, with no traffic. "I was tired of the big city," she laughs.

"Some find change difficult," Nana says. "We didn't. Ian has a job as a systems administrator offering technical support. I was a bookkeeper in Israel but am at home with the kids for now."

The conversation in the Bayit continues as people mingle and meet. The odd word of Hebrew is heard but English is front and centre.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE DECHTIARS

BY JOEL JACOBSON

DANNY AND MORIYA DECHTIAR WERE PIONEERS.

IN SEPTEMBER 2008, THE DECHTIAR BECAME THE FIRST IMMIGRANT NEWCOMERS FROM ISRAEL TO SETTLE IN HALIFAX.

Since then, the couple has been the go-to contacts for more than 30 other families electing to leave their homeland and re-establish lives in a new community.

They are trail-blazers, helping find homes for others and develop welcoming programs, acting as advisors, encouraging newcomers and, most importantly, being

friends to those who need a shoulder on which to lean.

In the Chanukah 2008 edition of Shalom Magazine, they related their story of arrival and survival in Halifax. They wrote about the paper work needed to immigrate, to re-



Bianna Kuksin & son Jonathan at New Ross farm

settle in a new land. They told of packing all their belongings in four suitcases and two back packs, saying goodbye to families, living out of suitcases for a week before finding an apartment, buying a car and completing all the necessary paperwork – applying for SIN numbers, health cards, opening bank accounts, setting up TV plans, and phones.

The first days and weeks were hectic. By October, Danny's sister, Bianna, her husband Michael Kuksin, and their children, joined the Decthiar and started a wave of immigration that stands now at

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over 30 families and is growing.

Today, the couple describes a new joyous new life in Halifax and what they miss about Israel in a recent e-mail question-and-answer session with Shalom Magazine.

SHALOM: From what community in Israel did you emigrate?

DECHTIARS: We were living in the south part of Israel since we studied at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. Danny's family is from Qiryat Gat and Moriya's family is from a Moshav near that city (an agricultural settlement).

SHALOM: You have science degrees in information systems engineering from Ben Gurion University. What are you doing for work in Halifax?

DECHTIARS: We are both enrolled in a program called Welcome Home to Canada which is managed by the Pier21 museum to help young immigrants get Canadian work experience and better ready them for the Canadian labour market. Our positions are IT and Graphic Design coordinators. In addition, we are developing a full scale information system for the program itself.

SHALOM: How easy or difficult has the adjustment been from Israel to Halifax?

DECHTIARS: We are both very dynamic and active so it took us very little time to get settled. Even when we were in Israel we were making preparations to ease our move. We visited Halifax, participated in online MISA (Metropolitan immigrant Settlement Association) programs, researched the job market, etc. Actually, doing the immigration process itself was very helpful in preparing us for the future. Liaising with government officials on our immigration files and maintaining the forum so that people will be answered accurately made us very knowledgeable and ready for what laid ahead. The only real difficulty is being away from our families.

Holidays weren't easy, though. Suddenly, you truly have to make an effort to feel

the holiday. Halifax streets don't smell like doughnuts on Hanukah, they're not swamped with kids in costumes on Purim, and of course, having to make everything from scratch since the local stores do not sell the traditional Israeli foods. At least Moriya is an expert cook by now!

SHALOM: Have you been able to get involved in the Halifax Jewish community?

DECHTIARS: We truly feel that Halifax is our home and therefore we try to get involved in just about anything. We understand that immigrants are the key to get new life into this community and that is why we try to make Halifax feel like home for the other immigrants, too. We keep in touch with other immigrants through our website www.halifaxshelanu.com. We are leading the Newcomers Programming Committee and we want this community to thrive.

We are thankful for being a part of such an active community that promotes values of great importance for us such as Holocaust Education, Jewish traditions and Israel relations. Danny lighted a commemorative candle at the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony and doing that here in Halifax, remembering our relatives on that day, was extremely emotional and important for us.

SHALOM: Have people invited you to their homes to help you become accustomed to Canadian life?

DECHTIARS: We arrived in Halifax just a few days before Rosh Hashanah and we got two invitations for holiday dinners (in Israel, only the first night is celebrated.). Gillian & David King and Carol & Ray Ginsberg both hosted us generously and were both warmly welcomed and grateful. We kept in touch long after that and had them to an Israeli style dinner at our apartment. In fact, we went blueberry picking with Carol & Ray two weeks ago and it was a lot of fun.

SHALOM: What do you like about Halifax and Canada?



Danny Dechtiar, Irina & Leonid Leshchinsky,
Moriya Dechtiar

DECHTIARS: Being smiled at by strangers, being the only one rushing somewhere, being the one person who is interested in politics, reading the headlines news and seeing that the only real action is on the weather channel, driving the province and seeing all the beautiful lakes, skiing in the winter, watching the city come to life in the summer... This running list is very long and the more we are here the longer it gets.

SHALOM: What do you miss about Israel?

DECHTIARS: Israel is a very special place for us. Always was and always will be. We miss the places and views like the amazing feeling of Jewish history under your feet when you walk the magical streets of Jerusalem. We miss the straightforwardness of people telling you exactly what's on their mind with little if any censorship. Most of all we miss our families, getting together for Friday dinners, and simply being, at most, a walk or a drive away from each other.

SHALOM: How often are you in contact with them?

We talk using Skype almost every day. We got new computers installed for our parents before we moved so we can use video calling, emails and we even have a YouTube channel to share family videos. A new baby just joined the family in Israel and we could be a part of all the excitement thanks to technology!

TRANSITION: SMOOTHER FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILY

BY JOEL JACOBSON

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ALL IT WOULD TAKE TO MAKE THE LIFE OF THE KULAKEVICH FAMILY COMPLETE IS A JOB THAT NIKOLAY LIKES.

The patriarch of the recent arrivals in Halifax was a police driver in his native Ukraine. When he, his wife Olga, and their two boys, Andrey and Alex (now 17 and 14) moved to Israel 12 years ago, Nikolay worked in a factory that made plastic pipe.

"He can take a diagram or plan and easily follow it to its conclusion," says Olga, speaking on behalf of her husband whose English is a work in progress.

"We've sent resumes and applications to many companies here and Nikolay's had interviews for labour work and finally a labour-type job came through. It's very frustrating because he has the ability to work as a skilled machinist with high qualifications."

They moved to Israel for economic reasons where, Olga says, it was easy for Nikolay to find work where they lived in Hadera, Israel, in the middle of the country between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

"There, they let you show them what you can do," she says. "Here, they ask for a certificate first."

Everything else is reasonably comfortable for the family, settled in a high-rise apartment overlooking west-end Halifax. In the Ukraine, where they lived about 150 km from Odessa, Olga trained in cultural arts and worked as a librarian and music teacher. In Israel, she was an accounting clerk, then a day-care worker. "When we came to Halifax last September, I tried to find bookkeeping work but after a month, started work in a day care. For the first time in my life, I have a wonderful relationship with my supervisor and co-workers. I've been lucky."

Olga says she completed a daycare management course in Israel but, as an assistant educator, didn't earn more than minimum wage.

"In Halifax, I'm a teacher at a daycare centre because I have this special course in Early Child Education from Israel, and experience, too. My supervisor makes sure I get a good salary."

Occasionally, Olga reaches for an English word to describe her feelings, although she speaks her new language very well. She and Nikolay, fluent in Russian and Hebrew and knowledgeable in Ukrainian, are studying English as a Second Language.

The boys, fluent in Russian and Hebrew, are also taking ESL at school as well as a regular course load. Andrey is in Grade 11 at Citadel High and Alex is a grade 8 student at St. Agnes Junior High.

"I was really the instigator for the move to Canada," smiles Andrey, whose English is close to perfect. "I was planning to leave Israel anyway after my army duty to move to another country. I researched and Canada seemed to be a good situation, similar to the United States, but with better laws and friendlier people."

When he talked to his parents about the family moving, they basically agreed, he says. Olga says it was peaceful in the Ukraine, much less so in Israel, and that perpetrated the move to Canada.

Her mother and brother live in Israel, having moved there from the Ukraine about a year and a half before Olga's family. "I miss them," Olga admits, but they speak at least once a week. Nikolay's family is still in the Ukraine and he converses with them at least once monthly.

The adjustment to a new country has been generally smooth. With other former Russian and Israeli families now in Halifax as part of the immigrant program, and more on their way, it is less lonely.

They have attended events at Beth Israel Synagogue. The boys have made connections through school and are doing well academically. Alex attended



Nikolay & Olga Kulakevich

Camp Kadimah last summer.

Olga says Alex is making better grades at St. Agnes because the class size is smaller than in Israel. "There, classes had as many as 40 children or more. Here, there are only 22. Israel is very crowded, much smaller than all of Nova Scotia with seven times the population."

Andrey finds academics less challenging at Citadel High than in Israel where he was taking advanced classes. "There's a semester system here compared to whole year courses in Israel. While I could select subjects to study in Israel, in Halifax there are so many more choices. I'm taking physics, advanced mathematics and ESL this term. I chose physics because I need one science to graduate. My plan is to study accounting or computer science when I get to university."

In the Ukraine, they had little chance to practice Judaism but Olga says that changed in Israel.

"At the day care where I worked, I studied culture with the kids and learned songs and how to pray."

The boys admit they miss their friends in Israel, too, but Andrey says, "at this point. things are OK."

JIAS OFFICIAL RECOGNIZES SUCCESS

BY JOEL JACOBSON

AT THE END OF A WHIRLWIND VISIT TO HALIFAX, MILA VOIHANSKI SUMMARIZES HER FINDINGS.

The executive director of JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) says she gets a sense the Israeli newcomers to Halifax are happy.

"They can feel the support of the community," she says. "They sense the special treatment they're receiving from the provincial government, Greater Halifax Partnership, Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association (MISA) and the Atlantic Jewish Council."

Mila was in Halifax in July to meet with the AJC's Edna LeVine, who, besides other duties, has been coordinating the immigrant arrival program to ensure they get properly settled.

"Without Edna, this would never be taking place," says Jon Goldberg, executive director of AJC and Edna's boss.

The support of Mila and JIAS has been major as well. "We're supportive of immigrant programs anywhere in Canada," stresses Mila. "It's a way to sustain communities and retain a certain political influence. We're able to offer some assistance to those who come to Canada, but want to stress we're not competing with Israel or anyone else to have these people come here."

JIAS provides token financial assistance

for program costs through its own funding by United Israel Appeal of Canada Federations Canada (UIAFC). "Nothing specific has been assigned to Halifax."

Mila says JIAS is providing consultation services and professional support to AJC staff and volunteers, even counseling, if necessary, to individual clients and/or communities.

"Edna is learning on the job," notes Mila. "She needs support and advice to ensure a high level of operation as she networks with non-Jewish organizations on behalf of the newcomers."

A drop-in time was established with MISA, a highly respected organization with both government and the outside community. Mila and Edna also met with the YMCA about its school support system, important in the multicultural Halifax society.

"It's vital for us to help grow the Jewish community," says Mila. "The community is working on a special Jewish education program for the children. Newcomer parents want their children to retain their Hebrew, but we see the advantage of having the parents or children teaching some Russian to the Halifax-area kids.



Mila Voihanski & Edna LeVine

We don't want to isolate the immigrant children because of any language barrier but want them coordinated in the program."

She says this specific program is applying for funding from the Swiss-based Dorothea Gould Foundation, established for Jewish immigrant youth programs. "This year, that foundation assisted in covering some of the costs to send newcomer children to Camp Kadimah."

Meetings with the Nova Scotia government indicated to Mila that this immigration program is considered successful. "They understand the commitment the Jewish community is making and are willing to work towards that."

HALIFAX NEWCOMERS PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

BY DANNY DECHTIAR, CHAIR, NEWCOMERS PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

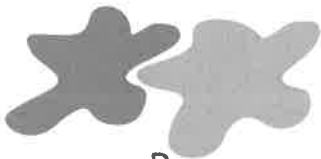
BEING AN IMMIGRANT MEANS THAT EVERYTHING IS NEW AND DIFFERENT. EACH DAY YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND THINGS THAT MAY LOOK TRIVIAL ARE ACTUALLY NOT.

I have noticed that there is much to do and that is why I was happy to attend when Edna suggested a meeting to discuss programs for newcomers.

All of us, newcomers to Halifax,

attending that meeting two months ago, wanted to take part and were willing to volunteer our time in order to help our fellow newcomers. We were able to use the Jewish student's house since it

continued



Newcomers Programming Committee

is summer break and it seemed like a wonderful opportunity – we were excited to get started.

As we were planning activities and workshops, we suddenly understood just how much knowledge we have acquired in the last year and how we can truly use it to help others. We could identify the biggest challenges an immigrant may face and tried to address most of them during this summer.

The first thing to do was to get to know everybody and what better way to do it than a BBQ? We had a lot of fun but also took the opportunity to do a survey asking people about their priorities and needs to make sure we are accommodating them. The results were clear and as we anticipated, the greatest interest was in language and employment related activities.

We had to work fast. We started a series of employment related workshops (Canadian resume, interview readiness etc.) and at the same time we hosted a series of conversational cafes to allow people to work on their language skills, we also had experts coming and discussing about mortgages and how to establish a credit history, again a new concept for someone to come from Israel.



Newcomers BBQ

Of course we made sure to have some fun together too so we planned an excursion to New Ross Farm which was a delight for kids and adults.

The summer is not over yet and there is more to do. Our next major event is a networking event to connect the newcomers with the greater community members. The main idea behind the event is exploring employment opportunities and helping the newcomers expand their local network. The importance of networking was perhaps the greatest lesson this last year had taught us.

From the point I see it, both as a newcomer and the chair of the Newcomers Programming Committee, there is more to do in the future, the work never ends. Moving to Canada is much more than filling applications and booking a flight, it is all about a paradigm shift. Networking, socializing, self-marketing and being involved within your community are the main things people should invest when moving to Canada, particularly if it is to Atlantic Canada. By understanding this, it became easier to deploy a road



New Ross farm

map for the Newcomers Programming Committee. Currently we are working on future activities and development, seeking new opportunities that will include more collaboration with local and nationwide organizations such as Greater Halifax Partnership, MISA, HILC, BDC, CEED, NS Office of Immigration and many more. We will offer a wider variety of activities, our knowledge base and experience are growing day by day.

Jon and Edna, I would like to thank you for all your efforts and dedication. For being there to open for us the doors of the Bayit (and I mean that not just literally).

Well... as for the future, our task is not to foresee it, but to enable it.

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SHAUL LANDA REMEMBERED

BY JOEL JACOBSON

THE MAN CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE THE FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ATLANTIC JEWISH COUNCIL HAS DIED IN ISRAEL.

Shaul Landa passed away in Arad, Israel August 13 at age 68. He had suffered from multiple sclerosis for more than a decade but died in his sleep from a stroke.

Shaul was remembered as a driving force behind the growth of Atlantic Jewish Council. Shalom Magazine was a pet project. Communicating throughout the region was also important to the enthusiastic, energetic man who made sure the wider community knew of the Jewish existence here.

"He was a bright light, an enjoyable person to be around, and injected a lot of youthful energy into AJC and the community in general," recalled Halifax lawyer and businessman Frank Medjuck.

The 68-year-old native of Poland, who immigrated to Edmonton from Russia with his family in the late 1940s, was recruited to Halifax from Israel in 1975 to lead the Atlantic regional coordinating body of Jewish communities by then president, the late Benny Prossin. By then, Shaul had been in Israel for two years, teaching English in Arad, a community near the Dead Sea.

Halifax businessman Zack Rubin met Landa at a Young Judea national conference in 1959 when both were teenagers. "He was full of enthusiasm

then, and that excitement for life and learning and spreading the word of Israel and everything Jewish stayed with him forever."

Rubin and Landa remained in contact for decades – as young men spending a year in Israel at the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad, then as staff at Camp Biluim, and latterly when Rubin and his family lived in Israel for several years in the 1980s.

"Shaul was executive director of AJC from 1975 to 1978, then returned to Israel for the remainder of his life," said Rubin. "When my family made Aliyah for several years, we remained strong friends, our families spending much time together."

In Halifax, Shalom Magazine, the regular connection between Maritime communities, also read avidly by ex-Maritimers living around the world, was his pet project, says Shaul's wife of 42 years, Elana Landa, speaking last week (Friday Aug 28) by telephone from Israel.

"He loved the region and the people," she said. "He travelled extensively in the region, encouraging people to participate (in Jewish activities), to grow and be involved."

Shaul was a well-loved director of Camp Kadimah. Elana said she and Shaul loved the camp.

"This is where Shaul bloomed, flourished and became energized, if he wasn't enough already," she said with a chuckle. "It was an atmosphere he believed in. He

was there heart and soul, ensuring young people should know about Israel. He tried to inspire that feeling, and pass it on to the campers."

She called Shaul a "people person", involved in programming, education and even the journalistic side.

Medjuck and Rubin both recall Landa's weekly Halifax radio show on Israeli issues, intermingled with music and culture. "He made sure the wider community knew about the Jewish people living here," said Rubin.

When the Landas returned to Israel in 1978, Shaul became program director of the World Union of Jewish Students, a program for university graduates who came to Israel from abroad to learn Hebrew and experience the country before starting their own careers.

"It was right up his alley," said Elana, who met Shaul when both were students at University of Alberta in Edmonton. "It was similar to the Kadimah situation. Shaul was always the educator, always the promoter."

His strengths, she said, were his optimism, his undying belief in the State of Israel, a belief in human values, and a thirst for knowledge in world politics.

Retired at the time of his passing, Landa, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1997. He died in his sleep from a stroke. He leaves Elana, four children, one living in Israel, and three grandchildren.

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Scholarships & Bursaries Available

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Throughout their lives, Noa and Sarah Heinish devoted themselves to the betterment of their community, their house of worship and the State of Israel.

Passover of 1943 found Noa and Sarah assisting in the preparation of a Seder for hundreds of young Jewish servicemen stationed in Halifax before shipping out to Europe.

At the end of WW II, Noa was one of a group of interpreters who met the ships which brought Holocaust survivors from Europe to the shores of Halifax. Speaking in Yiddish, he helped them transfer to the trains which took them to family members awaiting their arrival in upper Canada.

Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president. Together with Sarah they lent their support to every arm of the congregation.

Sarah Heinish was an active member of Women's League, Hadassah, Neptune Theatre, the Soroptimists and the Nova Scotia Institute for the Blind. Both Noa and Sarah gave generously of their time and resources in the support of Israel Bond drives, United Jewish Appeal, Camp Kadimah and other groups and were leaders in the Canadian Jewish Congress. For many years they operated a successful clothing business on Gottingen Street in downtown Halifax which closed in 1972.

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established **The Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation**. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel. A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Council Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish community to study in Israel. Dependent on the vagaries of the market, the scholarship should provide a stipend of several thousand dollars to the successful recipient. *Application deadline: April 30, 2010*

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

A limited number of scholarships of \$2,000 each are available to worthy students, one or both of whose parents profess the Jewish faith. The scholarship is open to students of the Atlantic Region for the purpose of establishing or continuing exposure to their Jewish heritage by means of study, travel, community service or other suitable means. *Application deadline: April 30, 2010*

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

A \$500 bursary awarded to a Jewish student from Atlantic Canada to further Jewish studies in Israel or in the Diaspora. *Application deadline: April 30, 2010*

For further information and applications please contact the Atlantic Jewish Foundation (scholarships and bursaries)

in c/o Jon Goldberg,
jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

422-7491 x222



Camp Lubavitch 2009 campers & staff



Artist Lynn Rotin, Holocaust survivor Max Eisen & Edna LeVine, Yom HaShoah, Halifax



Jon Goldberg speaking with Daniel & Rinat Kleiman at a newcomer workshop, Halifax



Maya Budovitch presenting at Yom Hashoah, Halifax



Rabbi Sherbill & daughter



Dave Aranoff, Fredericton



The baked goods squad at the Sydney Hadassah Bazaar L-R Shayna Allen, Margaret Karrell, Jean David, Kate McCharles



Bassie Feldman serving food at Halifax Jewish Community Picnic



Israeli paddler Eran Lev with Mark David and coach Anatoly Bshodov and team chief Moshe Yizhak



Jon Goldberg with Camp Kadimah Israeli campers



Newcomers to Halifax Marina & Evengy Gorets, Nikolay & Olga Kulakevich with Alan Stern, Halifax Immigration committee co-chair



Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly presenting Marianne Ferguson a Volunteer Recognition Award



Joel Jacobson interviewing Lisa Avedon at SS Louis commemoration, Halifax



Jon Goldberg with Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia as he reads names during Yom HaShoah "Unto Every Person There is A Name"



Krista Daley, CEO Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, with Hedda Medjuck Edna LeVine, Yom HaShoah, Halifax



Newcomer BBQ Halifax: Seated: Howard Budovitch, Danny Dechtiar, Ian Shteinberg, Moriya Dechtiar. Second Row: Igor, Dina & Julia Naymark, Svetlana Ratchinski



Mark David with Itamar Marcus, Palestinian Media Watch, Jerusalem



Yom Haatzmaut celebration at the synagogue in Halifax



Yuval & Yarin Gutman, Sharon & David Shteinberg at a newcomer event, Halifax

CLUB MASSADA NEWS

BY BARB ALBERSTAT, PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART, SENIORS OF HALIFAX AND AREA. Welcome to all who wish to have a tasty lunch and an entertaining program brought to you by our energetic and well known senior (in age only) Shirley Burnstein. All of us who attend the Club Massada lunch meetings, held

once a month, at Northwood enjoy the socializing and companionship of being with each other. We are looking forward to many monthly meetings and hope that many of you will be joining us. Come and see what you have been missing.

Our Annual Chanukah Luncheon was held in December at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue catered by Moishe Sadofsky. Many thanks to him and to the generosity of the Shaar Shalom.

Members and guests enjoyed a lovely closing dinner in May at the Prince George Hotel. Barbara Alberstat, President, presented roses to the Executive and Barbara Yablon, on behalf of the Club Massada members presented the President with a huge, lovely plant for her garden in Shediac. It was a delightful closing to a good year.



Mindy Jacobson receiving flowers for all her good work & dedication to Massada Club

Thank you to Shirley Burnstein, Program Director and to our ongoing Executive and assistants who make my job much easier. A special thank you to the AJC for their continued support.

We will sadly miss several members who have passed away over the last number of years.

A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year to everyone.

Looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the year.



From the left Sammy Mendleson & Marven Sherman both former residents of Cape Breton and Linda Whitzman



From the left Sylvia Levin & Ceilia Fried (Both residents of Northwood)



Barbara & Phil Alberstat (Barb is President of Massada Club)

JNF ATLANTIC CANADA HOSTS AN EVENING WITH BONNIE STERN

BY LAURA TSINMAN, COORDINATOR, JNF ATLANTIC CANADA

PAGE 35

ON JUNE THE 8TH HALIFAX WAS TREATED TO A DELICIOUS EVENING OF FOOD, WINE AND FUN WITH CANADIAN CULINARY LEGEND BONNIE STERN, featuring her latest cookbook, *Friday Night Dinners*. An excited group of Bonnie's cookbook fans gathered at Bonne Cuisine in Spring Garden Place to attend a very special JNF fundraiser and to enjoy an entertaining cooking demonstration, some recipe tasting and, of course, to have their books signed by the author herself. To compliment the food samples, Bishop's Cellar generously supplied the event with some outstanding Nova Scotian wines to taste. Needless to say, everyone attending



Bonnie Stern with Laura Tsinman

this sold out event had a very enjoyable evening, as did Bonnie herself, who loves to meet her readers and fans.

Many thanks go to JNF's sponsors for the event: Spring Garden Place, Thornbloom, Bonne Cuisine and Bishop's Cellar with special thanks also to My Mother's Bloomers for the lovely flowers.

Of course, no fundraiser could happen without the generosity of it's volunteers: Myrna Yazer, Karen Conter, Jenna Conter, Aviva Rubin-Schneider, Marty Merovitch, Susan Sadofsky, Bonnie Abramsky and Boris Tsinman were all on hand to make sure that our JNF event was a success!



Book signing with Bonnie Stern



Lynda Suissa sampling gourmet food

CAPE BRETON HADASSAH BAZAAR BY JACK COLUMBUS

IT'S BEEN A HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED TRADITION FOR THE LAST 41 YEARS as the general Cape Breton community joins with members of Hadassah-WIZO at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney for an annual rite of spring known as "The Bazaar."

Although the membership of the Jewish women's organization has dwindled over

time, their enthusiasm has not. Backed by volunteer "friends of Hadassah", the shul auditorium was again packed with merchandise and home-baked goodies of all kinds and descriptions for sale at bargain-basement prices...the proceeds of which all go to charities in Israel and Cape Breton.

As usual, the public arrived well before the doors opened. There was a mad



People lining up to get into the Bazaar

continued on page 38

AKIM-JERUSALEM REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKS IN CAPE BRETON

PAGE 36

BY JACK COLUMBUS

THE CAPE BRETON JEWISH COMMUNITY PLAYED HOST IN AUGUST TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF AKIM-JERUSALEM, AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1951, dedicated to provide "in the community" housing help for people with mental disabilities and other developmental disorders of all ages and functioning.

Miriam Marcus, Akim-Jerusalem's senior executive for resource development and external affairs was the guest speaker at a gathering at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney. Apart from working on public relations and fund-raising, Mrs. Marcus is also in charge of the Foreign Volunteer program. Twelve young - and not so young - people volunteer from all parts

of the globe - Peru, Germany, Korea, Holland, Finland, Denmark, Belgium,



Miriam Marcus

said the organization operates 3 hostels and 15 apartments housing 153 residents. The average age of residents is approaching 50 and the parents of many of them are no longer alive.

She added that AKIM-Jerusalem has, since its inception, preferred to provide support to families who continue to care for their children with disabilities at home, rather than encouraging their institutionalization, an approach often propagated and practiced by the government.

AKIM-Jerusalem's Family Support Center includes a Respite Care program to which children come for anything from a few hours to several days at a time, thus giving their families a chance to "re-charge their batteries". For those families who cannot send their children out to the Respite Center, Akim provides Home Care support of at least two hours a week.

The association also runs two extended school day programs at the Ben Yehuda School of Special Education and a third at its Respite Care Center. The children that attend these programs are aged 10-14 with medium to serious mental disabilities.

Other projects run by the Family Support Center include Job Opportunity Advice Service and Family Counseling Services.

Switzerland, U.S. and Canada. Each of them comes for a minimum of three months and many stay much longer. They receive pocket money, monthly bus pass, accommodation and food.

Mrs. Marcus



Cape Breton community members with Miriam Marcus (2nd from left front), and Judge Philip Marcus, (2nd from left ,rear row)



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ISRAEL THROUGH THE EYES OF A CAPE BRETON ARTIST

BY JACK COLUMBUS

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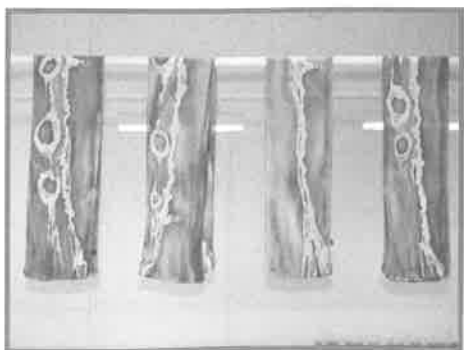
SYDNEY NATIVE LYNDA LOU MACINTYRE CALLS HER LATEST EXHIBIT AT THE CAPE BRETON CENTRE OF CRAFT AND DESIGN



Pomegranates and Sakura Blossoms. It's a diverse show that chronicles her impressions during her travels to Israel, Japan and back to Nova Scotia.

Lynda Lou says the concept for the show arose when she stepped off the plane at Ben Gurion Airport and saw tangerines growing in the traffic triangle. She wanted to share some of the beauty that she saw in that country and Japan. From their unique cultures to their stunning landscape, she recorded images with her camera, her brush and memory.

Pomegranates and Sakura Blossoms, which



was on public display from July 15th to August 29th, consists primarily of watercolour paintings and also includes painted silks and jewellery, all inspired by her travels. There are also wall hangings of silk and antique chairs upholstered in hand-painted silk with matching throw cushions. The jewellery is silver and copper.

Lynda Lou, who visited Israel in December, 2007 says she was amazed at the flowering trees and plants at a time of year when Canada is generally covered in white. She was particularly enthralled with ancient olive trees growing on various kibbutzim and the range of colours and shapes visible along the shores of the Dead Sea to Masada and Ein Gedi. She says she can't wait until her next trip to taste more of the ancient, yet new land.

Lynda Lou MacIntyre is a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art And Design University, BFA ED and has taught with the Cape Breton Victoria Regional

School Board. She now works on her art full-time at her home in Cape Breton.



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CAPE BRETONERS PARTICIPATE IN WORLD JEWISH HOCKEY TOURNAMENT IN ISRAEL

BY JACK COLUMBUS

ICE HOCKEY, PARTICULARLY IN JULY, IS NOT THE FIRST OR EVEN THE ONE-HUNDREDTH THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF ISRAEL. Nevertheless, Israel and more precisely the northern community of Metula was the centre of the hockey world for ten days in July as the 2nd World Jewish hockey tournament took place. Nine teams from five countries – Israel, Canada, the United States, France and Russia – competed on the ice of the Canada Centre for the championship. Israel's squad was made up of mostly ex-Russian players who made aliyah and others who have some experience in college, junior and the minor leagues. The event was hosted for the first time in 2007, with the United States taking the title over Israel.

One of the main goals of the games is to increase goodwill and camaraderie among Jewish athletes through friendly competition on the ice. On days off, the players and coaching staffs have a chance

to see the country on guided tours.

This year's event had a distinct Cape Breton flavour as Sydney native Phil David, son of Ike and Faye David, coached one of the Canadian teams, and Ryan Murphy of Sydney, was one of the international contingent of referees. In addition, well-known sports journalist Steve Simmons of Toronto, who is married to the former Shelia Nathanson of New Waterford, was one of the Canadian coaches and covered the tournament for several media outlets.

The United States defeated Canada 6-0 in the final game to claim the

championship title. Two Canadian teams squared off for the junior crown, with the team coached by former NHL'er Steve Thomas emerging the winner.

The Israeli Ice Hockey Federation hopes to make this an event that takes place every two years while gradually increasing the number of participating countries.



L-R: Noah Gold of Toronto, Coach Phil David

CAPE BRETON HADASSAH BAZAAR - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

dash to be among the first group to get in so as to get first view of the treasures and the first opportunity to be their new

owners.

All in all, another successful event for

Hadassah, their volunteer friends and all who helped in any way.



Mad rush as the doors open



Hunting for bargains

YOUTH SPEAKS UP BOOK LAUNCH

BY JACK COLUMBUS

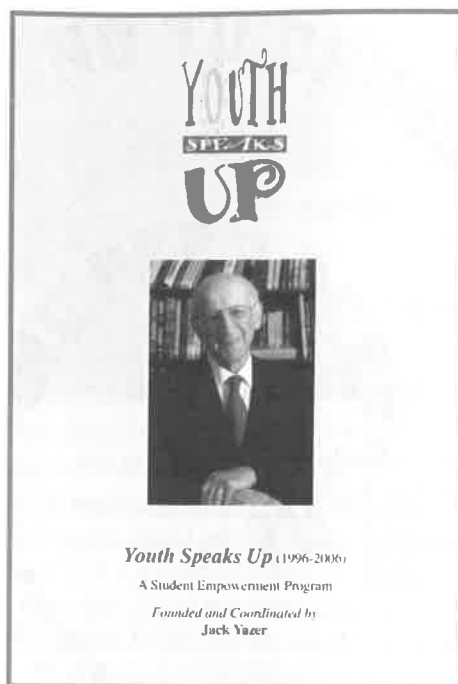
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ONE OF THE CAPE BRETON JEWISH COMMUNITY'S BEST-KNOWN MEMBERS PROVED ONCE AGAIN THAT AGE IS NO IMPEDIMENT TO THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF A WORTHWHILE GOAL.

Nonagenarian Dr. Jack Yazer (now 95 years young) of Sydney held a widely-attended launch of his latest literary effort "Youth Speaks Up" in April. It's a compendium of reflections of young people in Grade 6 at Sydney-area schools who took part in the Youth Speaks Up program that ran for 10 years, ending in 2006.

Dr. Yazer organized the Youth Speaks Up program with several objectives in mind:

- to develop positive self-esteem among Grade 6 students before they reach



junior high school

- to develop strong decision-making and problem-solving skills among Grade 6 students that will be of great assistance before they enter the Junior High level
- to generate a sense of responsibility among these students as they prepare for adolescence and then adulthood
- to empower and strengthen the integrity of students when faced with the stresses of peer pressure
- to develop strong communication skills and assertiveness training among these students

During its life-span Youth Speaks Up hosted approximately 60 students a year, giving them an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions on important and

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SAINT JOHN JEWISH COMMUNITY

BY DR. JOSEPH ARDITTI

WE ARE FINALLY SETTLING INTO OUR NEW PREMISES ON LEINSTER STREET AFTER MANY MONTHS OF RENOVATIONS. The Synagogue and the Museum are fully operational, but there are still projects to be completed. We need to connect our air conditioning unit, but are waiting for the City inspector to come and give approval for a new line. The old Synagogue building is still standing. The City of Saint John acquired the building, but so far we do not know what plans they have for the property.

We are holding services every Friday evening and Saturday mornings. We always have a minyan on Friday, but we seem to have some difficulties with Saturdays. Dan Elman is the Gabbi and gives us Dvar Torah regularly.

In the Sanctuary, we have installed a large, remote-controlled screen and projector to support some lectures, as well as to show a Saint John historical video, mainly for guests who are passengers on the many cruise ships that visit Saint John each summer and fall.



*Elly Gotz lighting the first memorial candle
– Bruce Washburn is behind him*



Holocaust project by Lyndsay Day, St. Malachy's High School, Saint John

This year, the Carnival Victory has been sailing to Saint John Wednesdays and Saturdays, therefore we have not had the opportunity to participate with Jewish Historical Tours on Shabbat. Accordingly, we have fewer overall visitors to the Museum, compared to last year. However, another cruise ship line is starting at the end of August, and the schedule will be such that we have bus tours, extending until the end of October. Members of the Community, including Phil Bloom, Lloyd Goldsmith, Ron Levine, Norman Holtzman and myself volunteer to be tour guides. This year there is a requirement for guides to take a course in first aid and resuscitation.

The donations that were pledged for "Ties and Binds" are being collected gradually. This is a great help to us for the upkeep of the Synagogue, the Museum and the Cemetery.

Elly Gotz was the guest speaker for our Yom Hashoah service this past year. He was an excellent speaker. We had an overflow crowd of guests in our Sanctuary, necessitating the addition of chairs in the aisles to accommodate everyone. One of his stories involved the Nazi's order that all Jews take their books to the Synagogue. He and his father took their books. However, since there were no guards overseeing the return of the books, he and his father

took other books back home. They did that seven times. As a result, they had a large library to hide. Many of these were classics of Russian literature. Local High School students who had participated in Holocaust studies exhibited their projects in the Museum. Elly Gotz lit the first candle, followed by members of the Congregation. Nadia Kashetsky was the youngest member to light a candle. Robert Selby sang the Hatikvah at the end of the ceremony.

On July 5th, Rhonda Koven and Lorne Daltrop were married in our new Synagogue under our Chuppah. Susan Isaacs-Lubin officiated for the signing of the civil marriage, and Dan Elman read the Sheva Berahot and explained the significance of the Ketubah to some of the non-Jewish guests.

A committee has been established to set a date, which is expected to be in late October, for the official opening of our Synagogue and Museum. Dignitaries from the Province and the City will be invited. Details of the program are not yet available as I write this report. An official reception and tour of the Synagogue and Museum will also be planned for the future in honour of those who have contributed to "Ties and Binds".

As in the past years, we will have Cantor Spitzer, who comes from the Boston area for the High Holy Days. Anyone who wishes to visit us during the Holy Days or at any other time is very welcome.

Shana Tova!



Holocaust project by Sara Long, Simonds High School, Saint John

SHALOM REPORT FROM MONCTON

BY NANCY COHEN

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On April 21 the 2009 Holocaust Memorial Service was held at the New Brunswick Community College. Phillip Riteman was the guest speaker. The community college was suggested as a venue by student Jessica Goguen, who passionately believed that the students she studies with, and the greater community should hear Mr. Riteman's message. The service was once again organized by Joan Sichel.

On May 9 a special Mother's Day Kiddush was held after Shabbat services in honour of all the mothers in the community. Later in the month the community enjoyed a special concert of Jewish music given by Matthew Leibl. Several people from Fredericton joined us for this delightful performance.

The annual community barbecue will be taking place on September 6 at the home of Betty Druckman in Shediach Cape. Music and children's entertainment will be featured. Many thanks to Betty for

hosting this event, and to the AJC for supplying food.

In regard to spiritual leadership Moncton is trying a new arrangement. We have engaged Rabbi and the Rebbetzin Yagod on a part time basis. They will provide spiritual guidance as well as supervise and teach the cheder. They currently divide their time between Pennsylvania and Northern Maine. They are the parents of 10 children. Rabbi and Rebbetzin Yagod joined us last fall for Simhat Torah and Rabbi Yagod was here for Simhat Torah the year before, so we have gotten to know each other a little bit and we look forward to welcoming them to our community.

Sadly, several of our members have passed away this spring and summer. David Singer passed away on April 8. Helen Jochelman passed away on April 12. Morton Attis passed away on August 2. Adelle Rubin passed away on August 23. Helen, Morton and Adelle spend most of their lives in Moncton and David has been here for several years and just this year became a member of synagogue board. They were all active members of the community and they will be



Frances Weil at Yom Hashoah service

greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to their families.

Mazel tov to our graduates Jennifer Savage, daughter of Joe and Carole Savage, on receiving her Bachelor of Education from the University of New Brunswick. Jennifer is now working on a Masters of Education, and Aviva Cohen, daughter of Ivan and Nancy Cohen who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University.

Mazel tov to Ariel Mishak on celebrating his bar mitzvah, his mother Nelly Mishak and his grandparents who are visiting from Israel for this special occasion.

On behalf of the Moncton community I wish everyone good health and happiness in the New Year.

Shanna tova!



Philip Riteman speaking with students at the college

YOUTH SPEAKS UP BOOK LAUNCH - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

diverse topics ranging from peer pressure to healthy lifestyle choices, and leadership and communications skills. They met every Sunday at noon at a local hotel, held a formal dinner meeting similar to those held by many organizations they might

later join as adults. A guest speaker would address the group, followed by a question and answer session. Schools would take turns hosting meetings. In addition, the program raised money for charitable causes.

As one student participant put it, "I learned that life can be different, better, if someone steps forward and shows us that they care."

REPORT FROM FREDERICTON

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BY SYDELLE GROBE

ON BEHALF OF SISTERHOOD, PRESIDENT SHELLEY STEPHENS JOINS SGOOLAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENT LOUIS BUDOVITCH IN WISHING THE FREDERICTON JEWISH COMMUNITY A CHAG SAMEACH AND SHANAH TOVAH. "This has been a busy year for our community," said Shelley. "Thanks are extended to all who participated in numerous successful events."

Sisterhood sponsored a family Chanukah Party in the vestry that was well attended. Latkes with sour cream and applesauce were prepared and enjoyed. Aya Wengrowicz, an Israeli art therapist whose family resided in Fredericton while her husband Udi was here on sabbatical, prepared arts and crafts activities for the children at the party. In January Sisterhood sponsored a Sunday-afternoon concert by musician Cesar Morales, who performed folk songs accompanied by guitar. Aya again prepared an art activity for children to coincide with the event.

In February Sisterhood sponsored a family sleighride at Oakland Farm Lodge in New Maryland. After the sleighride adults and children enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies in the rustic lodge. Children baked hamentashen for a Purim party in March.

Sisterhood organized a luncheon kiddush and a brunch for the Atlantic Jewish Council Board of Directors conference weekend in Fredericton in May. Members of the Fredericton Jewish community joined board members at these events.

Friends of Aya and Udi Wengrowicz gathered for a potluck farewell party in their honour at Odell Park Lodge in August before the family departed for Israel.

Sisterhood activities resumed in September with mail-out of the annual community New Year's greeting card.

The Sisterhood welcomes back the children from Camp Kadimah. We will keep you informed of future activities.

Fredericton Immigration

The Sgoolai Israel Synagogue has had an active immigration committee since 2004. The committee functions under an agreement with the New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

Under this program the Province acts as an agent for the Federal government and is able to fast-track immigrants with specific qualifications desired by the Province. Young, independent professional families are encouraged to immigrate to New Brunswick under this agreement. The inception of the PNP coincided with the synagogue's interest in rebuilding the Fredericton Jewish community. This spring the immigration committee reported to the general membership that it was confident the tipping point has been reached.

As of August 2009, five Israeli families had



Udi Wengrowicz (he went back to Israel with his family), myself -Shelley Stephens, and Isaac Lazarev

settled in Fredericton. They included parents and ten preschool and school-aged children. On September 1 two more families arrived: one with three school-aged children and one couple who joined their daughter and family who had arrived previously. Later in the fall another family arrived and reunited with a daughter who had settled here earlier. Professionally, the newcomers have specialties that include information technology, nursing, radiology technology, finance, graphic arts, electrician and auto mechanic.

"Potential immigrants find us by our website, which explains the immigration process and how to contact us," said co-chairs Ellen Lupu and Leonid Gimelshtein. "We always have a long list of prospective immigrants. We invite applicants to visit only if we are reasonably sure they will find opportunities for employment in Fredericton."

The Fredericton Jewish community is proud to welcome new families to our midst. Members of the immigration committee derive great satisfaction from helping Jewish families to relocate here. Fredericton is a wonderful place to raise a family. We also believe it is worthwhile to ensure a Jewish presence in the city; a presence that dates back to 1896.



Edye Besner, Linda Payne, Roz Brown and Dawe Besner

REPORT FROM THE ROCK: BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

BY CLAIRE FRANKEL - SALAMA

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EVEN THIS MORNING'S DRIZZLE CAN'T DAMPEN THE HIGH WE'RE FEELING AFTER FRIDAY NIGHT'S SERVICE. We had so many people that we didn't have enough chairs put out for the Oneg Shabbat which was generously sponsored by our August visitors, Judy, Dr. Douglas and Ruth Wilansky. Both Douglas, who is still practising Nuclear Medicine in Toronto, and his wife Ruth, originally from St. John, New Brunswick, are celebrating their 80th birthdays. Truly an occasion to shout, "Yasher Koach!"

Judy, who is somewhat younger, is still going strong, working part-time for one of her daughters, Dr. Rhonda Wilansky, and cooking up the best in traditional Jewish cooking. In fact, her recipe for Newfoundland-style gefilte fish will be appearing in the fall issue of the Newfoundland Quarterly, along with an interview on Jewish cuisine and another adapted Newfoundland recipe from yours truly.

After Douglas said the Kiddush, another visitor, Michael Ferman, grandson of Lewis and Grunya Ferman, greeted the congregation. Michael and his wife Jenn are celebrating their first anniversary by visiting the community that welcomed their grandparents after the Holocaust. During the war, Lewis and Grunya had been partisans, members of the famous Bielski group as featured in the movie, "Defiance". Lewis was awarded an honorary doctorate posthumously by Memorial University for his work in Holocaust education, and it was accepted by his widow, Grunya, in the presence of his son, Alan and his grandson, Michael. It was truly a "Chavaya" when Michael spoke from the Bimah of his grandfather's beloved Shul. The following is an excerpt from Shane O'Dea's oration at the MUN November 1995 Convocation:

"..., for Grunia Movshovitch had found



Professor Paul Bendzsa playing the clarinet at the Holocaust Memorial

refuge in one of the great family camps of the resistance leader Twivia Bielski. There she worked as a nurse and married Lewis Ferman, a fellow partisan who had lost his wife and daughter to the Nazis in the extermination of the ghetto of Lida. Lewis Ferman brought to the partisans his specialist knowledge as an electrician and was active in sabotaging the German supply lines as well as in rescuing people from the ghetto. So that while service in a regular force was not possible for such people, clearly Grunia and Lewis Ferman are veterans of World War II we remember this year..."

At the Oneg, we also wished Professor Elliott Leyton a happy 70th birthday. May he continue to go from strength to strength. Two weeks ago, our Oneg Shabbat was sponsored by Professor Ann Gregory, formerly of the School of Business at Memorial University, who is now working at the American University in Bulgaria. That evening, we also welcomed Gloria Fuerstenberg, an artist and teacher in Toronto, wife of Adam Fuerstenberg, editor of Parchment.

This season began with a very successful Seder held at the Synagogue for any and all who wished to attend. Thanks to the volunteers who shopped, cleaned, cooked, set up and served the three course traditional dinner. Everyone participated by reading in English or Hebrew and by singing the traditional

songs. We were pleased to see Jordan Berson, Shimon and Lynn Wilansky, Betty Sidel and Maisie Epstein along with the regulars.

The following week, we held the Jewish Communities' Holocaust Memorial Service at the Inco Building at MUN. Our special guests were Ernie Mauskopf, a survivor from Hungary, who was interviewed by his son, Randy. In addition, I read a section of the memoirs of Moishe Kantorowitz z"l, a survivor who received an honorary doctorate at the same time as the Fermans. The programme was enhanced by the beautiful solo sung by Colin Makey, a student at St. Bonaventure School and by the haunting clarinet of Professor Paul Bendzsa of Memorial University. Candles were lit by representatives of various groups who were persecuted by the Nazis (handicapped, homosexual, Roma, etc.) while names of murdered relatives of the members of our community were read by Dr. Arielle Salama who happened to be visiting. The moderator was Dr. Elliott Leyton.



Randy Mauskopf interviewing his father, survivor Ernie Mauskopf, at the Holocaust Memorial

During the month of May we welcomed a group of delightful students from Random Island. After an introduction to Judaism and the synagogue, we all trooped into the social hall for juice and chocolate-covered Matzah. To say

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JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVURA, NL

BY RUTH NOEL AND NANCY BENNETT

GLOBAL WARMING HAS HIT NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR. THIS SUMMER WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL ONE FOR OUR PROVINCE: VERY LITTLE FOG, LITTLE RAIN AND AN EARLY WARM SPRING MEANT WARMER WATERS IN THE OCEAN, PONDS AND LAKES. For those of us who enjoy the outdoors, it was heaven. Also, St. John's and surrounding

areas had a water ban over the summer which meant no use of hoses on lawns or flowers.

We start with Passover where once again, Nancy Bennett, and synagogue member Shimeon Wilansky worked with a local supermarket to order in Kosher for Passover products. Seders were held in various homes and all members and friends were accommodated in a family setting - keeping the Seders friendly and personal.

Our annual Holocaust Memorial Service was organized by members of both the Havura and Beth El Synagogue. This year the guest speaker was Ernie Mauskopf from the synagogue interviewed by his son Randy, who is living in Toronto. The auditorium was filled. Some of the Havura members who participated or organized this event were Paul Bendsza, Karen Lippold, Angelique Myles, Shari Ritter, Gil Shalev, and Elizabeth Siegel.

Fifty people came to the year end barbeque which was hosted at the home of Nancy and Arnold Bennett. Outdoor games, kibbitzing, music and good food were the order of the day. The Havura provided grilled salmon and vegetarian hotdogs and hamburgers complemented



Actors from the Havura's production of Elie Wiesel's play, *The Trial of God*

by members' potluck creations. We welcomed the family of Elizabeth Siegel from the U.S. Sadly we said goodbye the Flexer/Borgstedes who moved to Alberta to be near family. They will be sadly missed by the Havura.

Summertime saw visitors from out of province. They attended Shabbat services and dinners where they participated enthusiastically. We also welcomed new members and they have become part of our Havura family. New members and visitors are always welcome to our community.

Havura President Nancy Bennett represented the Havura when religious leaders in the Religious Social Action Coalition met with Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and all of Newfoundland and Labrador's Liberal MPs for over an hour at the provincial convention in Gander at the end of May. The Coalition presented Ignatieff with a petition, signed by 7,000 Newfoundlanders, calling for social justice to be at the heart of all economic stimulus. Coalition leaders presented the petition to NDP Leader Jack Layton in January in Toronto, but have not yet heard back from the Prime Minister's

office about a meeting..

The Havura hired a prominent local director and a cast of eight to produce a professional dramatic reading of Elie Wiesel's play, *The Trial of God*, at the province's beautiful new art museum, The Rooms. It was part of our ongoing series of public lectures, performances and school visits to provide Newfoundlanders with insights into Jewish culture, history and

religion. Media coverage leading up to the performance

was tremendous, with a huge colour photo in The Telegram's Thursday Go Guide and a full page story with photos in their Saturday edition. CBC Radio covered with interviews with principals and scenes from the play. The capacity audience included the Roman Catholic Archbishop, other prominent religious leaders and a large delegation from the Foxtrap Pentecostal community, whose love of Israel is evidenced at their annual Jerusalem Day service. Newfoundlanders read Wiesel's novel, *Night*, in school and it has become a favourite.

Mazeltovs to Inbal Bahar who became a Canadian citizen in July. To Sharon Koubi who received his medical degree. Sharon is doing his residency in Internal Medicine in St. John's. To Angelique Myles on her acceptance into MUN Medical School. To Karen Lippold and Steve Wolinetz on the marriage of their son Michael to Lucie Lhoták. The happy couple is living in Vancouver BC.

We wish each and every one of you a healthy and prosperous New Year. Please visit us when you come to the province. We can be reached at 709-834-7866 or info@havura.org.

PEI JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWS

BY DARRYL BLOOM, AJC COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

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WELL, HERE IT IS AGAIN; TIME FOR ANOTHER ARTICLE TO THE "SHALOM" MAGAZINE. This article coincides with the end of the PEIJC Executive; by the time this article will be read, the PEIJC will have new leaders bringing them into the New Jewish Year.

Much has been happening on the island since I last wrote; we had a communal Seder at the York Community Centre where many traditional treats were brought in by Leslee Sack, John Zarwan had the thankless job of arriving early and collecting the fees, special thanks to Sol Feldstein and Don Simeone for arranging the heavy tables-an incredible time was had by all.

Other celebrations included a wonderful BBQ for the Israeli Independence Day; Winston Mc Gregor treated us all to the tastiest of steaks; L'ag B'Omer was signified in the traditional way with a glorious bonfire, and Viktoria Bloom made the tastiest cheesecake for Shavout. And now the community is scrambling to arrange something for the High Holidays.

In honour of the summer, and the influx of summer residents, Professor Naylor decided to open up the Torah group to our friends from away with special classes dealing with the Mishna. The PEIJC also held a picnic in their honour; special thanks to Ayelet Stewart for letting us use her beautiful house.

With all that in mind, I think the most important aspect of the last few months is our children, Eric and Ilana Bloom spent a wonderful summer at Camp Kadimah where they met many Jews from the rest of Canada. Furthermore; the PEIJC wishes to extend a very big Mazal Tov to Ariel and Isabelle for the birth of their gorgeous daughter Lana, the first Jewish child to be born on the island in quite awhile.

In closing, I would like to wish the incoming PEIJC Executive much more luck than the outgoing Executive ever had.

REPORT FROM THE ROCK - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

the least, they were most favourably impressed. At the end of May a memorial service was held for our former president, Sidney Epstein. At that time we also welcomed Dr. Jim Ruderman, Chief of Staff at Women's College Hospital in Toronto, and his lovely wife Ila. They were absolutely overwhelmed by the scenery in St. John's and promised to relay their experiences to all their friends and acquaintances.

The end of June brought more beautiful weather, just in time for our annual picnic at the home of Dr. David and June

Mercer in Holyrood. We thank them for their tremendous generosity and hospitality.

At this time we were also pleased to welcome Dr. Avner Itai and his wife, Naomi, from Tel-Aviv. Avner was a guest conductor at this year's Festival 500 for choirs from around the world. Besides giving classes at the symposium, Dr. Itai worked with four choirs daily during the festival, teaching them two Hebrew songs a day for their evening performances. It was truly a magical experience to hear such diverse choirs sing excerpts from Shir ha-Shirim and Layla, layla at Gower Street United Church and the Arts and Culture Centre.

During the month of July we had a vodka-tasting sponsored by Barry and David Saks who own the Canadian Iceberg Vodka Corporation here in Newfoundland. This company produces Kosher vodka, gin and rum using water from the bergs off our very own coast. They also sponsored a lovely brunch the following Sunday morning. We also welcomed Canon John-Paul Westin,

rector of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, and his daughter, Lucia, to one of our Friday night services.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the generous gifts of several individuals:

Dr. Jim Rosen, esteemed artist and art professor and husband of Mary Pratt, who donated three antiquarian Jewish books to our library,

Judy Wilansky, Dr. Douglas and Ruth Wilansky, Dr. Ann Gregory, Dr. Robin McGrath, and Dr. Belinfante for their donations.



Students from Random Island, Newfoundland, visiting the synagogue



Claire Frankel-Salama, Dr. Messod Salama, Naomi Itai and Professor Avner Itai at Cape Spear, NL

PHILIP RITEMAN RECEIVES ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA

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BY JOEL JACOBSON

Editors note: Philip Riteman is the fifth Jewish resident of Nova Scotia to receive this award. He joins Constance Glube, Jack Yazer, Myra Freeman and Ruth Goldbloom. THE HONOURS CONTINUE TO COME TO ESTEEMED NOVA SCOTIA SPEAKER, EDUCATOR AND HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PHILIP RITEMAN OF BEDFORD. The man who speaks about his experience in one of the world's darkest periods to schools, universities and community groups, whenever and wherever he's asked, was named to the Order of Nova Scotia September 3. It is the highest honour the province bestows on its citizens. Riteman was among five chosen from 79 nominations across the province. He will be recognized at Province House in an October 7th

ceremony. "I am deeply honoured," said Riteman. "You never expect this but it's nice to be recognized. This is a great province in which to live." Riteman survived four years in concentration camps from 1942 to 1945, coming to Canada after World War II to develop a successful business in Newfoundland. He moved to Halifax in the early 1980s. About 20 years ago, he began to speak about his experience, insisting youth of that day, and today, understand what happened to him should not happen to anyone again. "I don't hate anyone," he tells people when asked about his feelings today. "I just want you to know you should never hate anyone the way the Jews were hated in my youth." Riteman has spoken to thousands and thousands of people and received several diplomas

when speaking at high school graduations (he was in concentration camps during his own high school years). He has been bestowed honorary degrees from Memorial University of Newfoundland and St. Thomas University in Fredericton N.B. Doroty Riteman says of her husband, "Whoever calls him, he goes if he can. He doesn't refuse. He's done a lot over the years." The Order of Nova Scotia was established in June 2001 to honour people who "have made significant contributions and given outstanding service to their communities and the province."



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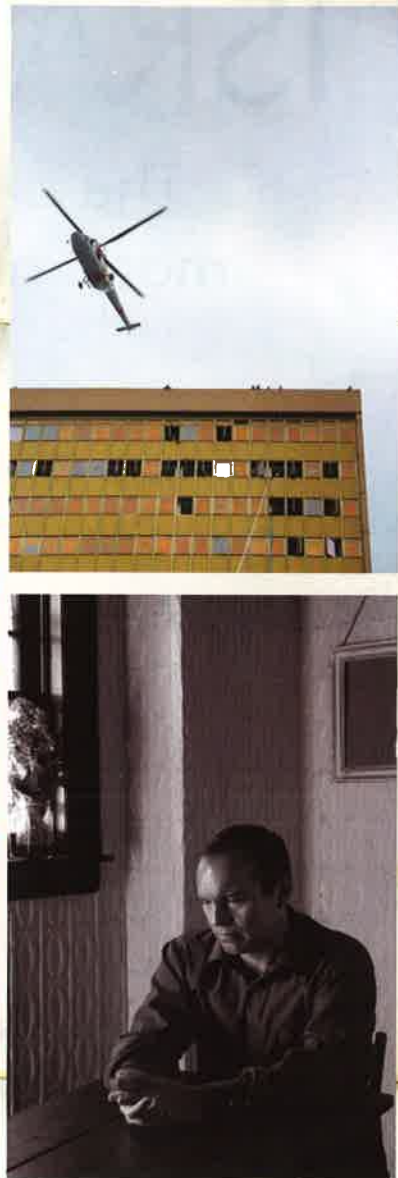


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