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Winter 2009 Vol 34 No. 3

Kislev 5770



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- HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK IN HALIFAX
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- RABBI'S CORNER



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Cover Artist:

Marcela Rosenberg, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been involved in various art forms all her life. Glass was the key to start living in Prince Edward Island six years ago and she slowly became part of the fabric of this tiny Canadian province.

Nature, her Jewish faith and own sensitivity enable her to express her emotions.

Fused glass technique is quite extraordinary and dates back to ancient artisans of Egypt. It is about joining pieces of glass together by slowly melting them in a kiln at a temperature of around 1450F. Using the lower end of the temperature ranges "sticks" the glass pieces together, while using the higher end of the temperature range "melts" one piece into another. Her studio is located in Stratford, PEI where her work can be viewed and purchased or at www.marcelarosemberg.com

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President: Howard Conter

The Atlantic Jewish Council

WINTER 2009

KISLEV 5770

VOL. 34 NO. 3

Mailed under Canada Post

Publications Mail Sales Agreement

No. 40052452

Executive Director:

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Layout & Printing:

Halcraft Printers Inc.

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This publication is printed by

Halcraft
Printers Inc.®

Phone: (902) 453-4511 - Fax: (902) 453-4517

Email: sales@halprint.com

Written articles are the opinion of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the AJC.

President's Message

by Howard Conter

This has been a very busy time for the AJC as we leave Holocaust Education week, work our way through our United Jewish Appeal and move towards Chanukah. I would like to thank all of our leadership both professional and volunteer for all their hard work in putting together Holocaust education week and its programs. The events featured education as well as an appropriate level of respect for one of the worst times in the history of not only the Jewish people but of humanity. The work continues to push the message of tolerance in an effort to make sure such a tragedy is never repeated.



Campaign continues in all of our centers. Community representatives and canvassers are working very hard to raise contributions to support local, national and Israel based programs. This is vital to not only the future of the State of Israel but also the Atlantic Jewish Community. Please give generously to this year's campaign. It is this money that allows us to continue such vital programs as Holocaust education, campus services and chaplaincy in our region. It is also vital to continue the fight against anti-Semitism and the promotion of tolerance at a national level.

We are now entering the season of Chanukah, the celebration of a very small and simple miracle. This has always been

a time of renewed hope and excitement as we reflect on family and community. In my own family it has been a difficult time this year, marked by the passing of my father-in-law Mort Abramsky, of blessed memory, in Kingston Ontario this November. This is an important milestone because of what Mort's life represented. His legacy can be described in two small but powerful words, 'family' and 'community'. His

good deeds were numerous without any need or want of personal recognition and he will be sadly missed by many. What I would like to ask all of the members of our Atlantic Jewish family to do at this time of year, is to think about how we can continue to work for our families and communities to make things here in our region as strong and vibrant as possible. As I said, this is a time of year when we remember a very simple miracle, a miracle of the Jewish people that we need to continue to enhance and pursue throughout our region, nation and our Jewish homeland.

Karen, Jenna, Adam and I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the strength and endurance as we all work to find our own personal miracle this Chanukah season.



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From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Shalom everyone, and welcome to our Chanukah edition for 2009. It's a cool, clear Sunday morning here in Halifax as I look out my fifth floor window onto Spring Garden Road. The calendar says one more day in November, tens days until Chanukah. It seems like yesterday I was just writing my article for the High Holiday Day edition. Time marches on.

It's been a busy fall here at the AJC. Our UJA campaign kicked off in Halifax and in P.E.I. before Rosh Hashanah and continued after the holidays in Fredericton, Saint John, Moncton and Cape Breton. Perry Romberg together with Susan Davis formerly of Saint John, now a key staff person with CIJA (Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy) in Toronto and Jordan Kerbel of Canadian Jewish Congress were featured as our campaign continued throughout the region. I am pleased to report that initial results have been good, however we have much work to do before the end of the year. To those readers who have not yet made their donation, I would ask that they consider what it means to be Jewish here in the Diaspora and that whether it be for Israel, national programs or regional programs, the United Jewish Appeal will put their gift to work at making a better world for our fellow Jews.

Jewish immigration to Atlantic Canada continues to be a main part of our efforts. A consultant visited Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in September and we look forward to a number of new families settling in the region in 2010. Halifax in the last fourteen months has welcomed twenty-seven new families with four or five more to come this spring. We have more than doubled the size of our pre-school and grade one Hebrew school. We have, and will continue to welcome new children to Camp Kadimah. With the assistance of the Dorothea Gould Foundation out of Switzerland we began a year long Sunday program for newcomer



children ages five and up. Every Sunday approximately twenty-five boys and girls get together for arts and crafts, sports, Hebrew language and of course

lunch. We will be adding some religious instruction for the older children in the new year and working to bring these children into the mainstream Jewish Community. The staff for this initiative is comprised of wonderfully trained teachers and supervisors who themselves are newcomers to our community. I know the immigration committee in Fredericton and in Moncton are working to bring new families to their communities and we have arranged for the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada to act as a consultant for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Holocaust Education is one of the major programs of the Atlantic Jewish Council. We have a wonderful committee of volunteers throughout the region. The Yom HaShoah programs in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, Saint John's, Charlottetown, Cape Breton, and Halifax are a highlight every year. In addition we are fortunate to have a few survivors who continue to speak to thousands of students and adults throughout Atlantic Canada. On behalf of everyone, I want to thank them for their efforts and devotion as I know how difficult it is for them to tell their personal stories of the "Shoah". Unfortunately our funding which has come from the Conference of Claims against Germany is diminishing every year. The AJC has always contributed to the Holocaust Education budget but the majority of our funding came from the "Conference of Claims". For 2010 we will have to look elsewhere for some funding

and I hope that you will realize that this is one place where our money goes.

My friends, many times I have been asked "What does the AJC do?" The AJC serves as the address for the Canadian Jewish Community here in Atlantic Canada. Whatever the crisis, whether it be in Israel or at the national level, it is here that we are informed, consulted and required to act. Over the past month alone this office has been in touch with several of our national Jewish Organizations regarding such issues as CUPE, the United Church of Canada, the Israel boycott, The Human Rights Museum being built in Winnipeg, community security, demographics, Jewish Student Association along with individual regional issues. In addition we publish Shalom magazine, which not only informs our Atlantic Jewish Community but keeps so many former maritimers in touch with their roots. Last month in conjunction with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, we opened an exhibit on the "St. Louis" which was attended by the Premier, Lt. Governor and over 300 invited guests. This is the only exhibit of its kind in Canada and we received publicity both regionally and nationally. Any of our readers who visit Halifax, don't miss this exhibit. Some of you ask "Why Halifax?" Besides the obvious, which includes population, business and political interests, I have come to realize that without a central address we could not exist in any real significant form as a player in the Canadian Jewish Community. The national Jewish structure and the major players are not geared in any way shape or form to deal with Atlantic Canada unless we maintain an institution where "one stop shopping" is available. This is the AJC. This is Halifax.

I have contacted our regional reps about the Asper Foundation trip to Washington for teens in grade 8, 9 and 10. This is a wonderful program and I hope everyone is aware of this opportunity.

continued on page 5

Halifax-Area Teachers Benefit from Azrieli Foundation

by Joel Jacobson

Leah Ann Cameron enthusiastically praises the lesson plan she has just seen as giving Holocaust Education the justice it deserves.

Leah Ann is a social studies teacher at Leslie Thomas Junior High in Sackville, N.S. She's touched on the Holocaust with her Grade 8 and 9 students, usually over a one-month period, but after today's session, she's excited about expanding the teaching program.

"This is a very detailed lesson plan because a teacher prepared it," she says. "I've been looking for ways to give the program the justice it deserves. These memoirs and the guide certainly will enable me to improve what I've been doing."

Leah Ann teaches in a French Immersion school and states, "It's good to see this available in French, too."

The lesson plan was offered to Nova Scotia teachers at two education sessions October 26 at Nova Scotia Teacher's Union building in Halifax.

Naomi Azrieli excitedly opens the Holocaust education workshop, the kickoff to Holocaust Education Week in Halifax.

"This is the first workshop for educators we have done outside Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver," she says proudly.

The Azrieli Foundation, a federally registered Canadian foundation, founded in 1987 by Holocaust survivor, David Azrieli, promotes many programs including the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs, a series of books geared to high school education programs.

The books are given free to teachers,

along with the detailed lesson plan, so they can make more students aware of the Holocaust, obviously to spread the message that such atrocities should never happen again.

In 1939 Azrieli fled his native Poland, at age 17, remaining a step ahead of the

in 1990. It took him 10 years but Yad Vashem (in Jerusalem) was interested and published it immediately, something that was unusual because most survivors never get their stories published."

David Azrieli wanted to help survivors publish their stories. In 2007, after a call

for submissions, Naomi and the Foundation received many memoirs, "some only 10 pages, some as many as 800 pages, all with a unique perspective," she says.

In 2007, the first series of seven books was launched, followed by eight more books last January – many in English and French.

The foundation produced resource guides to lead teachers through the books and enable them to help their students understand the Holocaust – its causes, events and results.



Naomi Azrieli speaks to teachers prior to the workshop opening

Nazis through Russia and Central Asia, arriving in Palestine in 1942, where he studied at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. In 1948, he joined the IDF and fought in Israel's War of Independence. After the war, David lived in South Africa, England and the United States, before settling in Canada in 1954. His two companies – Montreal-based Canpro Investments Ltd. and the Tel Aviv-based Azrieli Group – are considered leaders in their fields.

"My father wanted to help Canadian survivors publish their memoirs so the stories wouldn't be lost," says Naomi, who has a PhD in history from Oxford and taught at McMaster University and the University of Toronto. "He didn't speak about his experiences for 30 years but, after re-visiting Poland and Russia in the late 1980s, decided to write his own story

Lisa Black-Meddings, a Toronto high school history teacher, conducts the afternoon session with 25 teachers attending. More than 45 were at her evening program.

She shows the teachers how these Holocaust memoirs can be used in English, history, civics, social studies and creative writing classes. She describes how the books can be used as memoirs, diaries, and even emotional backgrounds to the survivor's new perspectives of life and death.

Monica Rojo, a Grade 7-12 Spanish and French teacher at Sacred Heart School in Halifax, attended Holocaust Education Week programs last year in Halifax. "I was excited to attend this year's event because our school devotes a week teaching about tolerance. Today's program will certainly better enable me to teach my students."

International Christian Friends Director Speaks in Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

Susannah Kokkonen may come from a devout Christian family, but the native of Finland, now director Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, is a strong advocate against Anti-Semitism and pro-human rights.

The 35-year-old blonde woman may look younger than her years but is wise academically and worldly. Born in Finland, she speaks seven languages, has a master's degree in history and political science, began Hebrew language studies in Jerusalem 11 years ago, and has earned a PhD in Holocaust Studies at Hebrew University.

After working in political jobs with the European Union and at parliamentary levels, this bright young woman was appointed director of CFYV in April 2008.

During Holocaust Education week, she was in Halifax to kick off a seven-day, 10-meeting whirlwind expedition through Toronto and environs as well as New York, spreading the word of her organization and pleading for understanding among all about the Holocaust.

"Christian Friends of Yad Vashem is an educational organization focusing on educating Christians worldwide about what happened in the Holocaust, why it happened and what has to be done today to fight anti-Semitism," she says in an interview prior to her Halifax presentation at University of King's College.

"It happened in the Christian culture, in Christian Europe," she says. "Christian anti-Semitism made it possible. It had long been engrained in Christian thinking,



Edna LeVine, Susanna Kokkonen, Dorota Glowaka, Director of Contemporary Studies, University of King's College meet prior to Susanna's presentation.

since the time of the Crusades and the Inquisition and even through the French Revolution. It always seemed easier to blame the Jews for economic and social problems than to fix them."

Later, speaking to about 30 people, mostly Christians, but with a few students and a couple of members of the Jewish community mixed in, she traced the history of the Holocaust's beginning – from Hitler's coming to power when churches and individuals still had a chance to act, but didn't, through Kristallnacht, to its seven-year aftermath of devastation for Jews and other minorities.

"People say Germans didn't know what was happening when Kristallnacht took place," she says. "But I believe that's not so. They saw it coming from 1933. It wasn't happening far away, was not something they couldn't see. They could see businesses being closed, Jews being barred from working, from attending schools, being ghettoized. It was allowed to happen."

She explains her interest in things Jewish started in Finland with her devoutly Christian grandmother. "She told me

stories of the Bible and the Jews. The more I learned, the more I wanted to live in Israel. I picked the Holocaust for my PhD because it was the most universally recognized rupture in culture and civilization and I was personally touched by what happened."

Her passion is evident as she talks of the perpetrators, bystanders and rescuers.

"We've heard most about the perpetrators (the Nazis). The bystanders were the largest group. It was easiest to do nothing. But the rescuers were the risk-takers. They wanted to do what was right socially, what they felt was acceptable behaviour – to help – but it was a danger to be part of that group."

They were righteous people, she says. They made quick decisions to offer hiding places, help escapees, give false IDs, and protect children they knew would be killed by the Germans. They even faced danger from neighbours who would expose them.

"They acted like good human beings," says Susanna.

She noted the Israeli Knesset commemorates high-minded Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews through its Righteous Among the Nations program, developed through a Yad Vashem committee. To date, close to 22,000 people from 30 countries have been honoured.

Susanna concluded by quoting a highly-placed Portuguese official working in France who, when asked why he risked himself and his comfortable diplomatic position, said, "If so many Jews can suffer because of one Christian, one Christian can suffer because of so many Jews."

From the Desk of Jon Goldberg continued from page 3

Plans are underway for our next Atlantic Mission to Israel which will take place in early November 2010. Further information will be available sometime in January, mark your calendars. Our last one, in 2008, was a terrific success and remember

former maritimers are indeed welcome.

Early in January, you will be receiving your subscription forms for the 2010-2011 Shalom and our Directory. I ask all our readers to please renew as we need your support.

Well my friends, my thanks to our

President and Board of Directors for their efforts and support and to my staff for their hard work. May the Festival of Light shine bright for you and your family. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2010 and may the coming year be a year of peace and well being for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Kristallnacht, SS St Louis Exhibit Touch Large Audience

by Joel Jacobson



Model of SS St. Louis at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Holocaust Education Week in Halifax came to a dramatic and touching close November 8 when the combination of Kristallnacht remembrance and the official opening of an exhibition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the fateful voyage of SS St. Louis took place.

More than 200 members of the Jewish and secular community overflowed the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for the ceremony highlighted by a Kristallnacht memorial candle lighting by government officials, community members and a survivor.



Viktoria Brunets plays a sentimental melody prior to the Kristallnacht memorial.

The exhibit opening concluded Holocaust Education Week that presented seven distinct programs and brought awareness to wide variety of community groups.

School teachers were presented an educational workshop on instructing their students about the Holocaust. Christian Friends of Yad Vashem discussed the impact of the Holocaust through Christian eyes and what can be done to educate its members to fight anti-Semitism.

Two films were presented on the plight of European Jews trying to escape the horrors of the persecution. Two Halifax survivors spoke to large crowds about their experience.

During the Dignity Day program commemorating Kristallnacht 71 years ago, Rachel Handelsman of Toronto, a fourth year sociology student at Dalhousie University and president of the Jewish Students Association of Atlantic Canada, addressed the crowd on the meaning of Kristallnacht.

A member of the Atlantic Jewish Council's Holocaust Education Week committee since her freshman year, Rachel recalled the eternal unhappiness of her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor who lost eight siblings in the war.

"I knew part of her life, but she never really talked about (the Holocaust)," Rachel said in a later interview. "I really didn't understand what she went through until I heard my father do her eulogy at her funeral. Then it hit me, what had happened to the Jews in Europe and why



Nova Scotia Lt. Governor Mayann Francis chats with Marianne Ferguson at the museum event.

we have to keep the memory alive and continue to create awareness so that such things don't happen again."

An extensive exhibit of the SS St. Louis was officially opened soon after the candles were lit. The exhibit, to run for about a year, was coordinated by the Museum and the AJC.

Dan Conlon, the Museum's curator of marine heritage, tied Kristallnacht to the voyage of the St. Louis in 1939.

"Kristallnacht caused many families to leave Germany to find safety in late 1938," he said. "That led to the St. Louis taking almost 1,000 passengers on its fated journey to Cuba where, despite all papers being in order, they were turned away. They were denied entry to the United States and, even though a group of Canadians had pleaded for their admission to Canada, anti-Semitism at the highest levels of government again turned them away."

He said more than 25 per cent of the passengers were killed in death camps after being captured when the ship returned to Germany.

"Ignorance and indifference were the causes," he said.

Jockel Recalls Holocaust Horrors

by Joel Jacobson

Helena Jockel wanted to teach as soon as she arrived in Halifax in 1988.

"I was a professional teacher in Hungary when the Holocaust started and after I survived and was living in the Czech Republic, I

was teaching there," she recalls, after speaking to a large audience during Holocaust Education Week. "In Halifax, I offered my experiences to teach about the Holocaust. I had to earn money because, even though I was doing well in the Czech Republic, I had to leave everything behind to move here, but no one accepted me."

This gentle lady, whose children Jana Weider and Pavel Jockel were living in Halifax in 1988, emigrated to be with her children. She was only a young woman when the Germans swept through Hungary in 1944, forcing her class of 30 elementary school youngsters out of the town's Jewish ghetto onto wagons and to Auschwitz.

The children were all slain. Helena survived terrible experiences at Auschwitz and other camps, and through the death marches, until liberation took place in 1945.

Today, she speaks freely about the Holocaust. She speaks at schools and at public forums.

Helena remembers having no blankets and little food and water on her journey to Auschwitz. She says her most vivid and horrific memories of the camp are of black smoke and the smell of burned flesh.

She was there for six months before being

She says when she speaks today, she gets excited and restless. "I cry. I still think of my mother, who I lost more than 60 years ago, and my nieces, sisters, and the many millions of people who innocently died, who couldn't defend themselves."

She says people hearing her story, particularly children, are very sensitive to her. "They listen with all their hearts," she says.

"I speak publicly about what I went through and about the inhumane suffering of innocent people. I regard it as my duty, although it is very hard to

speaking about it because it evokes images of the past, of the suffering, of the loss of the people, of the humiliation. It is very hard for me to speak, but I feel that it is my duty to warn the young people, and people in general, to be more tolerant and to fight for the ideas of justice to overcome hatred and intolerance."

Helena, and Philip Riteman, who also spoke publicly at another event during Holocaust Education Week, and who has been an advocate for Holocaust education for many years, were honoured December 10 by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. They received a special award for the efforts they have made to educate the public about tolerance and understanding.



Helena Jockel answers a bevy of questions asked by young people captivated by her story.

transferred to four other camps.

"The environment in which we lived was so horrific that it's hard to describe. It's something young people today can't even imagine. I had to be strong or I wouldn't have survived. I had to fight every minute. I was scared, but I wanted to survive and see the evil defeated."

Jockel says it is important for people to know about the Holocaust because it could happen again.

"Look around," she stresses. "Look at the hatred. Look at the poor people. Please, please don't let this happen again because if you do, everything you have or ever dreamed to have will be destroyed. Please don't let it happen. Let's stop the discrimination."

From the Desk of Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

This year Holocaust Education Week in Halifax reached a variety of audiences. Through our partnerships with several organizations we were able to extend the range of our activities. Once again Pier 21, Dalhousie University, the University of King's College and the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem all participated in Holocaust Education Week events while new partnerships with the Azrieli Foundation and the Linda Joy Media Arts Society expanded our programming.

Educators continue to request Holocaust educational resources and are extremely appreciative when a survivor is able to relate this part of our history to their students. This was evident when Dr. Yuri Leving invited Philip Riteman to speak to his students at Dalhousie University and opened his classroom to the public. A steady stream of people filled the room to capacity and students crammed themselves together on the floor by his feet to hear his story. The gratitude expressed by those who hear a survivor's story is coupled with their realization that it is now their responsibility to impart this knowledge.

Earlier this fall I had the privilege to attend the Celebrating Communities Conference



Lisa Black-Meddings, presenter; Gerard Cormier, NSTU; Naomi Azrieli, Edna LeVine & Elin Beaumont, Azrieli Foundation Toronto, share joy at the conclusion of a successful Holocaust teachers workshop.

presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development. The conference explored the challenges of creating a thriving community and the importance of collaboration and celebrating the diverse cultures that form our communities. I also participated in the workshop Human Rights in the Workplace at the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

This educational workshop addressed the importance of understanding the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act and provided the opportunity to explore current issues related to the Human Rights Act.

To facilitate the settlement of the new immigrants in Halifax I have worked closely with the two local settlement providers which recently merged into one organization, Immigrant Services and Integration Services, to offer easier access to their range of services. Their partnership has provided us with the opportunity to tailor their programs to meet the needs of our newcomers and we are currently planning to host a new series of workshops throughout the winter in collaboration with the programming committee.

December 10th was International Human Rights Day and as the AJC representative on the Partners for Human Rights committee I participated in the planning of the celebratory event at Indian Brook First Nation (Shubenacadie). Philip Riteman and Helena Jockel were two of the recipients of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Award. They were recognized for their valuable contribution to increasing



Edna LeVine, third from left, along with L-R, Dorota Glowaka, Helena Jockel, Simin Fahandej, Arielle Goldschlager and Tara MacDougall were actively involved in presenting Genocide Past and Present during Holocaust Education Week.

public awareness of human rights issues by telling their personal story of the Holocaust.

As editor of Shalom magazine I encourage readers to send in letters and articles that inform and connect the Atlantic Jewish communities. As we welcome newcomers into our communities this magazine serves as a source of information and a representation of life in Atlantic Canada. In our next issue we will feature stories on the joys and challenges of living in a small Jewish community. If you are a newcomer or long time resident in our region and are interested in sharing your experience please send in your story by March 8th.



Philip Riteman addresses a packed Dalhousie University classroom following Dr. Yuri Leving's introduction.

From the Desk of Mark David, UJA Campaign Administrator

Once September arrives, things at the AJC start to get busy in a variety of areas. One especially busy area concerns the annual UJA Campaign.

The funds raised through the Annual Campaign are the lifeblood of the AJC. Some of the monies raised are used for matters of national collective responsibility and for helping Jews in need – whether in Israel, or in such places as the countries that make up the former Soviet Union. The balance is used to run the AJC office and fund the various programs undertaken during the year.

This year, the Annual Campaign in Halifax started with a mid-September visit by Kadima Knesset Member (MK) Nachman Shai. MK Shai addressed two community groups during his visit to Halifax in mid-September. He spoke knowledgeably and in-depth on a variety of issues. Some of these naturally related to Israel's security issues – especially regarding Iran. But he also spoke of the great need in Israel for assistance from abroad. In particular he raised what has often been a taboo subject – the sad fact that many Israelis live below the poverty line. This is exacerbated by the fact that due to enormous demand on government revenues for security matters, the government simply does not have the financial wherewithal to meaningfully assist these people, let alone properly fund education and other social services.

A few days later, I accompanied Howard Conter on a visit to Prince Edward Island where we joined with members of the local community at the home of Darryl Bloom in greeting Israeli Consul-General Yoram Elron. Mr. Elron was making his first visit to PEI, and met with community members ahead of meetings with various governmental officials. Mr. Elron sought input from those in attendance as to potential areas of commercial cooperation between Israel and PEI. This resulted



in a lively discussion and lots of good suggestions.

October took me to Fredericton and Saint John. In Fredericton, CIJA Vice-President Susan Davis and CJC National Director of Public Affairs Jordan Kerbel were the featured speakers at a meeting hosted by Arnold and Judy Budovitch. Susan explained the manner in which CIJA pursues Israel and Jewish advocacy through Canadian Jewish Congress, Canada Israel Committee and University Outreach Committee. Jordan gave many practical hints about the nuts and bolts of the media process.

The next evening, Susan, Jordan and I were in Saint John. This was especially significant for Susan as she is a Saint John native. While the topics covered were the same, it was to a different audience and different questions were raised. More importantly, we as visitors had the chance to see the new Saint John synagogue building, which also houses the Jewish Historical Museum.

Perry Romberg of UIA has also recently visited Moncton and Cape Breton. Unfortunately, this year it has not been possible to travel to Newfoundland and Labrador.

I also assisted Jon Goldberg with respect to the opening of the SS St. Louis exhibit

at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. This project, undertaken in partnership with the Museum and its Manager of Development and Partnerships John Hennigar-Shuh, was in the works for a very long time. The opening of the exhibit was timed to coincide with the annual Kristallnacht observance on November 9th. A very large crowd attended, including Her Honour Mayann Francis, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, The Honourable Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia, and General Neismith, Commander, Land Force Atlantic. There was considerable media coverage of the event. The exhibit is on display at the Museum for the next year, following which the possibility of "traveling the exhibit" is being explored.

As for the role I play with the Canada-Israel Committee, I attended a very informative conference about Iran in Ottawa in late October. The attendees were privileged to hear from such expert speakers on Iran as the Honourable Irwin Cotler, the Honourable Jason Kenney, Iran human rights activist Nazanin Afshin-Jam, Mark Dubowitz (Executive Director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies) and Kenneth Timmerman (Executive Director of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran). Following the conference, we visited various members of Parliament to brief them about the Iran situation. I met with local MP Michael Savage, who was, as always, very gracious and interested in matters that touch upon Israel.

Finally, I attended various national conference calls dealing with such things as the Goldstone Report and the proposed boycott of Mountain Equipment Co-operative (for selling Israeli products).

In closing, I encourage people to be as generous as possible when they are contacted by their UJA canvasser.

Happy Chanukah!

Campus News

By Bill Chernin, Director of Campus Services, Atlantic Provinces

Another term is coming to a close in Atlantic Canada and it's been a good term.

In Halifax, the JSA is continuing with business as usual. We are missing many of our regular attendees, who graduated last year, but new students are coming through our doors, and there is no shortage of nice, young, Jewish people around.

We've seen increasing numbers of King's students participating, and our basketball league and Shabbat dinners are still cornerstones of our programming. We also had representatives from Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University visit our campus again this term, accompanied by a representative of MASA, an organization that provides funding for long term study in Israel. We also tried our second Tay Sachs screening. Twenty Jewish students were screened for the disease in September, which gave us a total of 40 for the year. We had expected more students to participate but it seems they aren't looking down the road far enough yet to be considering having children. The program would not have been possible without Karen Conter, Dr. Mark Ludman and the IWK, and we were all pleased with the results. Additionally we interviewed applicants for this winter's Birthright trips, and tried again to engage students by presenting non-regularly televised hockey and football games in the student house.

The Dalhousie Law School JSA was more active than ever before, and with greater attendance than in the past. We've also seen more participation from Jewish masters students than in the past. We're supporting a student who is trying to organize a student Havara, and we're hoping to organize some Kosher cooking classes with the participation of our community's own Iron chefs (yes, we mean you).

Mt. Allison and Acadia are both in their third consecutive year of operation. The



'Smoked Meat Road Show' (our authentic Montreal smoked meat dinners) has been to both campuses, and Mt. Allison and Acadia have both had Shabbat dinners shipped to them. Also, we're planning our 3rd annual regional Shabbaton in Halifax. The focus will be on Being Jewish on a Small Campus, and some of our programming from last year will be repeated, such as What Jews Believe (which provides answers to the most common questions about Judaism our students get asked by their non-Jewish friends). We'll also host our Shabbat Unplugged program again, with the participation of Jewish student musicians. As always, we will be aiming to have discussions on pertinent topics for our students regarding Judaism, Jewish identity, and Israel. We consider our Shabbatons to be our opportunity to provide Jewish programming to our small campus students.

We're also attempting to establish a new organization this term, to engage our students and contribute positively to campus life on all our campuses. The organization will be called ROW – Repair our World, and the slogan is "Pulling together to Repair our World." Rather than asking students to commit to a specific organization or cause, we will be asking them to join a network, with which they will be informed of social justice opportunities on their campuses. Our intention is that ROW will be the organizer or partner in these social justice initiatives, and we will recruit new members at each event. Many of our students express a desire to do social justice work. We believe with ROW we may have a formula to help many of them do more, and also engage them in our programming.

Campus activity related to Israel was mostly quiet this term, in a good way. We coordinated a visit by a well respected political scientist from Notre Dame, Dr. Alan Dowty, to St. F.X. and Memorial universities, where he delivered high quality academic lectures, which were well received and appreciated by faculties at both schools. We are working to arrange visits to other Atlantic campuses by other academics in the second term.

In Halifax, the Israel Affairs Committee (IAC) is going strong at Dalhousie. They held an Israel Awareness Week, with focuses on Women's Rights, Gay Rights, and Technology in Israel. They presented an Israeli movie (Walk on Water) and a Party for Peace in our student house. Earlier this term, they hosted a very successful Bedouin Tent Party in the student house. They also attended a lecture at King's, which could be called anti-Israel (it certainly wasn't pro-Israel, and it critiqued the main stream Jewish community in negative terms). At this lecture, they made use of one of our initiatives for the first time: the Propaganda or Education campaign.

The Propaganda or Education campaign is an idea we've been working on to respond to the un-academic nature of the anti-Israel activity we see on Atlantic campuses. The campaign is intended to ask the audiences to consider if what they're hearing is academically honest, or propaganda. We are encouraging them to think critically and consider that a lecturer who omits or ignores details which are inconvenient to his thesis, but are obviously relevant to the topic, is more likely to be practicing propaganda than quality academic work. The message is delivered on posters and small cards.

This was campus life in Atlantic Canada this term. Please remember if you come across a lone Jewish student to direct them to our website (hillelatlantic.ca).

From the Desk of Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain

Lest We Forget

As Remembrance Day has gone by, we should not forget the person most responsible for tributes to the Jewish veterans of the region.

Gar Meltzer kept track of all the Jewish veterans of the Maritimes. Not just in his native Saint John, where he represented the community annually at memorials. But also with everyone in the region.

Indeed, Gar knew just about every Jew in the region. His travels as a salesman took him to every community large and small. As I started my job and shared my travels with him, I would try to stump him by mentioning someone he might not know in Cape Breton, Newfoundland, Yarmouth, and Amherst. I was never successful.

You would always find Gar visiting the Regional Hospital, looking after patients and serving on the pastoral care committee. He even did this in his difficult days, when he himself was facing challenges.

Gar Meltzer was one of those "dayenu" persons--involved in everything even though if they had done just one thing, it would have been fine. Sometimes people in traveling jobs do not get to spend time with their families. Whatever his travels were, they did not prevent him when coming back from showing inspiration and love for them.

And another dayenu I never knew but learned at the funeral, was that Gar was a Boy Scout leader for many years. This has unfortunately been lost of late, but there are still a few around the region who recall the Jewish Boy Scout troops which existed in many communities. These brought together the common values of the two heritages. Former scouts took time to travel in tribute to him. Their dozens of stories were a true inspiration.

So as we wish his wife Jackie and children Evelyne, Richard, Steve and Michael



Rabbi Ellis recited a Remembrance Day prayer in Saint John as the late veteran Gar Meltzer looked on.

and the many grandchildren and friends consolation, I this past Remembrance Day also recalled Gar Meltzer among the many heroes of Zion and Jerusalem.

Sadly, the Glace Bay community also lost its last veteran recently.

I do not know what to say about Mr. Archie Shore. He has simply been the essence of Glace Bay ever since I have been coming there.

Like Gar Meltzer, he was one who excelled in many fields. Everyone knows of the successful food retail business he and his brothers ran for many years. At the shiva house were laminated pages from ancient ads--sugar, 10 lbs. for 50 cents; potatoes, 10 lbs. for 20 cents--how did they make any money?! But they did--anyone in Cape Breton knew the Shores would treat you right.

And then there was his service during the war. Part of his time was in England,

where once in Edinburgh, he met the late Seymour Harrison, also from Cape Breton.

For me what will always be unforgettable is Archie's rendering of the shacharit service on Shabbat.

As it became hard to get a minyan in Glace Bay in recent years, Archie would come to Sydney. We would always nudge him to lead shacharit. Well, it turns out that the folks in Sydney, despite their fine tradition for synagogue singing, eventually adopted some of Archie's melodies. Who could not be moved when Archie said the kedushah--"Mitnasim l-umat s'rafiim . . ."

But what will finally stand out most of all is Archie and his wife Bella being a great family axis with their home on the Mira.

They may have been in Florida for the winters. The children may have moved elsewhere. But their home on the Mira, which led to a television documentary and Cape Breton folklore, was a returning place for everyone, no matter where they were.

To me, the "Song of the Mira" must have been written about the Shore home.

Our prayer is that Bella and daughters Sybil, Marni, Susan and Lani and the grandchildren--all find comfort among all the mourners for Zion and Jerusalem. Although he is no longer with us, his stories and his melodies will still be heard for many years.



The late Archie Shore

Camp Kadimah

by Joanna Mirsky Wexler, Director, Camp Kadimah

As the temperature drops, those who've been to Camp Kadimah watch the website as the days count down until next summer. For 6 weeks every summer, we gather again to sail, waterski, win at softball, march through Maccabia, learn to swim, to sing, to dance and most importantly, to be young leaders. Camp gives us lessons of independence and leadership camp that shape us. The close friendships we make at camp support us throughout our lives.

It is because of this that staff from Camp Kadimah have volunteered their time to run programs in Halifax, Toronto, and hopefully other communities over the next few months as well. We ran successful events in Toronto over the last few months, including a "bring a Visitor to Visitor's Day event" in the fall, and a Machar reunion to watch the impressive 2009 Machar Play, "Prince of Egypt".

We also had a tremendous program here in Halifax in late November, bringing in local youth ages 7 to 13 to enjoy lunch and fun camp style programs like a multi age basketball game, different crafts, and the popular "Rock Band" where even some parents got to join in on the fun!

As a mother as well as camp director, it was heart warming to see so many young kids having fun, making great Jewish friends, and connecting with each other. This is what Jewish camping is all about, and I believe it is essential to our community that we continue to invest in Kadimah, support it by sending our children there, and help the community leaders of the next generation build their Jewish identity and pride.

There are spots available for the 2010 season! Apply now by calling the Halifax office at 902-422-7491 ext 225 or email us at info@campkadimah.com for more information.

With the support of The AJC, alumni, staff and camp families, Camp Kadimah is able to be a part of many communities across Canada year round. Events are happening in Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick- please visit the website for up to date information about events in your area, www.campkadimah.com.

The countdown for Summer 2010 is underway, with many campers and staff alike anxiously waiting July 1st, 2010, when everyone will be back at their second home.

We hope you join us for our next exciting event- Winter Wonderland at Kadimah! A fun-filled day of winter fun at Camp. More information will be available soon, contact the Halifax office if you would like to receive information about this event at info@campkadimah.com.

See you at Camp!

GI Joe: Biography Chronicles The Life of Renowned Gastroenterologist

On Monday, September 21, 2009, Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner celebrated his 100th birthday by continuing his usual routine—going to work.

Retirement was never a consideration for centenarian Dr. Kirsner. He has been an active faculty member of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine since 1935. His life and career as a dedicated gastroenterologist are chronicled in a new biography, *GI Joe: The Life and Career of Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner*, by Dr. James L. Franklin, a gastroenterologist and friend.

"Dr. Kirsner is an internationally renowned physician and medical educator who helped shape the field of gastroenterology," says Dr. Franklin. "The son of Russian immigrants, his life is an American success story in the true Horatio Alger tradition."

While an intern, Dr. Kirsner met Minnie Schneider, an aspiring Jewish ballerina who became his wife of 60 years. He voluntarily enlisted in the Army Medical Corps during World War II, served in Europe and the Pacific, and returned to the University in 1946.

By 1976, his expertise in gastrointestinal disorders reached King Hassan II of Morocco, who brought him there after numerous physicians failed to relieve the King's symptoms. They developed a strong relationship. Over the next 20 years, Dr. Kirsner made more than 50 trips to Morocco to provide medical consultation to the King and his family.

Dr. Kirsner wrote textbooks and hundreds of articles. He led the Section of Gastroenterology at U. of Chicago to national prominence. Dr. Kirsner received high awards of gastroenterology societies as well as many civic awards.

Dr. Franklin says he was "inspired to write *GI Joe* not only because of his contributions to medicine and medical education, but to convey his understanding and teaching on the importance of the doctor-patient relationship."

GI Joe was published by Mendoza Publishing Group, L.L.C., and distributed by the University of Chicago Press.

Order by calling 773-702-7000 or 800-621-2737 or on Amazon.com

Gerry Levitz: Goodbye to a Dear Friend

by Joel Jacobson

We definitely should have listened when Gerry Levitz spoke.

It was January 2006. Half a dozen friends from our youth gathered in Toronto for a few days of reminiscing, updating, enjoying a drink or two, good food, cigars, bragging about our kids, even telling a few lies, but mostly, expressing affectionate friendship.

We were all either at 65 years of age, or soon reaching that milestone. Some of us, like Harold Medjuck, Frank Cappell, Gordie Dankner, Barry Jacobson and me, had been friends since our first days of Baron de Hirsch Congregation cheder at the old Hostel in Halifax. Harold, Frank and Barry were now living in the Toronto area, Gordie and I in Halifax.

David Zatzman had emigrated from Saint John to Halifax in his early teens and now resides in Oshawa.

Gerry Levitz, originally from Corner Brook, NL and living in Ottawa, and David Flam of Chandler Que., now in Montreal, became lifelong friends to all of us when we met at Camp Kadimah in 1952 and in years afterwards

Irv Sherman, a Sydney bocher, who I met at a Young Judea conference in 1951, then again at Camp in 1952, became as close as anyone through our years at Dal and still remains so today with our almost weekly calls between me in Halifax and Irv in Toronto..

Most of us had gathered when we all turned 60, a real milestone for a bunch of men who still acted like teenagers. We promised to get together again at 65 and there we were.

As we shared goodbyes on a Sunday morning, we talked about re-convening at age 70, maybe during visiting day at Camp 2010. But Gerry suggested we should consider getting together sooner than later, "maybe at Camp when we're 67," he said.

Jamie, who, too, became a fast friend to us all through Kadimah.

Harold and I, separately, visited Gerry in an Ottawa hospital a month or so before he passed away, each of us, including

Gerry, knowing we were saying goodbye.

It was hard (harder still, we know, for his family), to see this vibrant, active, intelligent, giving man in a position where he had no control over what was happening. Gerry always had control. Life was always in neat little packages.

He was so organized that in the first days of Camp in 1952, as I bunked next to him, I saw his shelves neatly piled with clothes, mostly beige, colour-coded in shades of beige. I was a comparative slob.

Even though used often, his Brooklyn Dodger (after 1957, L.A. Dodgers) hat was

always clean and neat, compared to my New York Yankee hat, ever smudged with dirt. And despite his love for the Dodgers I despised, and my affection for the Yanks, we became fast friends.

He loved sports and we would talk and argue for hours on end about the strengths of my idol Mickey Mantle (Yankees) and his adored Duke Snider (Dodgers).

The friendship lasted all through our years at Kadimah and into our time at Dalhousie University from which we both graduated with Commerce degrees, his marks always light years ahead of mine for he was generally well-focused on academics while I bumped my way along.

Yet he had time for extra curricular



Gerry Levitz, center back, got together with Maritime friends in Toronto to celebrate the gang's 65th birthdays in January 2006.

*Front: Irv Sherman, Dave Zatzman, Frank Cappell, Gord Dankner.
Back: Barry Jacobson, Gerry Levitz, Joel Jacobson.*

We didn't, and now it's too late. We're all kicking our butts for ignoring his advice.

Gerry passed away October 3. A few of us re-convened but it was in Ottawa two days later. It was not a happy reunion. Frank, Barry and I were there, among hundreds of mourners who said goodbye to a dear friend. The others in our group were unable to attend Gerry's funeral for various reasons, but we know their hearts were there.

It was a shock when word filtered to us that Gerry had a severe form of leukemia from which the chances of recovery were slim. We shared our thoughts with each other, Gerry's wife Ingrid, his daughters, Stephanie and Naomi, and Gerry's brother,

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***Gerry Levitz: Goodbye to a Dear Friend
continued from page 13***

activities and, with my enthusiastic support and his love of sport equal to mine, he followed me as sports editor of the Dalhousie Gazette and joined me as official scorer for Dal basketball and hockey games.

He earned his chartered accountant designation while working in Montreal. I worked in my family retail business in Halifax but, as a buyer of ladies wear, was in Montreal several times a year to select new merchandise.

That gave us more time together. We'd eat well, usually at Moishe's Steak House, attend Canadiens and Expo games with tickets I received from suppliers, and continue to grow our friendship.

We'd constantly laugh, even in our last meeting, when recalling how we caused the demise of a seafood restaurant that offered all-you-could-eat lobster. We went twice, each time each of us devouring at least half a dozen, and ignoring the waiters as they tried to ply us with much-too-filling rolls and potato. When we went a third time, the doors were closed. Out of business! We always knew WE had caused the closure.

When Gerry married Ingrid, I was asked to be an usher but winter snows on that December 22 prevented me from reaching Ottawa for the nuptials.

We made up for that over the years. There was a trip together to the 1971 World Series in Baltimore. There were family celebrations we shared. And there were phone calls, at least monthly, to discuss our families for a moment or two, and then get into serious long harangues about the plight of sport, its business-like manner eroding the innocent love for it we had as kids.

Our love of sport was only exceeded by our affection for each other.

I watched Gerry become a community leader in Ottawa, a man recognized by his peers with many honours for

his generosity and the contribution of his fertile and agile mind to boards and committees, and his deep sense of commitment to always do the right thing.

He was respected in his business community as a partner in a family accounting firm that grew by leaps and bounds under his leadership as managing partner.

At 68, he was taken from all of us too soon. Like so many of us this age, he was still active and had so much more to give. Retirement was far from his mind.



Gerry Levitz holds the one that didn't get away!

He worked. And for recreation, he did crossword puzzles and fished.

And, being the cerebral guy we knew, Gerry played a strong game of bridge, mostly with his dear friend and mine, Leon Zelikovitz, another Sydney and Kadimah guy, who emigrated to Ottawa, via Port Hawkesbury and Halifax, several years ago. Leon was a rock for Gerry in his final weeks, and for Gerry's posse of Camp and Maritime friends, Leon was there to visit and comfort our friend, something those of us too far away could not do easily.

And, of course, Gerry was the respected leader of his own and extended family.

Sure, he was easing down in business, but he would have to be dragged away before he called it quits.

One thing he did quit was a rabid passion

for cigars, stopping his four-or-five a day habit even before the diagnosis last March.

But he wouldn't quit life. Despite the diagnosis, and doctors didn't give him a lot of time, Gerry beat their prognosis by a couple of months. Always thinking, he spent his final months planning for his family. His mind was sharp until the end, an end he knew was near.

After my late-August visit, we continued to communicate by e-mail (he loved his Blackberry). He began to care less about politics, business, the economy, even sports, for he knew.

"Who cares?" he'd say when asked about issues of the day, knowing the results would mean nothing to him.

In my final message to him in mid-September, I wrote,

"As a diversion - looks like the Dodgers will be OK but not sure if they can get through to meet the Yankees, who may have problems of their own with a pitching slowdown or two right now.

Enough diversion because I know you're thinking, "Who cares?", with more important things to consider.

Like the economy? Will Harper make it through today?

And again, "Who cares?"

Gerry, keep your spirits up. It helps you, and those around you.

With much affection, yeah, love even."

And he e-mailed back, always thinking of the feelings of others,

"Thanks. May I say the diversions help. And Love From Me."

Gerry could be described with one word - mensch. He was good, kind and caring. He is gone in body, never in spirit. He gave so much to us, particularly the idea of a bunch of friends getting together sooner than later. We're planning for this year now. We cannot, must not, wait.

Friendship should never be taken for granted. We always hear and read, "Hug those you love today. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?"

Halifax Community to Grow Says UIA Task Force

by Joel Jacobson

Surprise!

Despite what, in the mind's eye, appear to be negative figures; the Jewish population of Halifax is GROWING.

"I don't believe it. I don't see scads of people in shul and at functions," you say.

Yes! Believe it! There is growth and will continue to be, according to a recent report of UIA Canada's National Task Force on Jewish Demographics.

Halifax, the only Eastern Canadian centre included in the study because its population base is considerably larger than other Atlantic communities, is predicted to grow from 1,770 citizens in 1991 to 2,599 in 2011 and 3,050 a decade later.

The increases through 2011 in Halifax are shown in the 0-14 age group (+3.3 percent) 25-44 age group (+3.2 percent) and 45-64 (0.8 percent), probably because of the influx of newcomer families from Israel.

By 2021, the overall aging population shows a dramatic gain in Halifax in the 65-74 category of 11.2 percent between 2011 and 2021, up to 21.6 percent of the total population in that age grouping.

The study was presented to about 30 members of the Halifax community last October, including many executive and board members of Atlantic Jewish Council and other community leaders. UIA Canada Chief Executive Office Linda Kislowicz and Andrea Freedman, task force manager of the study and National Director of Planning and Development of UIA Canada, gave a paper and PowerPoint showing of the statistics.

They predicted that Canada would have 385,198 Jews in 2011, up by 27,143 from 1991 and an increase of 7.6 percent. The largest Canadian increases were in the Caribbean population (+923.3 percent), Russian (286.3), Latin, Central and South American (243.7) and East Indian (212.7). Meanwhile, in Halifax, Caribbean

(872.9), Russian (289.3) and Arab (255.6) populations will show the greatest growth.

By religion, Canadian Muslim population is expected to show the largest growth, by 257.7 percent between 1991 and 2011. Canadian Jewry is predicted to have only a 7.6 percent increase.

The study pointed out that in 1991 Canadian Jewry was 86 percent larger than the Canadian Arab population while in 2011, the Arabs will outnumber Jews by 421.5 percent.

"We're not winning the numbers game and the tide is not changing anytime soon," said the presenters.

They pointed out that in Halifax, the Arab community was larger in 1991 by 81.1 percent and in 2011, will be projected to be 355 percent larger.

The detailed study talks of Halifax's interfaith marriage figure being higher than the Canadian average in 2001 - 38.2 percent vs. 33.5 percent and increasing by 2021. It shows the percent of potential income earning adults in Halifax, between ages 25-64, to be 41.8 percent in 2021, four percent below the Canadian average, meaning the population in Halifax will definitely be aging.

Yet figures show that the actual number of potential income earners in Halifax by 2021 could increase by 239 individuals, much of it related to the incoming immigrant population.

Linda and Andrea stressed that informal Jewish education works in retaining Jewishness in the communities. "If youth experience all three of summer camp, youth group and an Israel experience, they are 14 percent less likely to intermarry," they said. "If they experience two of the three, the chances become six percent and if in only one activity, it means there is only a two percent chance they won't intermarry."

In talking about retaining the Jewish population in communities, they said a

Jewish education affectively increases a sense of belonging, observance, affiliation, pride and security of being a Jew, as well as, socialization and transmission of knowledge and values.

"The challenge, obviously, is to have more Jewish families opt into Jewish experiences," Linda said.

The study emphasized that 90 percent of the millennial generation, young people on campuses today, think Judaism is important.

"We know how to reach them, primarily through technology," said Linda. "While they are globally-minded and skeptical of institutional authority and organizational affiliation, they are more ethnically Jewish than religiously so. They identify with culture and social justice, are hyper-communicators and technology oriented, and favour informal experiences of Jewishness."

The main recommendation of the study was to prioritize the issue of belonging and expressing Jewishness. Get it on the community agenda through discussion forums and roundtables. Train volunteers dedicated to outreach and encourage more young adults to participate in programs such as Birthright Israel.

"Inclusiveness is a key," said Linda. "Make everyone feel comfortable with Judaism, those in mixed marriages, people of colour, those with physical challenges. Be sensitive to all."

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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The Atlantic Jewish Foundation Announces

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2010

Scholarships & Bursaries Available

THE NOA AND SARAH HEINISH FOUNDATION TRUST

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 Soroptomists 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

Dal Hoops Star Leads Canada at Maccabiah Games

by Joel Jacobson



Simon, scoring more than 30 points, was happy to compete against top US College Division I athletes and professionals.

"Being from Canada, we always want to beat them and, even though we lost, it was a great experience."

A day later, Canada topped Argentina for the bronze medal and the US edged Israel in overtime for gold.

Simon, a 6'2" guard from Toronto, continues. "This was my first national team experience. I tried out for the junior national team after Grade 12 but decided to go to University of Wisconsin at Green Bay instead of committing to the national program."

Simon's father was born in Israel and lived

there until he was six, before his family emigrated to the U.S. and then Canada. His mother is of Asian descent.

As he grew up in Toronto, Simon says, "I was raised Jewish. We celebrated all the holidays and went to synagogue, all the usual things."

Basketball was a passion and he was good enough in high school to attract offers from American and Canadian schools. His year at Green Bay wasn't as fulfilling as he had hoped, and he decided to look elsewhere for a student-athlete experience.

"I had offers again from a few schools but knew of, and heard from, John (Campbell, Dal coach) and decided to come here," he says.

Go back to March 7, 2009. More than 5,600 basketball fans are cheering at Halifax Metro Centre as Simon Farine helps Dalhousie Tigers complete an almost impossible feat.

Led by their star guard, Dalhousie wins only its second ever Atlantic University men's basketball championship (the first was 1995-96). Simon poured in 45 points as Dal beat Acadia 88-85 in the playoff opener. The next night, in the semi-final against Cape Breton University, he had 28 in a 78-77 win.

In the final against perennial contender St. Francis Xavier, the Tigers took a 72-60 win with Simon playing a pivotal role as the court general.

Now jump ahead to July 2009. Simon is in Israel, the key man on Canada's Maccabiah Games team. The team, made up of current and past Canadian university players who are Jewish, has already swept through Germany, Greece and Brazil and lost to Israel.

They're about to play the semi-final against the powerhouse United States, coached by Tennessee's Bruce Pearl. The game is a 123-76 blowout for the US, but



Simon Farine drives past a St. F.X. defender during last spring's AUS men's basketball championship game won by Dalhousie.

The decision was good - for both sides. Simon is a good student, in his fourth year at the School of Management. He has one year of basketball eligibility left.

He has been a boon to the Tigers' basketball program. The year before he arrived, the team was 14-19 and out of the playoffs. In 2007-08, Simon, scoring 17.5 points per game, was a second team all-star and led them to a 16-16 record and into the league semi-finals.

Last season, the Tigers were 24-10, including 13-7 in the league, and won the playoff title, advancing to the Canadian championships.

Simon scored 20.7 points per game, second in the league, averaged 6.1 rebounds (a high number for a small player) and 4.2 assists per game, third in the league.

Two years before, Maccabiah Games Canada came calling for the 2009 edition of the quadrennial event.

"I'd never been to Israel and thought this would be a great chance to see it and play

basketball at a high level. It was a no-brainer to say yes."

Simon handled the ball much of the time, either shooting, penetrating to the basket, or finding the open man for a shot, much like what he does at Dal.

Tigers' John Campbell calls Simon "a special player. He has been instrumental in the resurgence of our program, culminating in the championship season in 2008-09. He proved this summer that he has the ability to perform not just at the university level but at the highest levels of international play."

His ability also made it a no-brainer for four-time Maccabiah team coach John Dore, head coach at Montreal's Concordia University. John gave him plenty of playing time. In fact, Simon played every minute but one in the six games.

Simon laughs. "Against (pro-laden) Israel, we were down 20 with a minute left and Coach told me he wanted to sit me down to rest for the semi-final the next day."

Because of pre-tournament injuries to

two players, the Canadians, who started with nine on the squad, played most of the tournament with seven. Down to six because of one more injury, they knocked off a very good Argentina squad by 20 for the bronze.

"Simon was terrific, the heart and soul of our team" says Coach Dore. "He did everything for us - handled the ball, made his free throws when we needed them (he shoots over 75 per cent at Dal), is a great competitor, works hard, listens and has a great feel for the game."

John adds, "He played so well in Israel that a number of agents and teams inquired about his availability to play pro in Israel."

Simon admits he enjoyed it more than he thought he would. "We had six games in 14 days, so we were able to see a lot of the country. We went to Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea, much of the Tel Aviv area. I regret not getting to the northern part."

He admits he'd go back in a heartbeat. "If I'm available for the Games in 2013, I'll certainly go."



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Marcela: An Artistic Marvel

by Joel Jacobson

Marcela Rosenberg's voice peals with excitement.

"I just had a call from the P.E.I. Government Art Bank. They want one of my pieces for the premier's office," says the Island woman who uses glass for artistic expression.

Marcela came to PEI from Buenos Aires six years ago, soon after the collapse of the Argentine economy. Her original plan was to emigrate to Toronto but didn't have enough money to exist there. A Canadian immigration officer suggested slower-paced and less-expensive PEI, where authorities were seeking glass artisans. She jumped at the chance.

"After 45 years in Argentina, it was difficult to leave family and friends, but, today, I couldn't be happier."

Marcela's business grew rapidly as she came up with hundreds of designs – from traditional bowls to jewelry to Judaica pieces like menorahs, Seder plates, and other creations with Hebraic themes.

Her work has been recognized far and wide. Her Ocean Menorah, a one-of-a-kind fused, kiln formed and cold work (polished) design, made from 18 mm glass, was selected as a finalist in the Niche competition in Philadelphia. The winner will be announced in February 2010.

"It's the third year in a row one of my Judaica pieces was chosen," she exclaims. "Last year, it was a Seder plate and the year before a depiction of the Western Wall."

Marcela calls Ocean Menorah "a peaceful piece. It's translucent. It reflects me. I'm clear and honest, translucent. It's made of layers and layers of glass and is strong,

and so am I. Yet, because it's glass, it's fragile, just like all of us."

Fused glass technique dates to the ancient artisans of Egypt. It is about joining pieces of glass together by slowly melting them in a kiln at a temperature of around 1450 degrees Fahrenheit. By using the lower end of the temperature ranges the glass pieces stick together. Using the higher end of the temperature range, one piece melts into another.



Marcela's efforts have paid off with recognition awards including 2009 Woman of the Year by The American Biographical Institute Board of International Research, in the Jewish Women Artisans around the World 2008-2009 Hadassah-Brandeis Institute calendar featuring Jewish Women Artisans around the World, and the 2008 Atlantic Canada Excellence in Product Design.

Two months ago, she was asked to create two 13-foot glass pieces commemorating last summer's Canada Games on the Island.

"They are recognition pieces for the sponsors and 6,500 volunteers and will be placed at the two arenas where many of the events took place," says Marcela. "Each piece will be made of 500 pieces of glass, 8 cm x 8 cm, and will be tapestry of

colour, like seeing the Island from a plane.

"I'm honoured to be chosen to do this. I didn't have to compete. They just came to me and said that everyone knows and likes my work and they want me to do it. I started crying, I was so happy."

Marcela lives in Stratford, about 10 minutes from Charlottetown. She grew up in a traditional conservative home in a strong Jewish area of Buenos Aires.

She took her Jewishness for granted.

"I didn't even know Prince Edward Island existed," she says. "I loved geography in school and I knew Newfoundland and Halifax, but not PEI. The day I arrived, it was -24C. I had left 40C weather the day before. I felt cold, both in temperature and emotionally, but I slowly adjusted and now feel I'm totally settled. Today I can say I found myself."

She discovered there was no shul, Torah, Hebrew school,

rabbi, or cemetery but has adjusted. Her Jewish background fosters the ideas she has for Judaica items.

"The ideas come from my soul," she says, "from my love of being a Jewish woman."

Marcela has shown in Halifax and throughout the region, as well as at galleries in Ontario, Quebec and the United States.

"It's taken time," she says. "I came here with no name and had to build a reputation, just as I did in my homeland but now people know who I am."

Her work has been depicted on past covers of Shalom, showing the detail and perseverance of any artisan.

"Everything I do is by hand, so there's no perfection. I can improve every time I do a new piece. I still feel I'm a work in progress."

Israeli Politician and Journalist Pleads for UIA Help

by Joel Jacobson

Nachman Shai's telephone rings constantly during a Halifax brunch.



Nachman Shai

His Hebrew conversations are short but to the point.

That's the norm for a man who was elected to the Israeli Knesset only eight months ago, after a lengthy career as a journalist – keeping things short, staying on topic and making his point known.

Shai is in Halifax to speak to highly-placed members of the Jewish community about the Iranian military-build-up situation, about the West's ignorance, and almost denial, of what's happening in the erosion of Middle East support of Israel, and the need for continued western backing of the

Jewish homeland.

He's traveling to Toronto and London, ON when he leaves Halifax to generate more support and, as here, to speak of the need for United Israel Appeal interest in Canada.

Shai, a leading commentator on Israeli television and radio networks, is a member of the Kadima party. He began as military correspondent for the Army magazine and, in 1968, became a reporter and editor of "Kol Yisrael" (Israel Radio). He joined the foreign ministry in 1979, served as the Press Secretary to the Israel delegation to the UN in New York, and then transferred to Washington as the press advisor to the Israeli Embassy. Then followed positions as Israel Defense Force (IDF) spokesperson as a Brigadier General, Director General of the Second Television and Radio Authority, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Channel 2 News Company.

In 1999, he was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Science,



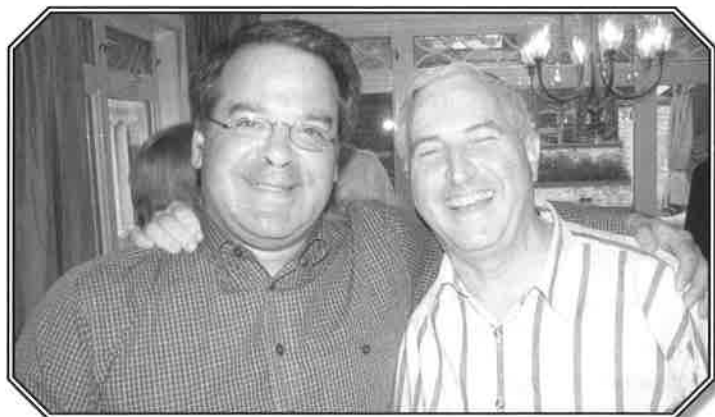
Shai addresses member of the Halifax community at an evening roundtable

Culture and Sport, and chairman of IBA (Israel broadcast Authority) a year later.



Attending the brunch were Michael Argand, Joanne Nozick, Cantor Ari Isenberg.

Shai holds an MA cum laude degree from the Communications Institute of



AJC President Howard Conter and Perry Romberg Director Campaign and Regional Community Services, UIAFC, share smiles at the brunch.



Karen Conter and Louise Wolfson at the UIA brunch.



Joan MacDonald, Michael Zatzman, brunch host, and Howard Budovitch enjoy friendly conversation.

Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and has completed advanced studies at the World Press Institute, Minneapolis, and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is the outgoing Senior Vice President of UJC and Director General of the UJC Israel.

All of that gives him credence as an advocate for Israel on the international stage and his reason for being in Halifax.

"Why would Iran like to destroy Israel," he asks rhetorically. "What did we do? People say Israel is not serious (with its concern about Iran's development of nuclear weapons), that it is a peaceful project of Iran, not a military one, but WE take it very seriously. We know Iran is progressing technologically to send rockets hundreds of kilometers and has an impressive military capability that threatens its neighbours, including Israel."

He stresses Iran is affecting Israel's northern and southern borders, helping Lebanon and Gaza so it has two organizations that can launch missiles into Israel.

"By hitting Israel on its home front, as it did with the second Lebanon War and in January 2009, it can cause thousands of casualties and weaken Israel from the

inside. Being so densely populated and small, we can't afford for war to be fought on our land."

He said Iran's nuclear program could be finished in a matter of months and "we don't know when they will cross the line of no return. Once they acquire the bomb, the Middle East will not be the same. And it's not just about Israel.



Laura Tsinman, Victor Goldberg, Michael Zatzman & Fanny Nathanson are UIA supporters.



Victor Goldberg, Jon Goldberg, Perry Romberg, Judith Goldberg, Lynda Suissa wait for Nachman Shai's remarks.

It's about Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia which are moderate, but are feeling the heat and are no less concerned than Israel."

He pointed out

the region is looking at the international community and asking, "What are you going to do about it? Yet, I'm afraid that at the end of this, we'll be left on our own."

He presented a message of urgency to stop a military confrontation as he noted Israel was spending 30 per cent of its budget on defense, higher than any time in its history.

"We need to keep the flow of information from Israel to the world," he said in an interview. "Twelve million Jews have to stick together. I'm traveling and speaking because I believe in my country and my people. Yes, it helped to get elected by being a former journalist and military man. Now I just hope people listen."

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Club Massada Active in Halifax

by Barbara Alberstat, President

We have started our new year with a well-attended Meeting and Tea at the Beth Israel Synagogue in October. Everyone enjoyed meeting Rabbi Sherbill and we were entertained with his guitar playing of familiar Jewish tunes. We also got to sing along to some of them. A great beginning.

Our Board members are such wonderful volunteers and a big thanks go out to each and every one of them. Shirley Burnstein is our co-ordinator: Barb Alberstat, President; Phil Alberstat, Treasurer; Marianne Ferguson, Correspondence Secretary; Recording Secretary, Erika Bernicker; Mindy Jacobson, Telephone Chairperson, and

Ethel Stein, Card Chairperson.

We also want to give a very heartfelt thank you to the AJC for their continuing support. We greatly need and appreciate their financial help.

The Annual Chanuka Luncheon will be held at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue again this year. Many thanks to them for helping host this enjoyable event. The lunch will start at noon December 3. The menu is being prepared by Janet Casey and her helpers, which always make it a great treat. Of course, there will be latkes, sour cream and applesauce to go with it. Ray Ginsberg will speak on his great hiking adventures around Europe this past fall. The Gift Shops of both the Beth Israel and the Shaar Shalom

Synagogue will be there with all the Chanuka items you want and need.

A very special Greet and Tea will be sponsored by Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly at Northwood on January 14, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. It will be very nice to meet Mayor Kelly and chat with him on a very informal basis. We hope to have a very full turnout for that.

We're looking forward to another full year of lunches and meetings at Northwood. We hope everyone has a very happy Chanuka filled with lots of yummy latkes.

Happy Chanuka from Barb, Shirley and all the members of Club Massada.

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and help us meet the special needs of Israel's children living
on northern confrontation line communities.

Shalom Report for Moncton

by Nancy Cohen

After many years of discussion and planning Tiferes Israel finally has a wheelchair ramp! All that's missing are the railings, so the ramp should soon be ready for use.



Members of the Moncton community enjoy the Succah!

Our Hebrew school under the direction of Rebbitzin Yagod is off to a good start. Several children are attending her classes and really seem to enjoy learning with her. During the Rabbi's and Rebbitzin's last visit to Moncton a lovely community Shabbat dinner was held. Delicious food was prepared by Sisterhood with the help of Chef Olivier Weil, son of our president,

Francis. Rebbitzin Yagod also assisted with the preparations and made beautiful challahs.

The Moncton Museum recently organized an open house tour that included several buildings of historical significance in the city, and the synagogue was chosen as one of these buildings. The open house was an amazing success with 460 people visiting the synagogue. Most of the visitors were Christians and Muslims of all ages and they asked hundreds of questions about Judaism. Several volunteers were on hand to show guests around the shule and answer their questions.

Those who attended the UJA opener in Moncton were very impressed by speaker Susan Davis. Susan gave an interesting and engaging talk about the work of the Canadian Council for Jewish and Israel Advocacy, and brought us up to date on anti Israel activity on Canadian university campuses and what CIJA is doing to counteract it.

Sisterhood is busy planning the annual Hanukkah dinner which will take place on December on Sunday, December 13. Candle lighting ceremonies will also be



Daniel Rinzler, Rabbi Yitzchok Yagod, Jack Haller take a break during the construction of the Succah.

held at Moncton City Hall and at the Moncton Hospital.

Mazel tov to Barrie and Evy Carnat on the birth of their grandson Samuel Benjamin Carnat in Toronto. The proud parents are Toby Carnat and Rachael Schelew. Samuel is a great grandchild for Lillian Schelew and Irving Schelew. Barrie and Evy are also happy to announce the engagement of their son Daniel to Deanna Allan.

Happy Hanukkah!

Fredericton News

by Carol Airst

Fredericton on 1 Kislev, 5770: History was made.

History was made in Fredericton, NB on the first day of Kislev, 5770. On that Wednesday morning, we had a Torah service at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, which was led by the WOMEN of the congregation. Never before have we had this happen in our synagogue. Let me give special thanks to our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Yosef Goldman. He is working

very hard to involve all members of our congregation and provided all the material and guidance to make this service become a reality. It was complete with muffins and coffee at 9:00am and a Kiddush following the service.

Services began at 9:30am sharp. Yours truly, Carol Airst, was the Gabai. I had to do a very quick brush-up with my Hebrew reading. Marilyn Kaufman opened the morning service prayers. She also did the Sh'mah. Then Edye Besner led the



Our four great readers from the Torah.

Shemoneh Esrei - Amidah part of the service. This was followed with Ellen

continued on page 26

PHOTOS FROM AROUND OUR REGION



Marilyn Kaufman anticipates digging into latkes that she is baking at the Fredericton shul.



Jordan Kerbel, CJC National Director of Public Affairs & Susan Davis, CIJA Vice-President, with members of the Saint John Jewish community at the UJA kick-off.



Members of the Fredericton community attended a UJA kick-off event at the home of Arnold and Judy Budovitch. L-R Jordan Kerbel, Matthew Chippin, Louis Budovitch, Arnold Budovitch, Arnold Chippin and Marilyn Kaufman.



Israeli Consul-General, Yoram Elron, visited the PEI Community at the home of Darryl and Victoria Bloom. Attending were the Consul General, Darryl, Rosalie Simeone, Victoria, Joe Naylor and AJC President Howard Conter.



Helena Jockel, Halifax, meets Brigadier General David Naismith, Commander Land Forces Atlantic Area, after Kristallnacht ceremonies. Halifax Regional Municipality Councillor Jerry Blumenthal looks on. Each of them lit a memorial candle.



Ellen Lupu and Rabbi Yosef Goldman smile as they watch latke making at the Fredericton Shul.



AJC Executive Director Jon Goldberg suggests new government policy to Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter after Kristallnacht and during the opening of the SS St. Louis exhibit in Halifax.



Rabbi Ari Sherbill of Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, and Josh David, Halifax, share plaudits after they performed at a Halifax Cantorial concert. Rabbi Sherbill, Master of Ceremonies and Josh shared the microphone with Cantor Yaniv Sananes of Israel.



Denise (2nd from left) and Lance Webber (4th from left) hosted the Ritenan family after Philip (3rd from left) received the Order of Nova Scotia in October.



Mark David assists Helena Jockel, Halifax, a Holocaust survivor, as she lights a candle at Kristallnacht in memory of the millions of Jews slaughtered during World War II.



AJC past President Kathy Zilbert and husband Arthur are dwarfed by the pyramids in Egypt after attending a conference in Israel.



Susan Davis, CIJA Vice-President, (3rd from left) spoke at a UJA kick off in Fredericton. L-R Melvin Soicher, Marisa Blanchard, Susan Davis, Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Judy & Arnold Budovitch.



Ella Itzhakov (left) teaches a Sunday Hebrew school program for newcomer youth in Halifax.

Fredericton News continued from page 23

Lupu and her daughter, Lily Samuels doing the Hallel. Before the Torah Service, Roz Brown opened the arc and closed it after removing the Torah. Lea Adilman removed the Torah and led the procession around the sanctuary. Four women completed the day's portion of the Torah Service. They appeared in the following order: Ruth Chippin, Lea Adilman, Marilyn Kaufman, and Ziv Ianco-Haliva.

Leona Brown, with the assistance of Rabbi Goldman, returned the Torah to the Aron Kodesh. Then a beautiful Devar Torah was given by Sydelle Grobe. Finally the service was concluded with everyone singing Oleinu L'Shabeach.

Following the service, there was a Kiddush sponsored by Josh Samuels (husband of Ellen Lupu and father of Lily Samuels) for everyone to enjoy. He wanted to honour our first ever women's service and he

wanted it to be nice. It was beautiful and had all the trimmings of good Jewish food, including the lox. For those of you who are still reading this in disbelief I have included pictures for proof. I might add there were several cameras going full speed for the service. Some of our male members make great photographers. Special thanks to Mitch Budovitch and Cary Grobe. The service was well attended and Tevet is only one month away.

Rosh Chodesh Women's Minyan in Fredericton - A Personal Perspective

by Marilyn (Chippin) Kaufman

Recently, a few women in our community expressed an interest in studying for our Bat Mitzvah. So we approached Rabbi Goldman with the idea. Would it be possible? If so, how could we go about it? He did some research and came back to us with the proposal of doing a "women's minyan" - something we had never heard of. He suggested we do a Rosh Chodesh women's minyan, perhaps in February or June, as we were already into late September. But....we are keeners. So with Ruth Chippin spearheading the organization of the minyan and Lea Adilman assisting, history was in the making.

the Israelite vision of Hashem." One of the the Midrash interpretations recounts that when the men went to their women asking for their jewelry for the construction of the "golden calf" while Moses was receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai, the women refused. Thus, G-d as

brothers. All celebrated their Bar Mitzvah. I, too, would have liked to have studied and learned how to read an Haftarah. With me, at the time, I saw it as an indication of upward educational mobility. Education was stressed in our household. Improving your education provided you

with broader opportunities. So, if I had the ability and foundation to learn an Haftarah, not to mention the seven and a half hours every week I spent in Chedar after my public school classes, then why shouldn't I?

I would like to think, it was not meant to be at that time.

Ma Tovv Ohalecha Yakov
Mishkanasecha Yisrael

"How goodly are your tents,
O Jacob, your dwelling
places, O Israel..."

These words opened the

Kislev Rosh Chodesh women's minyan service Wednesday morning, Nov.18, 2009 in Fredericton, N.B. Attended by about twenty congregants; some would say all were participants in the making of history in the capital community. A first for women, being given an aliyah, and actually reading from the Torah scroll itself. Some may have viewed it as breaking the barrier of a male dominated ritual, but others felt it as a closer spiritual connection with G-d.



Carol Airst our great Gabai

a reward, gave women Rosh Chodesh as their holiday.

As I took my seat at the front of the Shul waiting to be called up to the bimah to open the service, I realized that this is where I used to see my Zaidie Chippin (z"l) sitting on Saturday mornings while I sat at the back in the balcony - the women's section. I grew up in Fredericton guided by Orthodox traditions with three

What began as four women - Ruth Chippin, Lea Adilman, myself and Ziv Iancu-Haliva being called up to the Torah for an aliyah - quickly blossomed into an abbreviated Rosh Chodesh weekday morning service.

Most Jewish festivals fall on the full moon and Rosh Chodesh (head of the moon) is a time for Jews to celebrate their renewal and growth.. The significance of Rosh Chodesh as a women's holiday is attributed to their "commitment to

Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that being on the bimah with the Torah scroll open before me (no vowels),pointer in hand (you are not permitted to touch the parchment), preparing to chant my assigned aliyah portion (hoping I would not lose my place) was somewhat overwhelming. (The Rabbi was adamant that we read , not from the Chomesh, but from the Torah itself.) However, the calming influence when all is said and done, is remembering who you are praying to. From this comes a profound feeling of inclusion and spiritual closeness to G-d that one experiences. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in



Aleinu Prayer at the end of the service.

prayer "up close and personal" as it gave me a whole new perspective from which to reflect.

Thank you to Rabbi Goldman for his

instruction and guidance, who kept challenging us to take on more, to Larry Finkleman for his words of wisdom, to our menfolk for their support and to the following participants: Ruth Chippin, Lea Adilman, Ziv Iancu-Haliva, Edye Besner, Ellen Lupu, Sydelle Grobe, Carol Airst, Roz Brown and Leona Brown who made our first women's minyan possible. And lastly, thank you to Josh Samuel for providing the Kiddush

following the service.

So as not to rest upon the laurels of our achievement, many of us are now, eagerly looking forward to planning our next Rosh Chodesh women's minyan. (Baruch Hashem)

An Interview with Rabbi Yosef Goldman by Lea Adilman

Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Fredericton's newest, and most welcomed addition to the Jewish community, brings new life to the city and the Jewish community. Yosef Goldman, born in Toronto and raised in Israel, has deep rooted ties with Fredericton. Goldman vividly recalls the time he spent every few summers during his youth in Fredericton while visiting his grandparents. Fond memories were made at his grandparent's home on Albert Street. Two such memories, which stand out for the Rabbi, were when he and siblings had convinced their Bubbie Goldman to light the fireplace during the middle of summer, in order for them to experience an indoor fireplace. Likewise, being taught by his grandmother to play bridge, which spawned within Goldman a sense of togetherness, that the Rabbi has brought back to Fredericton, and hopes to share this age old knowledge with the current Jewish community. When asked, if the Rabbi has felt welcome

by the community during his first two months in Fredericton, most definitely. Not only has the Jewish community made him feel welcome, but also the Fredericton community at large. Most specifically, Father McGowan, from St. Thomas University. Father McGowan, when introducing Rabbi Goldman to students, faculty and staff simply stated, " This is our new Rabbi", these words resonate in the Rabbi's mind with a sense of belonging.

Having chosen cycling as the dominant mode of transportation, he hopes to encourage others to become more active and conscience of the environment. Another effort the Rabbi has made in promoting a green lifestyle has been to acquire the synagogue's first ever, but not last, recycling bin. Furthermore, encouraging those in his building to donate their used bottles as a means to chip away at raising money for the Kiddush fund. Rabbi Goldman's work in the community has just begun, with such achievements aforementioned, not forgetting, the first

ever woman's Rosh Chodesh service, as well as planned upcoming events and programs to be introduced. Goldman, with his guidance and support, is well on his way in recreating and re-innovating what the Jewish community once was and what it promises to become.

Being told that Fredericton's Jewish community is weak, in terms of its individual's level of religiosity is something that falls on deaf ears for Rabbi Goldman. He is rather positive and holds high hopes for the community. Having come with an open mind and intending to keep it that way Rabbi Goldman has only positive hopes for the community. Stating that, "my hopes for the community will be that it grows as a united community, regardless of religiosity levels." With the enthusiasm, positivism, and kindness Rabbi Goldman emanates, the community will once again shine with bustle and excitement.

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum has completed its first tourist season in its new location on Leinster and it was a successful one with visitors from the many cruise ships which docked in Saint John from early June to early November as well as many curious local residents who wanted to explore the heritage building which we now occupy. We also welcomed a large number of ex-patriots who returned to the city to visit with family and friends throughout the summer and fall months.

The featured summer exhibit focused on weddings in Saint John from 1882 to the present and included wedding dresses from 1928 to 1959. Many were impressed by the range of styles over the decades and the beauty of the bridal gowns. We also revamped our permanent exhibit on the Jewish way of life from the cradle to the grave with refurbished display cases and new interpretation for our artifacts.

The official opening of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum and Congregation Shaarei Zedek was held on the evening of Saturday, October 24, 2009 with over 100 people in attendance including many members of the local Jewish community, local residents, local Christian clergy and dignitaries from all walks of life. The official program opened with a Havdalah ceremony led by Daniel Elman assisted by the children of the community. The president of the Congregation, Norman Hamburg, and the vice-president of the Museum, Gary Davis, welcomed those assembled for this special evening. Greetings were brought by Rodney Weston, our Member

of Parliament, the Hon. Dr. Ed Doherty, our Provincial Member of the Legislature, Councillor Joe Mott, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of Saint John, Rev. Dr. Philip J. Lee on behalf of the clergy of Saint John and Rabbi David Ellis for the Atlantic Jewish Council. Guests

the Hon. Erminie Cohen. Many members of the community came together to ensure that all guests were warmly welcomed, special guests were ushered to reserved seating, to prepare and serve exquisite refreshments and explain the exhibits.

After the formal program, guests mingled in the display areas to greet friends old and new and see how the museum has adapted this heritage building into a museum and place of worship. The building dates from 1897 when it was built as a private home for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peters with beautiful hand-carved woodwork and oak parquet flooring. In the 1940s, Senator and Mrs. Charles Emerson made the building their home. In the mid-1960s, the building

was converted into a funeral home which operated in the building until last year.

As a community we look forward to many wonderful years in this building where the community can worship and share its rich history with the rest of the world. Increased numbers have been attending services in a space that is both cozy and welcoming. The museum looks forward to a busy winter of group tours and a new Holocaust Study Group, a group already expressing strong curiosity and seeking answers to many questions about Jewish life and experience.

Next spring we will open a new exhibit which will look at where the Jewish community lived and worked in Saint John and how things have changed over time as a result of economic and social changes for community members and changes in the appearance of the city over the decades.

Finally, Gary Davis, Museum Vice-



Daniel Elman, assisted by children of the Saint John Jewish community, leads Havdalah services at the official opening of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum and Congregation Shaarei Zedek.

were also treated to a video presentation of the history of the Saint John Jewish community.

This once-in-a-lifetime event was organized by a large committee chaired by



Marcia Koven, founder of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, and Hon. Erminie Cohen look at an exhibit during the museum's official opening.

President, has decided to make an offer that you will not want to refuse. By consensus through email, the Museum has agreed to sell a limited number of copies of the video \$15, which is a discount of 25%. He will match each one sold with a donation of \$5 to the Museum. You can buy as many copies as you want for this

price as long as the supply lasts, up to the limit of 100. This is a limited time offer that ends on December 11. Chanukah starts that night. Orders must be paid by cheque or money order to the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum (91 Leinster Street, Saint John, N.B., E2L 1J2). If you want a copy mailed to anywhere in

Canada please add \$2 per copy. If you want one mailed to the USA, please add \$3 per copy. Do not forget to include the address of people you want to send them to. Please forward this offer to anyone you think would be interested.

Jewish Community Havura, St. John's, NL

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

The summer started with little rain and we had a water ban. Then six weeks of rain and high winds, day after day. We even had snowflakes in October. Predictions are for a snowy winter so stay tuned to see if the Farmer's Almanac is correct. Havura cross country ski enthusiasts are looking forward to it, however.

The High Holy Days and Festivals brought together members, new arrivals and out of town guests. Services were well attended and the community meals were appreciated by all. We had a community dinner for erev Rosh Hashanah as well as a cold luncheon the next day. A break fast meal at Yom Kippur, a community brunch at Succoth and desserts on Simchat Torah lent to the festivities. During Tashlich we blew the Shofar and kudos to some of the younger members who made clear sounds on the first try. Everyone was impressed.

Elizabeth Siegel led services. She and Rob Ritter, Arnold Bennett, Gil Shalev and Dan Kapeluto did the preparation. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Nancy Bennett, Lisa Bendzsa and Diane Siegel organized meals. Elena Hammel, Jonathan Kitzen and their daughter Sienna built and did most of the decorating of the Sukkah in their backyard and hosted the brunch.

Now that the holidays are over, regular activities are commencing. The Hebrew



Archbishop Martin Currie and Ruth Noel

School for the children is being organized by the Havura's other Elizabeth Siegel, mother of Jacob, and an adult Jewish philosophy discussion group. These sessions are being enjoyed by all present.

The Religious Social Action Coalition, in which the Havura plays a leading role along with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, the Mosque, the Salvation Army, the Hindu Temple, the United Church, the Pentecostals and the Anglicans, is gearing up for the federal election, whenever it comes. The Coalition is preparing to call on all candidates for Parliament throughout Canada to pledge to work to eliminate

poverty. Jews in the Maritimes are invited to help by signing on to coalition letters to MP candidates in your province, as well as letters to the leaders of all five major parties, asking them to support the elimination of poverty. (If you want to help, contact the Havura at info@havura.org) The coalition website candidatesagainstopoverty.ca will allow voters everywhere in Canada to see which of their local candidates have pledged. In the last election, there were pledges from every province and one territory, and every candidate elected in Newfoundland and Labrador had pledged.

Three Havura members are among the Memorial University scholars helping the Religious Social Action Coalition to develop research capacities to measure the effectiveness of Newfoundland

government efforts to end poverty: Dr. Steven Wolinetz, who chairs the panel, Dr. Katherine Side, and Dr. Lorne Sulsky.

Mazel tov to Jillian Gould who received her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) -- in Folklore at Memorial University's Fall Convocation. Mazel tov to John and Ruth Noel on the marriage of their son Elliott to Kayu Chin in Toronto. Mazel tov to Susanne Gulliver and Dennis Conway who were married in St. John's on November 14th. Mazel tov to Nancy and Arnold Bennett on the birth of their second granddaughter in Toronto.

Dr. Gerhard Bassler, Professor Emeritus

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Havura members at the Succoth brunch.

of Memorial University and a friend of the Jewish Community, has recently been appointed by B'nai Brith to the Advisory Board of the National Holocaust Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

We are now preparing for our Chanukah party which will be held, Sunday, Dec. 13th. Shabbat services are continuing in people's homes followed by a Shabbat dinner. We welcome visitors and new members. Email us at info@havura.org for more information.



Joy is the byword at the Havura Succah burnch

The Newfoundland Mission to Israel

by Michael D. Paul, MD

It was after returning from a UIA Israel Mission in October 2007, that I decided to try to form a Newfoundland Mission- to bring a group of interested people from Newfoundland and Labrador to see and witness the beauty, history and accomplishments of Israel. I believe that it is incumbent upon all Jews who care for Israel to try and counter the negative picture and stereotypes that one sees and hears about daily via the media.

Starting last year I spoke to many people from different walks of life. I spoke to Christian clergy, to church groups, to colleagues and to members of the small synagogue in St John's, whose members in general are fairly strong supporters of Israel. Many people indicated interest, but because of the economic recession and unease over events shown in the media -concerning the Middle East in general, and about Israel in particular, many people were uncertain about travelling to this part of the world. However I did find several Christian persons from St John's who indicated a willingness and eagerness to participate in this trip.

Perry Romberg and his colleagues of the UIA Toronto and Jerusalem offices were instrumental in putting together an excellent itinerary- interesting to those of us who have been to Israel several times,

and also of interest to those for whom this would be a first of hopefully many trips to Israel.

Several iterations were worked upon until a final version was agreed upon with only 1 month to the date of departure.

We left St John's the late afternoon of October 21- filled with excited anticipation of a soon to be memorable trip- some would say a historic, trip to Israel. Our first leg was to Toronto where we boarded the late evening flight on Air Canada to Tel Aviv. The plane was absolutely full with tourists, business people, returning Israelis, students and others. All of the announcements were in 3 languages. The flight itself was very long, about 11 hours, but was relatively uneventful, except for nasty air pockets at certain altitudes. For the non-Jews on the flight, the spectacle of people standing and davening as we were flying eastwards created a very interesting picture, perhaps a fore taste of what was to be seen on repeated occasions over the next few days.

We arrived tired, well fed and happy at Ben Gurion airport just as the sun was setting over the Mediterranean Sea on Thursday October 22nd, and were greeted by our guide and driver- Anat Rehav- who would usher us around Israel and tell us many marvelous stories about the history, the modern day founders, the current political

events, and other memorable tales over the next 11 days that she would spend with us. She and her assistant Na'amat guided us expertly through the baggage claim and passport control with skill and ease.

Anat was a native "sabara", whose family arrived to Israel from Iraq one generation ago. Her husband, Avi Regev, was also a tourist guide, both of them specializing in UIA/UJA tours. Anat was fluent in English, Arabic, Spanish, and Hebrew and also could get along in German.

Our first night was in Tel Aviv at the Dan Panorama. This hotel was right across the street from the Mediterranean shore. After checking in and refreshing, and getting used to our new rental phones and the intricacies of dialing to Canada, we met in the lobby to walk through narrow winding streets in the old market area to the Yemenite restaurant the Maganda, which was in the southern section of the city. It appeared to be a very popular eating spot as we had to wait a short while for a table. The fare was Middle Eastern and was entirely enjoyable and satisfying, and introduced us to the food we would be eating over the next few days.

As we walked back to the hotel we had a brief introduction to the current Israeli political scene and Middle Eastern politics in general, and the differences in religious political world views.

Friday- October 23, 2009

After a very restful and cool night and a bit of noise from late arriving tourists, we arose to find the water of the Mediterranean lapping the shores of the Tel Aviv beach. Each room had an excellent view of the sea. Next to the hotel was an ancient Mosque.

The spread of the buffet was amazing in the variety of Middle Eastern and American foods. We had a guest at our table- Freda Surki a former Areva (shelicha) from Project Arevim, who joined us before going to work. She brought us up to date about her current work, and items of interest about other arevot who had spent time in St John's, including about Tali Milstein who was about to give birth to her second child at any moment!

The group then started traveling north along the coastal road towards Caesarea. We passed Nahariya, Natanya- no longer the Diamond capital of Israel (due to the recent recession), Hadera, and other small towns as we aimed to our ultimate destination of Haifa. Once arrived, we drove to the famous Stella Maris- Star of the Sea- Church and Monastery. There we viewed the beautiful frescos and the altar with its holy relics. There were pilgrims from India and the Philippines visiting and lighting votive candles.

Our next stop was the Baha'i Gardens. The mother of a former St John's Jewish community member- Thomas Loewenheim- came to meet us and gave us many details of her family and of the area, especially of the Gardens. We bid her farewell, and drove northeast to a Druze village and were taken to the home of a local prominent family, where we were given a talk about the Druze customs, religion and their love for Israel. We were then given a Druze vegetarian lunch which all enjoyed, especially the sesame and date home baked cookies.

In the Israeli Friday afternoon rush hour, we continued, at a slower pace due to the increased traffic volume to Tzfat (Safed), where we would spend Shabbat. Tzfat is the mystical centre of Judaism, where Rabbi Luria and Rabbi Joseph Caro lived centuries ago. Our hotel- Rimomim- was in the heart of the ancient city. After checking

and refreshing I walked to an Ashkenazi shul- Beth Sefer v'Beth Knesset Moshe, and entered for Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat. As it turned out, this shul was ultra-Orthodox with the men wearing fur shtreimels and gabardine/ white cotton kittles, they davened in unison.

The service itself was over in about 1 ½ hours.

Back at the hotel we ate a most wonderful and delicious Shabbat supper- a mixture of Ashkenazi and Sephardic fare, capped with interesting desserts.

At 9pm there was a guided walking tour of old Tzfat, passing by the old home and study hall of Rabbi Yoseph Caro- the codifier of the Shulchan Aruch.

Along the way, the tour guide, who had an excellent baritone voice, sang 6 or 7 different varieties of Lech Dodi and Yedid Nefesh, to show us the different ethnic influences that the Tzfat residents had on the singing of the liturgy.

Shabbat- 24 October

The day began with excellent weather once again. There was hardly a cloud in the sky and there was a light breeze. Shabbat services were early for those wishing to attend. Breakfast was once again quite a spread. At 10am the guide accompanied some of the members of the group to Rosh Pina, a 15-20 minute drive, across the arid mountain range. There the local guide-Chezkia Segev- showed the group the old hospital where they did research on Malaria.

He also showed the group the places where the Irgun hid the munitions to protect the Yishuv against the marauding Arabs. There was a museum dedicated to the martyred heroes who fought the British occupying forces. The tour also included the local old Synagogue, which was built by Romanian Jews in the last 1800's. The carpenter brought with him from the old country 8 pre-constructed boat bottoms as he had heard that there was a rather large river in the area, which had been described in a letter as being "as large as the Danube"! Little did he know that the "large river" only existed in the winter months and became nothing but a trickle in the summer. So as not to waste valuable wood, the boat bottoms were placed into

synagogue ceiling, which one can still discern even today by looking at the odd shape of the curved ceiling- consisting of 8 boat bottoms!

Close by there was an artist colony where there were various forms of handicrafts and preserved jams available. From the lookout on top of the town, where Chezkia hopes to erect a memorial to one of his sons who fell in the second Lebanese war in 2006, one could see the Hula valley in great detail.

For the remaining part of Shabbat most of the group sat under a canopy in the fresh outdoors and enjoyed the mountain breeze. At 5:33pm there was a havdallah service in the hotel lobby. The besomim were fresh mint leaves.

We drove in the dark along the highway which had at least 10 hairpin turns, to Rosh Pina where we ate at the Mitalbim restaurant. The food consisting of various Middle Eastern appetizers and meat main courses was excellent.

Everyone was very pleased with the UIA office selection of local restaurants.

We then got word that another member of the group, who had planned to join the group late, finally arrived at Ben Gurion airport and would be brought to join the main group later on this evening, as it is about a 2-3 hour trip to Tzfat. Our newest companion arrived in record time- under 2 hours from the airport!

Sunday- October 25

After a very restful night at the hotel, which was practically empty after the conclusion of the Shabbat, we met for breakfast at 7:30. Once again the hotel staff put on a superb buffet. We were sorry to leave the Hotel Rimomim and Tzfat.

The driver/guide had us all in the minibus by 9am and we headed towards the Tiberius and Golan Heights areas. Our first stop was the Church of the Mount of Beatitudes. Some members of the tour attended Mass. The others toured the magnificently beautiful gardens, under Royal Palms. The church itself was fairly plain, and the altar was interesting as 2 masses could be performed simultaneously as there were 2 sides to the altar. The area was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

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The Newfoundland Mission to Israel continued from page 31

Our next stop was to have been the Church of Multiplication, but as it was Sunday, all tours were not allowed. The group next drove to the Church of the Primacy of St Peter, which was very close to the water. This church had been rebuilt in the late 1800's. It was surrounded by well manicured gardens with statuary. By this time it was mid morning and thermometer was touching 33C. Each member of the group walked by the shore of the Kinneret and cooled off with a light coating of the water.

The Yigal Yadin Museum of the Boat was next on the itinerary. It is here that a 2000 year old boat was on display. There was a short movie about its discovery and removal from its burial site and relocation to the specially built museum. The members also took advantage of the gift shop to improve the economy of Israel! The orange juice, freshly squeezed, was an additional treat.

Rather than have lunch we toured a new municipality and took advantage of a bakery and snack shop, and we sat outside in the nice shade enjoying the freshly made goods. We had a chance to see the newly built homes, each of a different design and learned from the driver/guide how the government was giving incentives to have citizens move to these new areas, so as to increase the population in the north.

By 3pm we reached the Golan Heights and saw areas captured from the Syrians in 1967. Anat explained the strategic advantage this area afforded Israel, and how the fighting ensued. She also spent time telling the tragic story of Eli Cohen and how valuable the information that he transmitted to Israel helped them win the fight in the Golan.

The next stop was the area overlooking Quneitra and the UN camp separating Israel and Syria. We could see the minarets of the old and new towns. To our back were the Israeli listening installations.

At this point several of the tour group purchased fresh fruit and jams from a traditionally dressed Druze man who was quietly selling his wares at the lookout.

As it was now getting late in the afternoon,



Some of the mission participants visit a P2K school in Kiryat Shmona in the Galilee.

we headed towards the evening's lodgings in Kibbutz haGoshrim. However one last "food stop" was made in a Druze village for their baked delights, coffee/tea and a special concoction of hot milk, honey, nutmeg, cinnamon, jam, herbs and some secret ingredients which proved to be refreshing for a most hot drink. By this time it was twilight and we reached the hotel as it was getting dark. That evening's supper was at a restaurant which specialized in vegetarian and fish dishes.

We spent dinner discussing various political issues, as well as the issue of poverty in present day Israel. This matter of poverty, where one in three Israeli children live below the poverty level and often go hungry, started in a major way back in 2000, at the start of the Intifada. It was then that the Israeli economy took a tail spin. Even though the economy is improving, the matter of poverty has not been solved in part because of the enormous cost of defense and the apparent cuts to social budgets necessary to deal with defense matters. We also discussed the matter of spousal abuse and drug abuse which unfortunately is an ever growing problem in Israel. The latter issue does not

seem to garner much attention from major donors who in the main want to sponsor more "flashy" programs.

The group then drove back to the hotel where there was live entertainment of singing and Israeli dancing. An excellent day overall.

Monday - October 26

The sun rises early even in the autumn. First light is about 5am. The group met for an early breakfast in one of the 3 dining halls of Kibbutz HaGoshrim. Again, there was a most superb spread.

Then we left for some serious endeavours to prop up the Israeli economy by visiting the Naot factory outlet! After about 1 ½ hours, the average number of pairs of shoes bought per person was three. Upon leaving the sales office there was a sign indicating

that there was also a toy outlet. We walked around to find a small shop operated by an elderly gentleman whose name was Joseph, originally from Prague, who was a master carpenter before his retirement. He asked the owners of the Kfar Naot to allow him to establish a shop as he felt that he could be useful to the economy of the kibbutz. He began to build and sell wooden toys- railway sets, doll houses, windmills, etc. He invited us into his small shop and we looked around. It was most fascinating. There were wooden items which we never saw before, as we are now in the age of plastic! Each of us bought a few of his creations and walked away very pleased.

We drove along the highway past very fertile land all the way to Kiryat Shmona. This city was hard hit during the 2nd Lebanese war in 2006. It took many months and a great deal of money to rebuild the infrastructure and not every resident decided to move back into the town. There we visited a school which is part of the P2K system. The principal, Silvi, and her senior assistant guided us into the office and we were offered juice and some cake.

They told us about how this particular

school takes in children from all over the northern part of the country, who have severe social problems and who come from very dysfunctional families- ie where one or more of the parents abuse drugs, are involved in crime, etc. These children are referred from other schools in the area. We learned how with much patience and skill, and a fairly low student-teacher ratio there has been much success in helping many of these children to re-integrate into the school system and to prepare them for high school. We met some of these students and were able to ask them questions about how they felt the school was helping them.

After a most delicious lunch at the Esh Besh restaurant we traveled to the Hydrotherapy unit and met with Carlos Goldberg, the director of the unit and of the Shefachim School for the severely disabled children- be they Jewish, Moslem, Druze or Christian. It was to here that the Atlantic Mission of 2007 travelled and pledged money for an elevator system, which Carlos proudly showed me. We met with a 42 year old man who had Parkinson's disease, who claimed that without his daily hydrotherapy, he would still be relatively immobile. They are in the midst of an expansion of the facility as there are well over 1000 people who use it on a regular basis- wounded soldiers, post Stroke victims, disabled and handicapped children etc. In fact we saw a young deaf and blind girl who seemed to enjoy her lesson in the water.

We drove to Metulla, which is just a stone's throw from the Lebanese border with Israel. There we were given a tour of the Canada Centre- a remarkable facility which has the only ice rink in all of Israel! Yossi, one of the managers, showed us the entire facility and we were given the chance to watch teenagers trying to skate- some more successfully than others.

As it was now getting dark we rushed to the former "good neighbour" fence with Lebanon, where prior to 2006, there would be the daily entrance of people from Lebanon seeking employment in northern Israel or medical assistance in one of Israel's hospitals. However the fence has been sealed since the conclusion of the recent military campaign. We could see into the homes of the Lebanese who lived

not more than 100 meters from where we were standing. I took this opportunity to recite Mincha at the border region, just before the setting of the sun. Upon returning to Kibbutz haGoshrim, we had yet another excellent meal- the brisket just melted in our mouths- and we were able to sample some of the Israeli wines.

Tuesday - October 27

Overnight there was a period of thunder and lightning. We should have expected this, as on Shemini Atzeret we prayed for Geshem and also in the Shmonah Esrei we add the sentence "Mashive h'ruach u'morid hageshem".

This morning at our early breakfast, the group met with Victor Yagoda of UIA. He told the group about the extensive work being performed in the north because of the generosity of the Jews of Atlantic Canada. Victor recently moved to the north from Jerusalem. He told us about the struggles up north, the lack of jobs and the economic hardship suffered by many of those living in this region. He also told us of the remarkable events occurring due to the funds raised by the "Coast-to Coast" campaign. Progress is being made.

We left the hotel of the kibbutz and headed south towards Nazareth. As we drove, we noted the many farms growing vegetables and bananas. We arrived in Nazareth and were given a short tour before we parked in the tourist region and some of the members went into a famous jewellery store. Once again the economy of Israel was given a major boost by the spending in this area. We then walked to the Church of the Annunciation, which was rebuilt by France in 1989. There had been previous churches on this spot, but each had been destroyed over time. The church was very large and had panels from many countries, including Canada. An altar is built over the area reputed to have been Mary's home. There was also a small village excavated under the church.

The dome was of a very interesting geometrical shape with 16 sides to it.

The stained glass windows were donated by people and organizations from the world over. The heavy brass doors at the entrance showed views from the Hebrew and Christian bibles.

After a cup of freshly squeezed orange juice, we proceeded south into the West Bank, past the army checkpoints towards Beit Aleph. It is here that the pioneers of the kibbutz unearthed a most amazing ancient synagogue with an extra-ordinarily well preserved mosaic floor. One could still see the colours of the original tiles in the zodiac in the centre of the floor.

It was now getting close to sunset and we were approaching Jerusalem, via the Jericho road. There was one more checkpoint before our entry into the city. As twilight settled in, we arrived at our overnight lodgings at the Dan Panorama on Keren Hayesod Street.

Wednesday- October 28

We had an early breakfast as we had an appointment to the Kotel underground Tunnel exhibit. We were fortunate to get a good parking spot close to the Dung Gate, which leads into the region of the Kotel. There were few people there as we each made our way to the Western Wall for a few minutes of silent devotion. Our tunnel tour started at 9:50am and our guide was a former American who had a very dry sense of humour. He demonstrated with models the different renovations which were made to the Temple area, especially under King Herod. We proceeded along the entire Western Wall region which had been excavated, and were amazed by the sheer size of the individual stones, some weighing as heavy as 575 tons. It was amazing as to how the builders were able to transport such massive stones from the quarries. As there are no records available to date, there is only conjecture on the part of the archeologists as to how the work was accomplished. The Herodian additions were easily visible by the type of chiseling on the stone face. The guide also told us about the first

excavator- Charles Wilson, supported by the Palestine Exploration Fund in the 1860's- and how he did rudimentary digging. He found much of great interest in his diggings. He published his studies and findings, which then were of use to future archeologists. We were able to see the newly opened cisterns, which gave water to the City of David.

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After our exit from the subterranean tunnel, the group indulged in freshly squeezed orange juice in one of the many restaurants in the Arab Quarter. We proceeded along the Via Dolorosa until we arrived at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The look around was brief, as the Greek Orthodox Patriarch was leading a service and all the tourists had to exit the church. The Arab Market was fairly crowded, and as we entered the Christian Quarter, the streets became wider and less noisy. We passed a superb marble fountain close to the Holy Sepulcher, which had been donated to the people of the area, by one of the former bishops. As we entered the Jewish Quarter along the famous Cardo shopping district, there were many artist shops, and some of the group took advantage to purchase art work, and other items, some of a religious nature. The guide explained the architecture of the Cardo, and the rebuilding of the nearby Hurvah Synagogue as a replica of the original building which had been destroyed by the Jordanians in 1948. We entered the Wohl Museum, which was dedicated to the excavation of the ancient homes of the Levites. There were many artifacts- urns, mosaics, earthenware, lamps, etc. from the period of the first and second temples. Needless to say that not only were we parched but also hungry by this time, as we had been on the go for over 6 hours. We therefore stopped at a restaurant which overlooked the Kotel Square. The food was excellent and we enjoyed the meal and view.

After a brief stop for Mincha at the Kotel, we proceeded to a factory where diamonds were cut, set and sold. The tour was given by an employee with 18 years experience. Some of the group took advantage of the opportunity to help the economy yet again!

By this time everyone was exhausted and looked forward to a rest at the hotel before supper. The meal was at the La Guta restaurant, and it was extraordinary. Everyone agreed that Israeli wine is of high quality and that we would try to bring in several cases via the Newfoundland Liquor commission upon our return home.

Thursday - October 29

Today it was very sunny as we traveled into the Judean Desert towards the Ein Gedi Nature Preserve and Kibbutz. At the Preserve we came upon many Ibexes in the wild, who did not appear to be disturbed by our vehicle and our photo taking. By 11am we reached Masada, about which much has been written. We ascended in under 3 minutes to the peak in a rather packed cable car. The view on all sides was amazingly clear. Our expert guide had us back 2 millennia as she told us the history of the site and as we viewed the various rooms and excavated regions. The frescos on several of the walls remained fresh even to this day. Following our 2 hours on the summit, a fresh glass of squeezed orange juice was a great pleasure. We then started our way back to Ein Gedi for a late lunch and were back in Jerusalem in time to take part in the daily traffic jam.

Supper at the hotel was more pleasurable than usual as we had 2 Olim, my relatives, join us for dinner. There was discussion concerning the various pluses and detractors concerning the issue of immigration to Israel. It was an excellent evening especially for those for whom this was their first exposure to Israel.

Friday - October 30

The day began with yet another sumptuous breakfast. We were on the bus by 9am and arrived at the Mt Herzl Cemetery shortly thereafter. We viewed the memorial to the members of the Dakar submarine accident and then viewed the resting sites of Golda Meir, Yitzchak Rabin, Chaim Herzog and Hannah Senesh, among others. Our next stop was Yad Vashem and the 2 ½ hours spent at the memorial were not adequate to give the exhibit justice. By the time we were ready to leave, Jerusalem was having a deluge of rain- perhaps a response to "Mashiv haRuach u'Morid haGesheim". We drove through clogged streets to Machane Yehudah. The market was very crowded with Shabbat shoppers. We managed to get some freshly baked chocolate rugalach which were very special. By this time the rain had subsided.

The closest shul to the hotel was at Heichal Shlomo- the main Synagogue of

Jerusalem on Melech George Street. It was a nice 10 minute walk from the hotel. Services were at 4:30pm. The sanctuary had very intricate stained glass. Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat were sung very melodiously, not only by the Chazzan, but also by the congregants and visitors. The announcement was that on Shabbat morning services were to commence at 07:55- much earlier than expected, especially for the North Americans in attendance!

The hotel served a haymisch Shabbat supper- with every table having its own challah rolls and small bottle of sweet wine. Our UIA mission group sat together and had a memorable time- with each participant indicating the highlights of the trip so far.

Saturday - October 31

The rain stopped overnight but it was overcast as the sun rose over the Old City of Jerusalem. The temperature was about 17C as people began to make their way to the main synagogue- Heichal Shlomo. Services started at 07:55 sharp with the Chazzan sheini beginning. The main Chazzan took over shortly thereafter. His very melodious and strong voice resonated very pleasantly through the shul. By the time of the Torah reading there were about 500 people present including many children. There was a large Bar Mitzvah class of boys, numbering about 50, who were learning about the Shabbat morning service in preparation for their own ceremony. Shul ended at about 10:30am.

People on the tour group were driven by Anat to the Mt of Olives for a panoramic view of the old city and the Jewish cemetery where it is believed by Jews that the Jews will arise from the dead first among the Jewish people when the Messiah comes. Anat told the group that before the six Day war in 1967, the Jordanians who had control of this part of the city had desecrated the cemetery by using many of the tombstones for roads and even use the stones to build a stone wall around the former Intercontinental Hotel. There were parts of the Arab town of Silwan which were actually built upon parts of the Jewish cemetery.

The group then stopped at the Gethsemane

Church, for whose construction 12 nations contributed, including Canada. The mass was finishing as the group entered. The tour next drove to the Tomb of King David, and also viewed the former mosque built above it. It is believed that the Last Supper took place here.

Anat next drove to the Shrine of the Book, where there was a scale model

(1:50) of the ancient city of Jerusalem, complete with the Temple and surrounding living quarters and Herod's Palace. Anat explained the history of the city as it was about 2000 years ago. Group members were then able to tour the museum which holds samples of the many scrolls found in various caves around Qumran, most of which are hand written on parchment, with a few on leather, or copper. There were also books on display including 2 of the original copies of the Aleppo Codex written in the 10th century which had been carefully smuggled out of Syria, and a most magnificent original folio copy of the Nurnberg Machzor dating back to the mid 1300's. This incunabula text was hand written on parchment and was decorated by a talented artist, who designed exquisite historiated initial letters to the first words of the chapters. This one of a kind book is priceless and appears to be on permanent loan from a private collector from Switzerland.

The group was then driven to the Knesset, where the guards let some of the group approach the gates surrounding the complex to take photos. There are organized tours on Mondays and Thursdays only. Across the street there is the menorah, which the official symbol of the State of Israel, which was given as a gift from the people of Britain.

A small lunch was eaten at a nearby restaurant and Shabbat ended at about 17:30. A small group then took a taxi to the Notre Dame Church of Jerusalem, which happens to be built into or built around a hotel. This confused the taxi driver greatly! The mass took about 1 ½ hours and the patiently waiting driver then drove the people back to the hotel. The final dinner in Jerusalem took place in a nearby

restaurant -"Olives and Fish"- which served very good fare.



Our guide and driver Anat Rehav

Sunday- November 1

The group members awoke early to pack for a 10am departure from the hotel.

We had a delicious breakfast as usual and then at 09:30 we met with Deborah Russell of the Israel UIA office. She asked us about our trip and the group members were unanimous in their positive comments. At 10am Anat met us and drove us to Hadassah Hospital at Ein Kerem. This is a large sprawling medical complex with research wings, hospital wards of various kinds, a small mall and a synagogue with the famous Marc Chagall stained glass windows, some panes of which were damaged by Jordanian shelling of Jerusalem during the Six Day war. Marc Chagall remade the windows slightly differently. The taped explanations divulged in great detail the meaning of each window which commemorated a single tribe.

We then proceeded along the main highway to Tel Aviv and Anat pointed out the sites of the various important battles in 1948, where several Arab armies laid siege to Jerusalem. The blockade was lifted when several Palmach men discovered an alternative route.

We stopped at Beit Hatefutsot, the Museum of the Diaspora at Tel Aviv University. We had one hour to view the 4 floors, an almost impossible task, as there were so many interesting exhibits, none of

which could be seen adequately in this circumstance. Our most interesting stop was the section with the replicas of ancient synagogues built to scale.

The cafeteria- Aroma- is a new chain which has become very popular with the students. To North Americans, the prices seemed reasonable. Anat at this juncture explained to the group the average monthly income of Israelis and the taxation system. It would appear that most families in order to survive financially must have 2 incomes at least.

The Palmach Museum was our next point of interest and the local site guide took us through the very interesting historically accurate history of the IDF and its original formative years and organizations. The entire exhibit and show took slightly over 90 minutes. Anat then drove us through Jaffa as the sun was setting over the Mediterranean Sea, and we stopped to take photos of Tel Aviv in the twilight and of the port of ancient Jaffa, whose history goes back at least 3000 years. As we entered Tel Aviv yet again, we stopped at Rabin Square and saw the memorial at the actual site of his assassination 14 years ago in November 1995. His assassin remains in jail and apparently to this day is unrepentant over his murderous deed.

Our penultimate stop was at the Lilit restaurant which is located only a few blocks from the symphony hall. This eating place is well known as its employees are drawn from the underprivileged young adults who are trained in the field of hospitality and running a restaurant business. We had quite a filling meal, which we were sure would keep us well filled on our return trip to Canada.

Anat took us to Ben Gurion Airport, one of the world's most heavily guarded airports, and we bade her farewell, after inviting her and her family to visit us in Newfoundland, preferably in the summer months. She now transferred us to the care of Yankele, whose function was to shepherd us through the formalities of the check in process. We got through the initial phases in about 1 hour 20 minutes- which is not

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bad considering the thoroughness of the searching of bags and cases, as well as the initial interviewing event. Once we got our boarding passes and got through passport control, some in the group stood in the next line- that to receive back the VAT for expensive items purchased. By now there were only slightly more than 90 minutes to the flight, so our stay in the Dan lounge

was fairly brief- only enough time to get a drink of juice or one last Israeli espresso or latte.

The return Air Canada flight was completely full with no space for any stand by customers whatsoever. There were many groups of Canadians returning from various mission tours- UIA, JNF, Magen David Adom, One Family and others, with each person having experienced the uniqueness of Israel. I know that each

person in our Newfoundland UIA Mission has gained a new respect for Israel, its enormous accomplishments these last 61 years, its many challenges and its potential for more accomplishments over the next 61 years at least. All agreed that it will be easy for us to be good will ambassadors upon our return. In fact I am now starting to plan the next Newfoundland UIA mission hopefully to take place over the next 1 to 2 years. Am Yisroel Chai, v'Hashanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim.

Report from The Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

Messod Salama blowing the shofar at the annual Shacharit service at Cape Spear the week before Rosh Hashana.



I can't believe that the term is almost at an end, that Chanukah is coming, that I have to put my snow tires on. The pages of the calendar seem to be flipping by faster and faster. At least the part about Chanukah is somewhat true; it really is earlier this year!

The late summer and fall months, while too short, have been marked by many visits. They started at the end of August with the annual meeting of the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Not only were Messod and I able to enjoy some "ingathering of the exiles" (visits from our children),

the synagogue benefited as well. We particularly enjoyed the visits of Dr. Ken and Rona Shulman (who live around the corner from good friends of ours - you know Jewish geography or "mishpochology"), and several other psychiatrist, one originally from Ireland and another from Vancouver.

We do try to have an Oneg Shabbat every Friday evening year round so that we can welcome friends and visitors, tell and trade stories, and discover our social and familial links. We have since received very warm messages and donations, as well as a beautiful gift of pewter kiddush cups for the regular minyan from the Shulmans.

At the beginning of September, we received a call from an old friend, Eric Vernon, who asked us to represent the CJC at a consultation concerning the focus of the new Museum of Human Rights to be built in Winnipeg. It was great to see a friendly face at our table, that of the Hon. Constance Glube, who is now a trustee of the museum. Various points were stressed, such as the necessity of confirming the reliability of testimony and the obvious importance of having the Holocaust play an integral part in this museum.

On September 22nd we were invited to see Dr. Robin McGrath, a former member of the shul, at the book launch of her newest novel, *The Winterhouse*. We miss Robin's presence, as she now lives in Labrador, a bit too far to commute for Shabbat. She is the author of *Salt Fish and Shmattes*, a history of Jews in Newfoundland and Labrador, which some of you might have read. The latter was launched at Beth El's Kumbayah in August 2006. We were delighted, however, to welcome Robin at our services this past weekend, as she was visiting St. John's for a series of book-signings of her latest publication.

In September we also held our annual pre-Rosh Hashanah service at Cape Spear and the memorial service at the cemetery on Blackmarsh Road. We try to visit as many of the graves as possible, but if one of your loved ones is buried here or elsewhere on the island, please do let us know.

Full Rosh Hashanah services took place starting on Friday, September 18th. With the help of June and David Mercer, Shimon Wilansky and Messod Salama, we held a traditional Kosher turkey dinner in the Social Hall following services. Our guests



Students from the Brother T.I. Murphy Centre visiting the synagogue

included Mary Pratt and James Rosen, Richard, Robin, Hannah and Ruth Rivkin, in addition to many of the regulars. Thanks go to Ernie Mauskopf, Messod Salama, Michael Paul and Shimon Wilansky for leading the services and blowing the Shofar. Tashlich took place on Sunday at Rennie's River, a short walk from the Shul. Again, it was great to see Hannah and Ruth Rivkin as they prepare to attend university on the mainland.

Yom Kippur services went extremely smoothly again this year, due to a firm commitment to get a minyan at 9 a.m. and on time for minchah. I'm sure that the thought of hot, homemade soup and a lovely buffet following the fast had nothing to do with it. Again, thanks to June Mercer for her excellent challahs.

Because of the calendar, we had to build the Sukkah on Sunday just before Yom Kippur. And because of the very fine weather in September, we

had very little Shach to put on the roof. Usually, hurricane season manages to oblige us by downing some branches just in time. Unfortunately, our Lulav and Etrog arrived after the holiday started, so we held a special service during the week to say the blessings. This was followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah services as per usual followed by a light buffet supper.

We have had our share of educational visits as well.

Students from the Brother T.I. Murphy Centre who are studying comparative religions, visited with their teacher, author Trudy Morgan-Cole. We also welcomed the Old Testament students from Queen's College, a college of theology affiliated with Memorial University. These mature

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students are very well prepared and ask thought-provoking questions. In both cases, thanks to our Passover order from Dominion, I was able to offer them a taste of chocolate-covered matzah, always a great hit.

In October we missed Michael Paul, who led a small mission of Newfoundlanders

to Israel. It was a great success, as you will read in his article. His absence coincided with the worst of the H1N1 and we were even forced to cancel services one Friday evening. Things seem to be coming around, thank G-d.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome back Phillip Cull and his wife Christine, who taught in the far north for the last 5 years. Phillip has now retired back to the Avalon,

and we are pleased that he has become our newest member. We also look forward to the upcoming visit of Justice Stanley Kershman of the Superior Court of Ontario who will be addressing the Congregation Friday evening December 4th on the topic of "growing up Jewish in Ottawa". All members of the Jewish community are invited to attend.

PEI Jewish Community News

by Rosalie Simeone

Autumn for the PEI Jewish Community started with our Annual High Holy Days Services. Held at the home of Rachel Kassner and Joel Palter we once again celebrated Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur, in community led services. A small and enthusiastic group met at the home of Don and Rosalie Simeone for Sukkot. All who



Marcela Rosemberg



Jim Munves



Rosalie Simeone and Jim Munves

rearranged their plans and celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat with a small group of us the following evening. Leslee Sack very kindly offered her home for the occasion.

On Friday November 3, Kabbalat Shabbat was celebrated at the home of Rosalie and Don Simeone. This is a new initiative, and we hope to try it again in the near future.

Our thoughts now turn toward Chanukah, and to our upcoming Community party. Chag Sameach to all.



Suzanne Manovil

came were able to observe the mitzvah of the Lulav and the etrog.

On October 15th several of us attended a lecture at UPEI. The presenter was Rabbi Alan Lurie from New York. He and his wife, Shirona, a cantor



Heather Evans, Leslee Sack, Marcela Rosemberg, Shirona Lurie, Rabbi Alan Lurie, Rosalie Simeone, Jim Munves, Pablo Szerman.

CIJA Official Visits Cape Breton

by Jack Columbus

Israel and Jewish Advocacy are topics close to the hearts of the Cape Breton Jewish Community. And those subjects held the spotlight at Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney on November 17th as Susan Davis, executive vice-president of CIJA was the guest speaker at a community get-together.

CIJA - the Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy - is a non-partisan, umbrella organization for Jewish community advocacy efforts.

Ms. Davis, a native of Saint John, NB, told the gathering that the organization aims to improve the quality of Jewish life in Canada and abroad, increase support for Israel, and strengthen the Canada-Israel relationship. She said CIJA seeks

to identify issues important to the Jewish community and assist in communicating with government, media, community, business, and academic leaders to build understanding and close relationships. As an oversight and coordinating body for strategic advocacy work on behalf of the Jewish community, CIJA works with other organizations and individual members of the community to ensure our voice is heard where it counts - in government, media and on campus. Created in January 2004, CIJA is an umbrella organization coordinating the advocacy work of established Jewish organizations including the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), and National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL), the voice of Jewish students across Canada.



Mary-Anne Cohen, Shirley Dubinsky,
Susan Davis

Susan Davis has held the position of Executive Vice- President of CIJA since autumn, 2005. Susan holds a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London), a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University.

Glace Bay Shul Faces Closure

by Jack Columbus

For the first time in more than a century there were no High Holiday services at the Congregation Sons of Israel synagogue in Glace Bay this fall. The shrinking community was unable to bring in a rabbi as has been the practice for the last number of years.

Glace Bay is the oldest organized Jewish community on Cape Breton Island. The synagogue was built in 1902 when the number of Jewish residents in the sprawling coal-mining town was on the ascendancy.



Immigrants flooded into the region from Europe. They began arriving in 1890, many as a result of advertisements placed in European countries by the Glace Bay Coal Company which was offering free passage to Canada to those who were willing to work in the mines.

Few of the Jewish immigrants stayed in the mines for any great length of time. Most became peddlers, moving on to open retail businesses in competition with the company stores.

The decision to build the shul was made when there were only 15 Jewish families in the community. Contributions were received for the building from some families even before they had their own homes.

For many years, the Jewish community was strong. Until the mid 1970s, a Hebrew school was held in the Talmud Torah next door, with a Rabbi and a Hebrew teacher. This building was sold later, as the Jewish



population in Glace Bay declined to the point where there were no children to educate in Jewish studies. The community now has fewer than ten members. But, the synagogue continues to be available for tourist viewing and during the summer a number of tourists and former residents visited. While there has been no decision on the future of the synagogue, among the suggestions being considered is converting it into a Jewish museum.

Photos courtesy Cyril MacDonald

Remembrance Day Observed In Sydney

by Jack Columbus

As has been the custom, Sydney's Temple Sons of Israel observed a special Remembrance Day observance on the Shabbat prior to November 11th.

This year's observances were on Nov. 7th with the guest speaker Sergeant-Major Jeannie White of 35 Service Battalion. S/Maj. White spoke of her 32 year career in the military, 22 of them with the



Sergeant-Major Jeannie White speaks to the congregation at Remembrance Day service at Temple Sons of Israel.

regular forces and ten years in the reserves. She served overseas in 1992-93 in the former Yugoslavia and did a six month tour at Canada's most northerly military establishment CFS Alert in 1982. She is currently a resident of Victoria Mines, Cape Breton. S/Maj White said she appreciated the invitation to speak to the Jewish community about the importance of the Canadian Armed Forces and thanked the community for their ongoing support over the years.



World War II veteran Ike David and Harold Schwartz, Avvie Druker, Faye David enjoy a Remembrance Day Kiddush at Temple Sons of Israel.

Following the Shabbat services a Kiddush was held sponsored by Dr. Garson, a World War 2 veteran, and his wife Edie Lecker.

Wheelchair Ramp - Temple Sons of Israel, Sydney

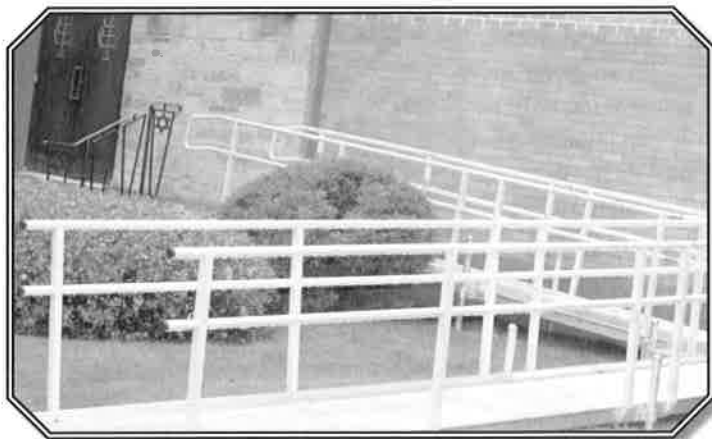
by Jack Columbus

Mobility-impaired worshippers attending High Holiday services at Temple Sons of Israel had easier access this year

thanks to the temporary installation of a wheelchair ramp.

It's hoped the ramp can become a permanent feature in the future.

Several years ago chair lifts were installed in the synagogue to improve access to all areas of the shul.



Ruth Goldbloom Helps Build A Nation

by Joel Jacobson

If Ruth Goldbloom had ever been paid for the volunteer hours she served, she'd be a billionaire a few times over.

The effervescent Halifax woman, whose driver's license says she is in her 80s, is still a vibrant "40-year-old" who constantly hustles and bustles about town with purpose. She shuns praise for the wonderful work she's done with many organizations, instead deflecting attention to the many volunteers with whom she's worked through the years and claiming she couldn't have accomplished what she has without them.

The New Waterford-born and raised Ruth, a tenacious fundraiser, is most notably known for her work in developing Pier 21 on the Halifax waterfront into only the second Canadian national museum outside Ottawa. Pier 21 is the entry point through which 1.5 million people entered Canada between 1924 and 1971. As it sat in disarray and decay in the early 1990s, Ruth spearheaded a drive to develop a museum that would recall the people and events that made it a memory for so many new Canadians. The museum at Pier 21 opened in 1999.

On November 2, 2009, Ruth, chair of the Pier 21 Foundation, was named a Nation-Builder, along with five other donors, who either gave \$1 million to the project or generated that kind of income through their good names. Living donors include Rudy Bratty, Leslie Dan and Galen Weston. Donations in the name of the late J.W. McConnell and Belle Iris MacDonald were also given. A number of smaller donors who pushed the total to \$7-million will collectively be honoured as a seventh Nation Builder, "The Immigrant", representative of all those who chose and

continue to choose Canada as their home

In 2005, the Pier 21 Foundation launched the Nation Builders Campaign, an Endowment to fund Canada's Immigration Museum, Pier 21.



Not aware she was one of the honoured group, Ruth, leader of the Nation-Builders program, praised the donors November 2 in a special dedication ceremony at Pier 21's newly created Nation Builder Plaza.

"Today is a truly an extraordinary day for Pier 21, as we have honoured such an exceptional group of individuals. The generous contributions of our Nation Builders, not only to Pier 21, but also to our country and their communities, epitomize the spirit of Canada," said Ruth. "It's been ten years since Pier 21 first opened its doors as a museum, and

their remarkable gifts will ensure that the stories of all newcomers to Canada, past and present, will be celebrated and remembered for generations to come."

To her surprise, friends and family of Ruth raised \$1-million on her behalf.

She said later, humbly, "For me to extol the virtues of nation-builders and then to find that I'm one of them, that's very awkward."

The money earned from the endowment fund will help the museum expand from its current mandate, to remember those who came through Halifax from 1924 to 1971, to cover the entire history of immigration to this country. Last summer the federal government announced the spot would become a national museum, a complex process that is now under way.

Museum Chief Executive Officer, Bob Moody, said the museum will be able to expand its exhibits to tell the longer story of immigration. He also said the museum will become more accessible.

"The money earned will be used for 'priority programs.' ", said Moody who came through Pier 21 as a two-year-old. "It's not

to pay for heat, light and power. The money could go toward education, special exhibitions, outreach and programs aimed at educating schoolchildren about immigration. Pier 21 is a microcosm of what Canada is," he said.

To help mark the occasion, a special Citizenship Court, presided by The Right Honourable Madam Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, P.C., took place prior to the dedication in Pier 21's Kenneth C. Rowe Heritage Hall. At the ceremony, 53 newcomers became Canadian citizens.

Entourage & the Modern Jewish Experience

by Rabbi Ari Sherbill, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax, NS

We recently had a showing of the popular TV show "Entourage" in our community (to ages 16 and up). Entourage is a story of an up and coming movie star living life in Hollywood with all the glitz, glamour and struggle.

To many, what makes the show such a hit is the character of the movie star's Jewish agent Ari Gold: a hard lined, extremely aggressive and no holds barred agent who stops at nothing to be number one in his business, often jeopardizing other priorities in his life.

Ari Gold is not only Jewish but proud of it. He unabashedly makes reference to his Jewishness and his being part of the Jewish people, even happily telling his clients that today is Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year – so they order another round of drinks to celebrate. In fact there is an entire episode about Yom Kippur, where Ari's wife makes sure he is without his cell phone during services so he won't be doing any business. Even so, there is a big movie deal that needs to happen, so he secretly keeps his phone in his pocket to make the phone calls to secure the deal. When his wife finds him being outside of the services, understanding in shame of his incessant need to work and to be on his cell phone,

even on the holiest day of the year, she sends out their daughter to find him. The daughter finds him talking in secret outside of Temple on his cell phone with his colleague. Ari comforts his daughter by telling her, "That is the beauty of Yom Kippur honey. As long as you apologize by

That experience being on the one hand of being proud to be Jewish: proud of Jewish customs, traditions, foods, culture and people hood. Proud of our history, of our story and of our ability to seemingly overcome all of history's obstacles that have come in our way – we are strong and we are proud.

This means that although this is merely a TV show and possibly exaggerated at times, it is more of a reality show that tries to portray the life of a living and breathing Jewish person today. What it portrays is a person who yes, is proud to be Jewish. But more so, portrays a person who although deeply identifies with being Jewish, is



sundown, it doesn't matter what you do".

But there is pride in Ari's Jewishness. He invites his clients and associates to his daughter's Bat Mitzvah, invites people over for brisket after Yom Kippur, and consistently makes proud, unabashed and confident one-liners about being Jewish, even saying once about himself, "It's all going to be fine, the Jew has arrived."

But there are two things that make Ari's character all the more intriguing. One is that he is based on a real life Hollywood agent Ari Emanuel (Rahm Emanuel's brother, Obama's Chief of Staff) and the other is that a significant percentage of Jewish people today would probably meet Ari's experience of being Jewish.

quite far from what Judaism is supposed to be for a human being.

In a marital therapy meeting, here is the following exchange.

"Mrs. Ari (doesn't want Ari to pick up his phone during couples therapy): I ask for one hour of a day for his undivided attention, and I can't even have that.

Ari: You could have it if you want to live in Agoura Hills, and go to group therapy. But if you want a Beverly Hills mansion and you want a country club membership, and you want 9 weeks a year in a Tuscan villa, than I'm gonna need to take a call when it comes in at noon on a Wednesday."

Money driven, insulting, one up-manship, angry, afraid and most of all isolated from his family and his wife is the painting of this caricature. There may be Jewish pride, but this is not living the power of Jewish life, and why I feel so many Jewish people today feel estranged from Judaism and look elsewhere for meaning.

What it all comes down to though, is that I do not see joy in the life of Ari Gold. Not in him, not in his colleagues and not in his clients. There is lots of money, lots of fame and recognition, lots of mansions, yachts and fancy sport cars – but no joy. True this is not reality and only a TV show, but this show is entirely based on reality and on real people; and I would like to offer a perspective of Torah on how to live a life in Hollywood and anywhere with joy, meaning, trust and be able to spend time with family as well.

"The days of Chanuka are days of gratitude, as it says in the Siddur, 'and they established these 8 days of Chanuka to appreciate and praise God'. And gratitude is the experience of heavenly enjoyment and pleasure...for in the end of days, there will be nothing but gratitude" – Rebbe Nachman of Breslev, Likutey Mohoran, 2:2.

When a person lives every minute with gratitude for everything they have, they live a life of enjoyment and pleasure. Because if I am grateful and appreciate all that I have been given, not paying so much attention or focusing on all that I don't have and that which is wrong, then everything I have is enjoyed. To appreciate is to enjoy and to be grateful is to be alive. This is so deeply essential in Judaism that we are called, "Yehudim" Jews, which come from the Hebrew word, "modeh" meaning to be grateful, for that is the essence of Judaism.

Ari Gold works hard to bless his family with all the blessings of this world: Beverly Hills mansion, country club membership and a villa in Tuscany – but all that his

wife wants is an hour with him. An hour to appreciate each other, to talk, to relate, to appreciate what they have instead of running around maintaining what they have. But Ari can't see it. If Ari were to go out of his way to spend that hour (or two or three or four) with his wife, to focus, to talk, to relate and ultimately to appreciate the life he has with her – not only would she be happy, but he would as well.

It is also an illusion to think that he can't give up his time, either on a Wednesday afternoon or Yom Kippur in order to



live the life that he wants. Because there is another essential element, more fundamental, critical and even urgent than anything else in Judaism – and that is to experience and know God.

"From Rosh Hashana to Yom Kippur it is decided in heaven how much money a person will earn for the upcoming year. This amount is added to, to the extent one invests in Torah and Charity." – Talmud, Rosh Hashana

"Everything is the hands of God, except for one's being in awe of God. – Talmud The truth is though, that everything is in the hands of God, even one's being in awe of God" – Rabbi Mordechai Yosef Leiner of Ishbitz, Mei Hashiloach, Chayey Sarah.

"A person has to know 3 things: That everything that happens to him/her is from God; that everything that happens to him/her is for the best; and that everything that happens to a person is a direct communication from God, a

communication of how God is trying to bring the person close to them" – Rav Shalom Arush, Garden of Emunah

When a person lives with the reality that his money is from God, there are no worries in the world. When a person lives with the reality that everything is for the best and a direct gift from God trying to communicate with us – what need is there to worry? Obviously there is a need to work, but to overwork is unnecessary. To the extent that in Judaism we all have to take one day off every week to totally relax, be at home and reconnect with our lives and ourselves. Because ultimately it's all beyond our control, but is in the control of the One who gave us life.

If Ari Gold took an hour off his day to spend quality time with his wife, it would change his life. If Ari would take off Shabbos to reconnect with his family to be at home to reconnect, that would change his life. If Ari spent a little time everyday studying what Judaism is really about,

what our power and strength really are, studying books that open our mind and hearts to a greater reality, to settle our mind, to awaken our soul and to learn how to live a life of gratitude (literally Jewish) – even for 10 minutes a day, he would be a different person. A more settled person, a happier person, a richer person, a more confident person, less stress and more chilled person; Ultimately a more Jewish person.

So thank you to Ari Gold, Ari Emanuel and everyone at Entourage for giving us all the opportunity to think and rethink what it means to be Jewish today.

Wishing a happy Chanuka to the entire Jewish world. Everyone should be proud of their Jewishness and enjoy it, and God willing enlighten us all to become truly appreciative, joyous and sweet people.

What Happened to the Darkness?

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

Ever eat a doughnut and wonder where the hole went? This age old questions has plagued carbohydrate-saturated humanity for years. Yet the answer still evades us.

A similar question, though less popular, has been asked by great Jewish thinkers of the past: When one lights a candle in a dark room, where does the darkness go?

The answer given is that darkness has no existence of its own. It is a non-entity because it is simply the absence of light. Once a candle is lit, the darkness disappears. It doesn't go into the closet, or to the next room. It simply disappears.

When igniting a small flame in a dark room, the room immediately becomes illuminated with the light of the candle. The larger the flame, the more illuminated the room becomes. Nevertheless, even the smallest flame is enough to expel the darkness. Because darkness is nothing.

On Chanukah we light candles. On the first evening of Chanukah we light one candle. On the second night we light two, and so on, until the eighth night of Chanukah when all eight candles of the Menorah are lit.

We start with one candle, enough for the initial expulsion of darkness. Each day we go a step further in brightening our lives with another candle, until the light reaches its ultimate goal; to completely



and weak as they were, prevailed, with the help of G-d, over the intruding enemy.

The victory is a symbol of a small glimmer of light being triumphant over the great darkness which seemed to be in command. With the notion that darkness is but the lack of light, the victory was easily attainable.

This is the ongoing battle we face every day.

In a world where G-dliness is, say, not on everyone's prioritized agenda, one may feel at times that darkness is in fact prevailing. It may seem that the mundane is sometimes taking more precedence in our daily lives and directing our every day



Students shaking the Lulav in the Halifax Airport with Rabbi Mendel Feldman.



dispel the darkness.

Every year on Chanukah we celebrate the great triumph of the Macabees, led by the illustrious Judah the Macabee, over the vast Greek armies which had invaded the Holy Land of Israel, and threatened to prevent the Jews from practicing their traditions.

The Macabean army, small

activities. To combat the darkness which conceals the G-dly light, we must light that small candle, bring that little bit of G-dliness back into our lives.

Once we begin with that, with the tiny flame within us, the process of ridding the world of spiritual darkness will increase, until we will be able to bask in the ultimate G-dly light.

Lessons from the Miracle of Chanukah

by Rabbi Yitzchok I Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

As we approach Chanukah and recall the miraculous restoration and recovery of the Temple and of our Jewish fortunes we can also recall a recent turnaround that may hold some lessons for us here as well.

The early 1800's were difficult times for orthodox synagogues everywhere in Western Europe, particularly in Germany. The flame was really burning out, so to speak, down to its last stages. The orthodox community of Frankfurt was literally on its last legs after several glorious centuries. The famous community that had such a proud history and was renowned for its customs had dwindled greatly to compose just a small handful of mostly elderly souls. It seemed obvious that Frankfurt's orthodox Jewish history was coming to an end. Any Jew who was young enough to have little children of his own at home would only find a home in any one of the many modern temples that sprung up all over the city. Frankfurt went, almost overnight, from being a prominent orthodox community, to a floundering orthodox community. The term "modern orthodoxy" had not yet been coined. If you wanted orthodoxy, it couldn't be modern. If you wanted to join the modern secular world, you must leave orthodoxy behind and as a result virtually all of the resources flowed in one direction: towards the modern world.

Yet, there was one person who did not give up and succeeded beyond anyone's prediction. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, noted sage and scholar and dynamic Rabbi started teaching people a traditional concept which completely and dramatically revived the orthodox community in Frankfurt. He taught modern orthodoxy based upon the mishna in Avos that teaches Torah Im Derech Eretz.

What is modern orthodoxy? Is it modern or traditional? How is it based upon Torah



same time, embracing, not fearing, the world around us that beckons us with opportunities. Recognizing that, through the study of sciences and such, one can reach a greater appreciation of

G-d's majesty. In studying history, for example, one can literally see the hand of G-d at work. Entering university and obtaining higher degree is encouraged and work is seen as a spiritual calling.

Derech Eretz means the ways of the land such as working for a living and being respectful, sensitive, honest and virtuous citizens of the land. Hirschian Modern Orthodoxy embraces Torah as a way of life and at the same time appreciates the various scientific advances the world has made. In true spirit that which is permitted

Im Derech Eretz.? The answer is modern orthodoxy, in the Hirschian tradition, involves meticulous devotion to the mitzvot and yet, at the

is not turned into a prohibition and Judaism is not worn on the sleeves. It is not something you wear or you put on display of any type in an effort to outdo your neighbor. It is what you are doing to make the world a better place.

I'd like to extend an invitation to all the members of our wonderful community to see what we are doing in Moncton and to spend some time with us. We are new here and, indeed, we are not yet here every week, but that will soon change, with G-d's help. In fact, though the Rebbetzin and I are here only two out of four weeks of the month, there is so much that can be done and so much that is already happening. Happy Chanukah to all our new friends!

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A Light Unto the Nations

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton, NB

Fredericton is a very special and unique community. My roots in Fredericton go back 3 generations.

My Great-Grandfather, known to all as P.M. Levine, came to this city about 70 years ago and opened a store for men and boys wear.

His daughter and my grandmother, Amelia Goldman, believed in being involved in the broader community. Together with my grandfather, Harry Goldman, they were very involved in donating money, clothing and sometimes just a good word for anyone in need.

My grandparents did not study the Talmud, but somehow they knew the following passage, and acted accordingly: "We must provide help for the Non-Jewish poor as well as for the Jewish poor; we must visit non-Jews when they are sick as well as our fellow Jews when they are



sick; and we must attend to their dead as well as the burial of our own dead; for these are the ways of peace" (Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 61b).

I was not surprised when

I read in my job description that I am required to maintain a good relationship with the non-Jewish community. This comes naturally to me, everyone knew and respected my grandparents for just that!

Isaiah gave a prophecy that in the End of Days, the Jewish way of life will be "A light unto the nations" but we do not wait for the end of days for that to

happen. I am part of an inter-faith group where we try to make the community of Fredericton and the whole world a more understanding and open-minded place to live in harmony and peace.

On the Holiday of Chanukkah, we light the candles in the window facing the street. There are two main reasons for this. One is to advertise the miracle that happened in the time of the Macabees that they were able to re-kindle the light of the Menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem. The second reason, in my eyes, is to show the outside world (Jews and non-Jews alike) the beautiful light of the Jewish way of life. We do not promote our religion with the sword or with violence, rather the small light that shines through the dark night has the power of being a light unto the nations.

Small acts of kindness have a stronger, positive power than anything else.

"Reflections on Halifax's Shaar Shalom as a Prayer Community" (an excerpt)

by Cantor Ari Isenberg, Spiritual Leader, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Halifax, NS

Iwas profoundly moved by the following text written by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel:

"What does a person expect to attain when entering a synagogue? In the pursuit of learning, one goes to a library; for aesthetic enrichment, one goes to the art museum; for pure music, to the concert hall. What then is the purpose of going to the synagogue? Many are the facilities which help us to acquire the important worldly virtues, skills, and techniques. But where should one learn about the insights of the spirit? Many are the opportunities for public speech; where are the occasions for inner silence? It is easy to find people who will teach us how to be eloquent; but who will teach us how to be still? It is surely

important to develop a sense of humour; but is it not also important to have a sense of reverence? We must learn to be sensitive to the spirit. It is in the synagogue where we must try to acquire such inwardness, such sensitivity.

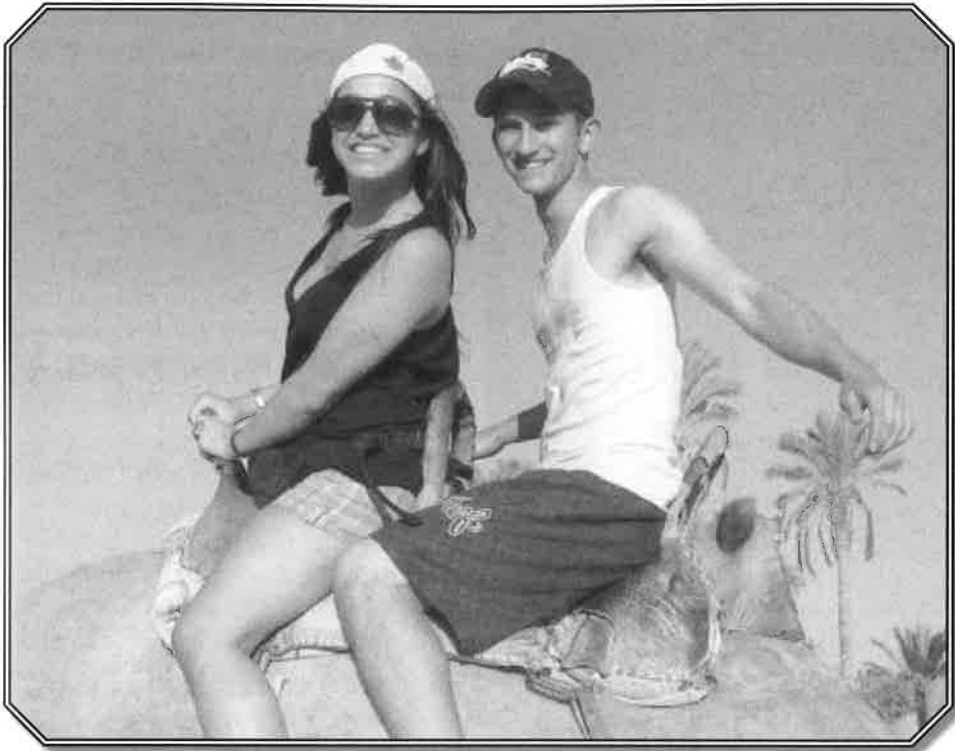
To attain a degree of spiritual security one cannot rely exclusively upon one's own resources. One needs atmosphere, where the concern for the spirit is shared by a community. We are in need of students and scholars, masters and specialists. But we need also the company of witnesses, of human beings who are engaged in worship, who for a moment sense the truth that life is not as meaningful without an attachment to God."

I heed these words with immense kavod – weight and seriousness – in my efforts to enrich our synagogue community. I believe it is my task to create Shaar Shalom's liturgical community, to convert the varying backgrounds and the plurality of individuals who walk into our synagogue into a unity of worship. I am convinced that time spent in synagogue can be the source of insight, the source of faith, the source of our religious experience.

May the warmth and light that emanate from our Chanukiahs spark a renewed passion for rediscovering our spirituality, as individuals and as a community, in the sacred space that is our sanctuary at Shaar Shalom Congregation.

CYJ Israel

by Noah Hymes Vandermeulen



Noah enjoys his Billuim Israel experience

Hi, I'm Noah Hymes Vandermeulen and recently I visited Israel on a CYJ program called Biluim Israel. Before I left to go to Israel I felt a bit nervous for my safety, but being home now I can say that Israel could not be a safer place. Always having soldiers within your view takes some getting used to but it makes you feel safe.

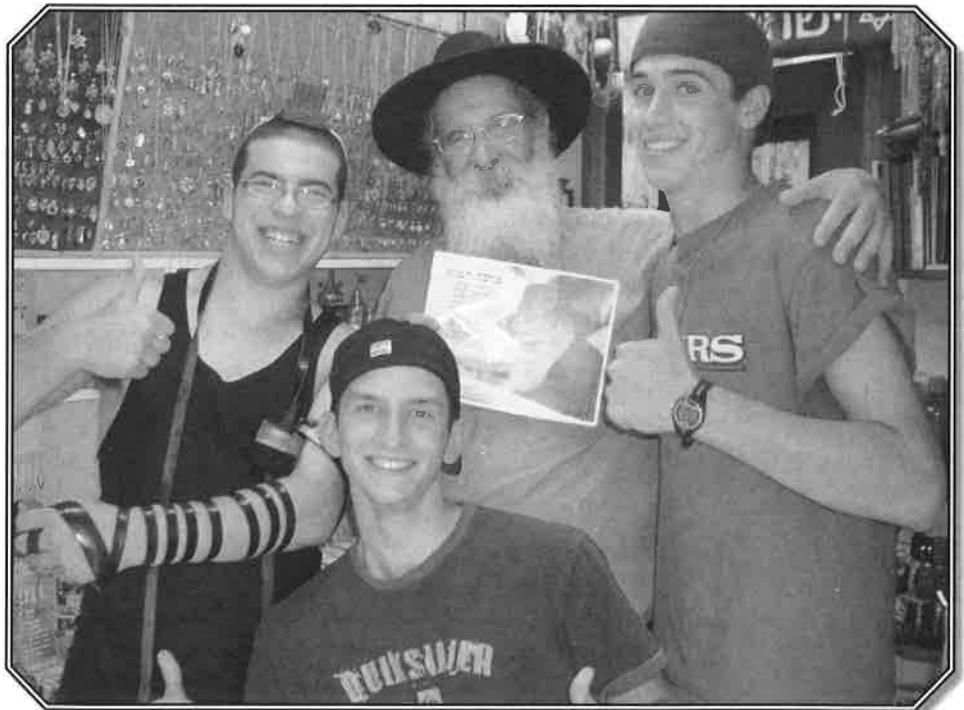
With that said I would like to share some of the things I did with you. I visited all the historic sites and important places in Israel. I went to Jerusalem and got a feeling of what it was like and how important it is. At the Kotel I said prayers and put my hand on the ancient stones that still remain. I visited the room where Israel's independence was decided and I went to a pre-military camp for 17 year olds called Gadna.

At Gadna I learned how difficult and important the army is to Israelis. I also visited the great site called

Masada where after a long climb up the mountain I was rewarded with an

amazing view and I got to see all the historic sites at the top. One of the last places we went to was Eilat and although we stayed only two days there, we went snorkeling and I've never seen such beautiful fish before. The beaches, where the sand was smooth and hot with all the umbrellas set up for shade, were the most entertaining things to visit. Swimming in the never cold water, going to the Dead Sea and covering yourself in its mud and then floating in its extremely hot water, or just relaxing outside in the shade, these are all things that I will miss.

During the weekend break in the trip, and after the trip, I visited my relatives in Tel Aviv. It was interesting to see how Israelis live...and how they drive. I taught my foreign cousins a thing or two about playing basketball and they taught me about soccer. My advice to anyone who is thinking of going to visit Israel is that 100% you should go and don't worry about not enjoying it because it's impossible not to.



Biluim Israel participants shop in the Old City

"Dorbyan (A Lithuanian Jewish Shtetl)" - D.H. Jacob

Book Review by Mark David

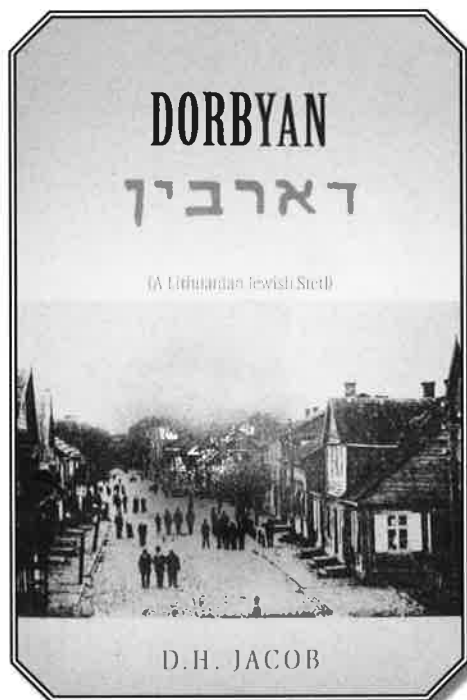
Let me confess something right off the top. I have never written a book review. So I do not expect this piece to find its way to the New York Times Book Review.

That said, when I was approached to review this book, I was very enthusiastic to do so, since my genealogical roots on my father's side of the family lay in Dorbyan. Both his father, about whom we never knew too much, and his mother (Jennie (Jacobson) David) were from Dorbyan, and were married in Saint John in 1920. In fact, "Tata" Louis Jacobson, (Stanley Jacobson's grandfather, for those keeping score) somehow used the immigration paperwork for his eldest daughter (also named Jennie Jacobson) to facilitate my grandmother's immigration into Canada. Further, many Maritimers can similarly trace their roots to this small shtetl near the Baltic Sea.

My general life-long interest in Dorbyan pales in comparison to that of many others - especially D.H. (Danny) Jacob. For those who are unaware, Danny is the brother of local Halifax journalist Joel Jacobson. Danny's limitless passion to learn about Dorbyan has led to a very readable, interesting and informative book published by Trafford Publishing.

The book is partly straight history, but mostly a historical novel based to a large degree on Jacob's exhaustive research with original sources such as the late Sol Gilis and Sara Yablon. It explains how Jews came to settle in Dorbyan, then traces their development and history in that shtetl. The history sadly concludes with the tragic events of the summer of 1941, when the town's Jews were rounded up and eventually murdered by the notorious Einsatzgruppen - the mobile killing squads who roamed Eastern Europe before the Nazis built the death camps such as Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Chelmo.

Quite frankly, it was enjoyable to read the very descriptive account of life in what was probably a typical old-world Eastern



European shtetl and try to imagine what it was like to live in that environment. However, enjoyment turns to deep sadness in the book's concluding section. For as Danny noted himself noted on the back cover of the book, "[t]he book is not intended to be a holocaust story, but unfortunately any study of Eastern European Jewry inevitably ends up that way".

While I have been profoundly moved by the many books I have read on the Holocaust, the difference in this case is that the people in question were my direct ancestors. It is hard to imagine the sheer terror the Jews of Dorbyan faced in that terrible summer when they were set upon not only by the Nazis, but in many cases by non-Jewish "friends" and neighbours, alongside whom they had lived for generations, and Danny does a very good job describing this part of the story without being too graphic.

I specifically remember thinking about this when I saw the Lithuanian name of "Darbenai" inscribed on the glass connector at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, or

when I saw the town name inscribed at Yad Vashem in the "Valley of the Communities".

I did learn many things from reading the book. Perhaps the most important to me concerns Darbenai as it now exists - when I was a child and heard my father speak of Dorbyan, I recall him saying that a relative had visited the town and said that one would never know that Jews had ever lived there. Therefore, it is very gratifying to learn from the book that the old Jewish cemetery has been restored.

If I have any complaint, it is that the book has some typographical errors (which, in fairness, Danny tried extremely hard to have corrected before the book was published), though these errors did not detract from my enjoyment of the book.

In conclusion, if you trace your roots to Dorbyan or are interested in learning about shtetl life, this book is for you. It is available in Halifax shule gift shops or by contacting Joel Jacobson at jjacobson@eastlink.ca or 902-479-0442.

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