

SHALOM! שלום

Winter 2010 Vol 35 No. 3

Tevet 5771



Past AJC Presidents unite at the 17th AJC Biennial Convention



Newly elected President Shulamith Medjuck

- HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 17TH AJC BIENNIAL CONVENTION
- UJA ISRAEL MISSION 2010
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION



SHALOM! שלום!

CONTENTS

Message from the President Shulamith Medjuck	1
Executive Director's message Jon Goldberg.	2
From the Desk of Edna LeVine	3
Mission to Israel 2010	4
Sar-El	7
Campus Life by Bill Chernin	10
Camp Kadimah	11
Holocaust Education	12
AJC 17th Biennial Convention	16
Around our Region: Halifax	22
Around our Region: Newfoundland	24
Around our Region: Saint John	29
Around our Region: Fredericton	30
Around our Region: Moncton	32
Around our Region: PEI	34
Around our Region: Cape Breton	34
Rabbi's Corner	36
Letters to the Editor	40



Cover photo by Mark David

AJC Past Presidents from left to right:
Howard Conter, Kathy Zilbert, Mark
Rosen, Sheva Medjuck, Victor Goldberg
and Lawrence Freeman

שלום!

President: Shulamith Medjuck

The Atlantic Jewish Council

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

Our Atlantic Jewish community is losing more and more members as the years go on.

In the past, Shalom has printed stories of regional community members who have passed away.

While we try to acknowledge the major contributions of many of our late friends and family members, we request that you inform Shalom of passings of which we may be unaware so we may recognize these individuals.

Shalom's editorial staff reserves the right to determine the length of memorial pieces to be printed in the magazine.

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



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President's Message

by Shulamith Medjuck

Having been elected at the November, 2010 AJC Biennial, this is my first opportunity to write you as President of the Atlantic Jewish Council. I want to thank the Atlantic Jewish community for the trust they have shown in me. I want to share with you some of my impressions of the challenges we all face as we commit to strengthening the Jewish communities of Atlantic Canada. I feel very fortunate that I have strong connections not only with the Halifax community but also with several of the Atlantic communities. As many of you are aware, my father served the Jewish community of Moncton for over 35 years. I have fond memories of my father, Rabbi Medjuck visiting with the Jewish community of Prince Edward Island and collaborating with his rabbi colleagues throughout the region on how to strengthen Jewish identity.



When I reflect on the 2010 Biennial of the Atlantic Jewish Council, the emerging theme was Atlantic communities' concern with their ongoing vitality and the demographic challenges which they are facing. The Biennial provided an opportunity for the Jewish communities and the AJC to share new initiatives we are undertaking. The common message of all the communities is that we are all at a crossroads. There is a need to look at new and innovative approaches which will ensure that all Jews in Atlantic Canada can identify with the community. The Atlantic Jewish Council sees that it has a vital role in supporting Atlantic regional programs and the communities. For example, it is for this reason, that the AJC is exploring ways to ensure more Atlantic children attend Camp Kadimah; enhancing campus programs to address anti-Israel propaganda; and expanding Holocaust education programs.

Communities in Atlantic Canada have been blessed by a small group of dedicated individuals and we collectively should thank them for their commitment. From an AJC perspective, these lay people have given countless hours of their time whether it's running down to Camp Kadimah for some emergency, hosting Israeli guest lecturers or being called on a moment's notice to work with Jewish and non Jewish communities.

The challenges that now face us go to the very existence of the viability of our communities. Will we have Jewish communities in Atlantic Canada in 10 years from now? Meeting these challenges and continuing to support Israel will require meaningful commitment from all of us. It is my intention during my term as President to seek your input and support in how we can do this. Daunting though it may be, I am asking for your help in broadening our base so that we see all Jewish communities throughout our region flourish for the next generation.

From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Welcome to our winter edition!
The winds are howling up
and down Spring Garden
Road on this rainy day at the end of
2010. No snow yet here in Halifax!

The last few months have been full of activity both in Atlantic Canada and in Israel. The articles in this issue will highlight some of the activities and events. However, I do want to highlight a number of them.

In late October, I was fortunate enough to lead a mission to Israel of Maritimers and former Maritimers. We spent a wonderful eight days together from Jerusalem to the Lebanese border and from Tel Aviv to the Negev. It is a wonderful experience to travel with a group of friends, especially since I have known most of them for over forty years. Our participants came from Halifax, Cape Breton, Fredericton, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa and even Vancouver. We were twenty six in total and I can only commend the participants for their Tuach, Chevra, and generosity.

On my return from Israel, a few short days later, I found myself preparing for the 17th AJC Biennial Convention, which was held in Halifax on November 20th and 21st. This year, due to budgetary constraints, we began on Saturday evening instead of Friday evening. The program

was more concise than previous years. However, attendance was relatively good and I hope that in 2012, our eighteenth can be held outside of Halifax. Our new president, Shulamith Medjuck, took office with a great team of officers and I want to thank our past president, Howard Conter and his executive for all their hard work and support.

Congratulations to our AJC Community Service Award winners: Arnold Chippin, Shirlee Burnstein, Francis Weil, and Arnold Bennett. In addition, my good friend and cohort, Dov Harris received a well deserved award of recognition from UJA of Atlantic Canada. My thanks to the co- chairs Ruth Chippin and Karen Conter along with the out of town guests, and the Rabbis from Atlantic Canada who helped contribute to an enjoyable weekend.

The UJA campaign here in Atlantic Canada is winding down



and I pleased to say that thanks to our regional chair, Howard Conter and the hard working chairmen in the various communities through out our region, we are looking at another successful year. My particular thanks to Arnold and Judy Budovitch in Fredericton, Dr Ruth Goldbloom in Halifax, "The boys in Cape Breton", and all the canvassers who worked so hard to make our campaign meaningful for Israel and for our communities. Special thanks to Perry Romberg, Dan Stern and Mark David for all their assistance.

My best wishes to all our readers for a happy and healthy 2011.

ARTICLES FOR SHALOM MAGAZINE FOR 2011 ARE DUE BY:

Spring issue:
March 25th 2011

Fall issue:
August 19th 2011

Winter issue:
November 18th 2011



Margarita Fainshtein, centre, conducts a Menorah making family art workshop in Halifax.



Jerri Costa serving cake at a Chanukah party in Annapolis Royal.

From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

Education, responsibility and compassion are valuable lessons Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman brings to light as he continues to educate students about the Holocaust. This fall Holocaust Education Week in Halifax began with the launch of his book, *Millions of Souls*, and the demand for survivor testimony and Holocaust education resources has noticeably increased. Philip Riteman continues his busy speaking schedule into the winter and I will be planning a spring schedule to include a visit to Newfoundland. This year Holocaust Education Week partners included community volunteer Krystyna Panek and her passionate diligence facilitated bringing Polish artist Marita Benke-Gadja to Halifax to present her exhibit *From the Murdered Towns*. The sculptures depict Jewish life in Poland prior to the Holocaust and Dr. Dorota Glowacka, University Kings College, provided the context for the exhibit with a lecture on the Holocaust in Contemporary Polish Art. Marita generously donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her sculptures to the AJC's Holocaust Education Fund. The Azrieli Foundation continues to publish Holocaust survivor testimony, launching



(l to r) AJC staffers Jaclyn Tanz and Shira LeVine coordinated the book sale at Philip Riteman's book launch to raise funds for Holocaust Education, (r to l) Dorothy & Philip Riteman and author Mireille Bauhu-MacWillie.



Edna LeVine, left with Mila Voihanski, JIAS Canada, and Svetlana Ratchinski, AJC Controller, at the AJC Biennial Convention.

their 3rd series of books this fall. As part of our partnership with the Azrieli Foundation we offered an educators workshop at the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, conducted by Anne McLeod. I am working with Anne and several educators to offer this workshop in New Brunswick and in other communities in Nova Scotia. The AJC received copies of the 3rd series of books to distribute, including the Teacher's Resource Guide and copies are available at our office. January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the AJC is partnering with a local organization to host an event in Halifax.

22 new families are expected to arrive in Halifax beginning this spring. To facilitate their settlement I consulted with Mila Voihanski, Executive Director, JIAS Canada, while she was in Halifax for the AJC Biennial Convention and we met with settlement service providers, to review and expand our settlement plan to further communication. Mila's guidance in creating an infrastructure, which is sustainable, supports our efforts for retention and integration. We are also continuing our work with the Moncton community to create a similar infrastructure.

Once again I was fortunate to receive a cooking lesson from Philip Riteman (assisted by his wife Dorothy) and to follow is his family recipe for gefilte fish, which he learned by watching his mother and aunts prepare.

PHILIP RITEMAN'S GEFILTE FISH

Step One: Prepare broth

Fill a large stock pot half way with water; bring to boil adding 2T salt, 1T pepper and 1T sugar.

Add 4 large celery stalks (peeled and cut in half), 1 whole onion (skin removed), 3 large carrots (peeled & cut in small rounds about ¼") and continue to simmer on low, partially covered.

Step Two: Prepare the Gefilte mixture

Prepare the fish: 1kg Haddock fillets (cut into large pieces) and put in a large bowl with cold water and 1.2kg rainbow trout (or salmon) remove skin (cut into medium size pieces) and add to the bowl of water.

Grind in a food processor with the steel knife 3 medium whole onions until pureed and strain the liquid. Put drained onions into a large wooden bowl.

Wash and squeeze out the water from the fish and dry.

In 3 batches put the fish into the food processor with steel knife and grind until smooth. Add each batch to the wooden bowl with the onions and mixed slightly with a hand metal chopper.

When all the fish is in the wooden bowl begin hand chopping to mix thoroughly, (about 4 minutes).

Add to the fish mixture 2T salt, add 3T sugar and 1T pepper and chop in thoroughly.

Add 4 eggs to the fish mixture: one at a time and mix thoroughly (1-2 minutes).

Add 1¼ cup cold water to the fish mixture and mix in thoroughly (2 minutes).

Add ½ cup matzah meal, sprinkle on top to cover, and chop in thoroughly.

Step Three: Cook

Bring broth to a rolling boil.

Fill a bowl with cold water to wet hands and then form fish mixture into large croquettes and drop each one in the water. (about 30 large)

Cover and return to boil and lower flame and simmer for 2½ hours, checking to make sure it is always boiling.

Cool completely and then remove fish, drain liquid and reserve carrots to serve with fish.

UJA Mission to Israel a Major Success

Members who were part of the 2010 Maritime AJC Mission to Israel toured from north to south. They met Camp Kadimah alumni, visited projects they had funded in past. They were hosted by a Druze community, spent time at Yad Vashem,

went below the Wailing Wall and stood on a site believed to be nearest to the Holy of Holies. They toured the Ramon Crater, and an archaeological park, met P2K partners, and had tastings at Israeli wineries.



Members of the 2010 mission, who also participated in the 2007 mission, were major contributors to Shechafim School.



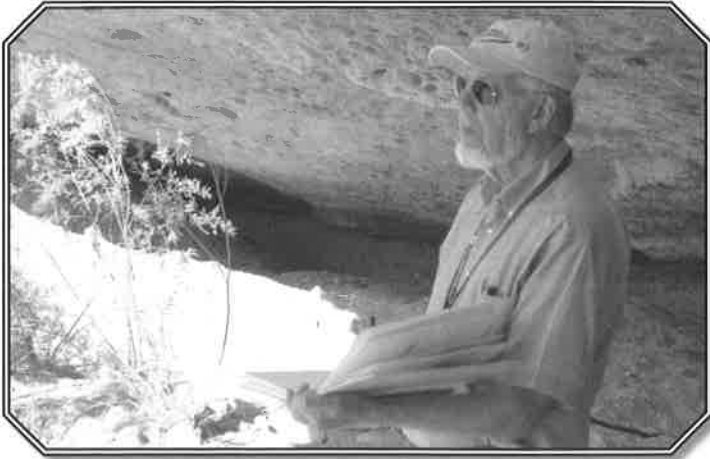
A plaque at Shechafim School in Mevot Hermon in the Northern Galilee recognizes the AJC contribution to its development.

The Mission welcomed 26 Atlantic Canadians and ex-pat Atlantic Canadians living in Ontario. The pictures on these pages highlight the extent of the Mission, the variety of activity, and the enthusiasm of the participants.

Joining the mission was famed Nova Scotian artist Tom Forestall who painted 30 watercolours during his visit to Israel. The paintings will be displayed and offered for sale in Halifax and Toronto.



A visit to Ramon Crater in the southern part of Israel amazed members of the mission.



Nova Scotia artist Tom Forestall (artist in residence) at Beit Shearim, an archaeological park attended the 2010 mission to prepare artistic impressions of Israeli sites and AJC activity in Israel.



Karen and then AJC President Howard Conter visited the Israel Leadership Institute at the Sderot Community Centre during the mission.



Camp Kadimah alumni in Sderot recall their good times with Judith and Co-camp chair Victor Goldberg (2nd and 3rd from left).



A visit to the Flam Winery near Jerusalem was a highlight of the trip. Judy and Arnold Budovitch, Fredericton, enjoyed the wine tasting.



Members of the mission visited the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Dedication of the Sidney Warren Science Education Centre for Youth

The bonds which the Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada has with Northern Israel have been indelibly strengthened through major allocations from the Sidney Warren Estate for projects and programs in Northern Israel.



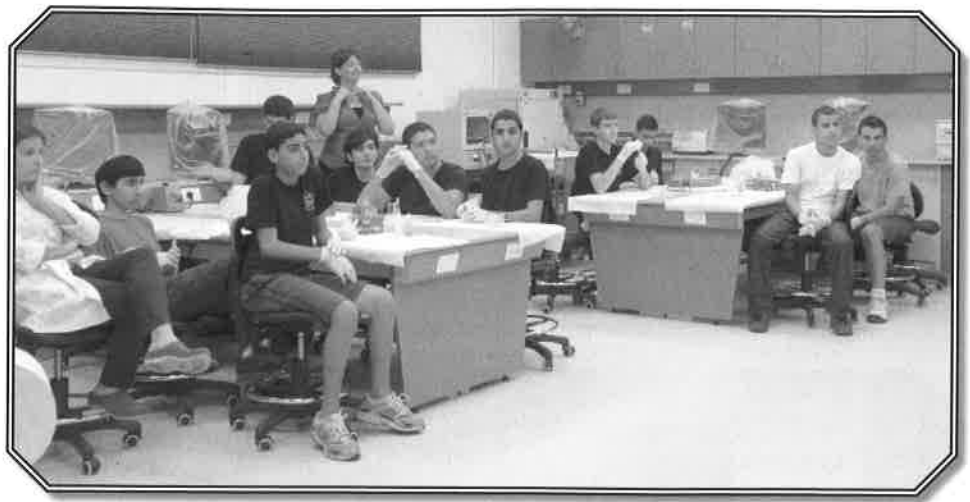
Plaque at the Science Centre

At an impressive ceremony at Tel Hai College on October 24, 2010, a unique state of the art science education centre in the name of Sidney Warren z'l was dedicated.

Among the dignitaries attending the ceremony were the President of United Israel Appeal of Canada, David Engel, the President of Tel Hai College Professor Yona Chen, the Deputy Director of the Rashi Foundation, Ronit Segelman, the mayors of Kiryat Shmona and Tsfat, the head of the Regional Council of Northern Israel, the CEO of UIA, Linda Kislowicz and the Director General of UIA's Israel



From left to right: Jack Prince, Executor of the Sidney Warren Estate, Ronit Seligman, Director of the Rashi Foundation and Professor Yona Chen, President, Tel Hai College



Students at a class in the Science Centre

office, Yossi Tanuri.

Also present were members of the UIA Coast-to-Coast Partnership 2000 committee, Kathy and Arthur Zilbert, Howard and Karen Conter and Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, representing Atlantic Canada.

Jack Prince, the executor of the Sidney Warren Estate, in his remarks to the gathering of some 75 people, said that the Science Education Centre in Sidney's name was a vivid expression of the late Sidney Warren's commitment to the Jewish people and, as well, his attachment to the community of Halifax where through Partnership 2000 it is a vibrant presence in Northern Israel.

The Sidney Warren Estate, in addition to the Science Centre, has been prominent in providing funds for the Full School Program at the Danciger High school in Kiryat Shmona and also provided support for programs assisting immigrant youth.

Together with the participation of the Rashi Foundation, UIA of Canada and Tel Hai College, the sole focus of the Estate, as Jack Prince has described it, has



Dov Harris and Jon Goldberg at the Science Centre beneath a portrait of Sidney Warren and his biography.

been to secure a brighter future for the young men and women of the region. "Sidney Warren's generosity has found its home in Eretz Yisrael and will flourish for years to come."



Students at a class in the Science Centre

Contributing to Israel through Sar-El

by Lea McKnight, Halifax

In 2003, wanting to return to Israel after 28 years, I knew I wanted a more meaningful experience than solely that of a tourist. I joined Sar-El, the National Project for Volunteers for Israel. Sar-El stands for "Sheirut Le'Yisrael", "Service to Israel". I enjoyed the experience so much that I returned again in early 2010.

Founded in 1982 by Brigadier General Dr. Aharon Davidi, this program started as an initial response to the need for volunteers to assist on the farms in the Golan Heights when the settler reservists were called up for duty during the first war with Lebanon. From those beginnings, it developed into Sar-El and has brought over 100,000 volunteers from many countries to help on IDF supply and

maintenance bases and nursing homes throughout Israel. By enlisting the help of volunteers, reservists may be relieved from some duties and they are able to spend more time in their civilian jobs and with family.

Having enjoyed my years at summer camps and kibbutz life, I was confident that Sar-El was for me. I wasn't disappointed. The work week



Lea McKnight at her base in Israel

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extended from Sunday through Thursday and the jobs varied depending on the base.

On my first base in 2003, we cleared out a warehouse and recycled spare parts and materials. Some volunteers repaired army vehicles.

This year, I was on a paratrooper training base. My job was untangling parachute strings after the jumps.

Some of the men lifted and carried the parachutes which were surprisingly heavy while others cleaned rifles. On a nearby base, volunteers packed medical kits. The jobs may sound menial or repetitive but all served a purpose. The kibbitzing and camaraderie with your co-workers made the working day a pleasure and lifelong friendships were formed. We ate our meals in the dining hall with the soldiers, took turns on kitchen duty, and there was a sense of pride in wearing the military uniform each day.

All of the volunteer groups are assigned madrichot, young female soldiers who are trained as group leaders. They arranged evening programs on various Israeli topics and issues, and took us on

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

tours and day trips. Their knowledge and maturity amazed me as they managed adults, many of whom were older than their parents, and did it with confidence.

On weekends, we were required to leave the base, giving us time to explore other parts of the country and visit friends and family. Friends from my kibbutz days welcomed me on weekends.

The soldiers on the base would ask us "Why would you spend so much money to come here and spend your day working?" We explained that it is our way of supporting them and showing our solidarity with Israel. When General Davidi visited us to thank us for our support, it meant so much to hear those

words. He told us that they have done studies on Sar-El that shows our presence on the base was motivating for the soldiers.

Working side by side with the soldiers, having a friendly game of pool in the evening, or together watching Canada win Olympic gold in hockey generated a feeling of being part of Israeli life and not just an observer. There were days when it was too hot, we were exhausted and the toilets were overflowing, but we always felt useful and appreciated.

The day the base commander attached the epaulets to our uniforms or we had the honour of raising the flag at mifkad, we knew we were making a difference and felt privileged to serve with Sar-El.

Our commander's mother even baked hamantaschen for us at Purim.

If you are looking for an easy, comfortable experience with fine dining, this is NOT for you. But, if you think you would enjoy meeting people from other countries, living and working with Israelis, getting to know the country as an "insider", and don't mind "roughing" it a bit, you would enjoy Sar-El. Volunteers generally commit to two or three weeks on the base and many extend their stay by doing consecutive programs on various bases. I met volunteers from ages 17-83 and many who have returned to Sar-El yearly for 15 or 20 years. It's addictive!

My 2010 Sar-El Experience

by Joyce Barak, Stewiacke, N.S.

Editor's note: This past fall Sar-el sent the largest-ever single group of volunteers to Israel, 50 at one shot. Two Atlantic Canadians participated on the post Sukkoth group. Volunteers are sent throughout the year and more information is available at www.sarelcanada.org or from the AJC office.

On October 2nd, 2010, with a friend, Gloria Costello, I left Halifax to participate in a wonderful program called Sar-El, a three-week, rewarding "Volunteer for Israel" experience.

We arrived the next day with very little sleep but anxious to find out what we had indeed volunteered to do in Israel. At Ben

Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, there were many people of varying ages - men, women, married couples, Jews and non-Jews - all waiting to be told our assignments. This was the "Canadian Contingent" that goes every year just after the High Holidays.

Taken by bus to our base, we met two

Madrichot, very young soldiers assigned to keep all 19 of us volunteers safe, happy and working.

Our barracks have bunk beds and three to four people in each room. We get our uniforms, pillows, sheets (if they have some) and a wool blanket. The soldier who outfits us is very good at

determining our sizes, though the fit is not perfect. We are given belts just in case. We have a shirt and pants but no issue of boots.

After dressing, making our beds and getting to know our roommate, we meet our Madrichot for a base tour. We walk a kilometer to the dining hall. Maybe if I had to walk this far for my meals back home, I wouldn't need to consult my diet books. The meals



Fall 2010 Sar-el group

on the base are not fancy and you know what day it is according to the same menu.

Breakfast and supper are milk meals, with lunch the time for chicken, fish or 'mystery' meat as it was called by the repeat 'Sar-Elers'. For breakfast and supper, expect cucumbers, tomatoes, olives, cottage cheese, and boiled eggs. Though the meals lacked variety, there was never a shortage in quantity (I didn't lose an ounce).

At our work compound, we met the young soldier who would teach us our skill and supervise our production. We are assigned fixing broken radio bases, in a production line, each with a task, helping each other to loosen reluctant bolts. Some of the women in our group are assigned fixing headsets. The tiny screws that must be put into a small earphone are too much for me, and I go back to the radio bases.

In this working experience, the leaders want to keep the volunteers happy and productive and will find a job that suits the individual. The work was not difficult, nor boring, for we spent hours getting to know the other Sar-Elers and soon we were all good friends. We laughed, told jokes, exchanged knowledge of Israel and Judaism and compared Jewish communities across the country. There were volunteers from Vancouver to Quebec, with ages ranging from 34 to 83.

Our work week stopped at noon Thursday and started again at noon Sunday. The weekends were ours to do as we liked in Israel. Gloria and I spent our first weekend in Haifa, touring the Ba'hai Gardens and visiting a good friend from Nova Scotia who lives there. Our second weekend was in Jerusalem walking the wall of the old city, going to Vad Hashem and shopping in the many markets. At the end of the program, we stayed in Tel Aviv, traveled to the Dead Sea and Masada, walked the long beach of Tel Aviv which took us to Jaffa and the ancient sights there. We stayed in hotels or rented rooms on our off time for reasonable rates given to Sar-El

volunteers.

We wore our Sar-El hats and T-shirts when we traveled and were greeted with great respect by Israelis everywhere. We felt like an elite group and were often told how much our services to Israel were appreciated.

During our program, we had evening programs organized by the Medrichot. We had guest speakers, soldiers on the front lines, and just fun attempts at learning Hebrew. We were taken to Jerusalem, with our own guide, to the ancient Roman ruins, the new Israeli museum, Menachem Begin Center, and to supper in the German colony in Jerusalem. We visited Tel Aviv to see Yitzchak Rabin Square, as we were in Israel for the anniversary of his assassination. We toured Ben Gurion's house and went to the Independence Day Museum. The Sar-El program ensured we did not just work on the base, but had many educational experiences, making Sar-El life worth every minute.

This was my second time with Sar-El



Gloria and Joyce working on the base

and I plan to go again. The experience of being in Israel cannot be put into words. This is a great way to feel a connection to Israel and get to know such diversified people that I will forever call my friends. Shortly after returning home I called a friend I made on my first Sar-El experience in 1997 who lives in Maryland. We have stayed in touch all these years.

For more information, or if you want a traveling companion on Sar-El, give me a call. I also have a phone from Israel that I am willing to lend to anyone interested in this program. A phone is an asset for making reservations and meeting up with people as you travel.



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Campus Life

By Bill Chernin, Director of Campus Services, Atlantic Provinces

Between my time on campus as a student, and my time there as a "campus professional," I have lived among several generations of students, and I can tell you that on campus, the more things change, the more they stay the same.



At staff training of late, we've brought in American Hillel professionals to share their ideas, and they label this period in a young person's life "Emerging Adulthood," characterized by, among other things, a questioning, if not outright rejection, of their parents world view, and the establishment of their own identities. This must sound somewhat accurate? The question these professionals pose to us is, how do we engage students on questions of Jewish identity while they're exploring the questions of their whole identity. It's an excellent question and there are some significant challenges here, some of which feel particular and unique to our time exactly. I have to wonder though, if I'd lived through a few generations of Jewish community, as I have through a few generations of students (imagine me as a friendly, vegetarian vampire), would I say of these things that the more they've changed the more they've stayed the same? Would I have seen some Jewish people struggling with some aspects of Israeli policy and others not, but none of them having a means of discussing it together, and would I have seen the impact of this on Jewish university students forging their own Jewish identities? Would I have seen the behavior of some Jews, secular and

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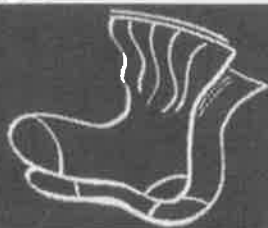
religious, which have caused the other, if only momentarily (we hope) to feel embarrassed or angered as Jews, and would I have seen the impact of this on Jewish university students forging their own identities? Would I have seen Jews bitterly disagree (this is a trick question because of course I would have), but would I have seen Jews as described above, make overtures of compromise to each other, in word and deed, to communicate respect and heal their collective wounds for our communal good, and would I have seen the effect of this on Jewish university students forging their own identities?

I of course don't know the answers, but these are some important issues which are affecting Jewish university students today, as they are forging their Jewish identities.

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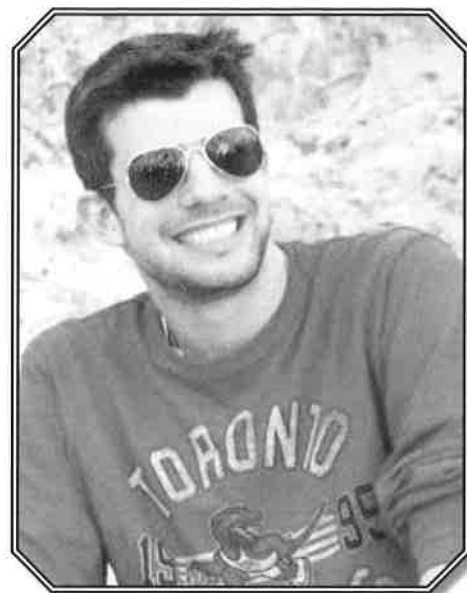
Camp Kadimah

by Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah

Even in the midst of a cold winter, those summer camp memories can go a very long way.... As I think back to the amazing summer of 2010 that was, there are a few things that stand out.

I think of the 50 plus Atlantic Canadian children who left camp with lasting friendships with one another and with peers from across the world. And the image of 31 Israeli youth pulling out of camp on the last day with arms outstretched, in tears to leave their new friends and the place that gave them a once in a lifetime, unforgettable summer. I remember the dining hall floors vibrating from such a tremendous camp wide spirit that started on day 1 with kids immersed in singing and dancing. I saw campers who excelled and even mastered several specialties like waterskiing and the arts, as Kadimah had more choice programming than ever before. This is just the tip of the iceberg and before we know it, the 2011 summer will be here with over 300 people ready to embark on the summer of their lives.

So how do we bring this camp experience to every Jewish child in Atlantic Canada? We want everyone to get a taste of what camp offers so that when they are camp age, they will take the opportunity to have that full camp experience. To that end, this past summer we ran two successful additional programs for Atlantic Canadians at camp. Pre-Gibby Day, a program for young kids and parents to come up to camp for the day to experience real camp programming with the youngest section, took place on July 11th. Twenty-two kids participated in the program, enjoying a camp lunch, and such activities as sports and arts and crafts. Later in the summer, we had our first Kadimah Sleepover where 13 kids came up to camp to spend an action packed 24 hours at Camp. We hope to continue both of these programs for summers to come. During the year, we are also doing programming to help connect kids in an interactive way. In November, over 20 young kids joined together at the Discovery Centre in Halifax for an afternoon to learn



Jared Goldlust

something new, connect with new and old friends and of course to have fun.

The programming is a good start but what else can we offer! Kadimah is pleased to announce a new incentive program for Atlantic Canadians who are attending summer camp for the first time. The Atlantic Jewish Council and the Foundation for Jewish Camp have partnered together to create the One Happy Camper program (www.onehappycamper.org). One Happy Camper is a grant that gives families \$1,000 off of their camp fees for every eligible child. Please contact the Kadimah office for more information.

With a taste of what camp is all about and the One Happy Camper incentive, we still want to do more. We realize that for some young kids, our traditional 6-week program is too long to be away from home. For 2011, we are thrilled to be offering a new 4-week program for first time campers. Whatever the obstacle may be, we are committed to sharing the camp experience to every Jewish child in the region. Whether it is length of stay, financial concerns or anything else, please share your concerns and we

continued on page 12



Smiling faces enjoying Pre-Gibby Day at camp this summer

continued from page 11

will find a way for your child to have the Kadimah experience.

If you know of any Jewish kids in your city or town, please make sure you make them aware of Kadimah. We are happy to follow up with them, arrange a house visit, share the camp video and tell them what we offer.

As the incoming director, a camp lifer

and former Maritime resident, I believe Kadimah provides an incredible Jewish summer experience for our youth. I want to actively listen to what you have to say. The opening words of the camp song will continue to ring true. "As long as we all pull together, Kadimah will grow more and more..." There are many ways you can contribute in helping Kadimah flourish. This is your camp and I urge

you to take an active role by voicing your input, participating in our programs and supporting the important role a Jewish summer camp plays on our kids' lives. As we look to summer 2011 and beyond, it is only together that will ensure Kadimah is the shining gem of Atlantic Canada.

Please reach me by email (jared@campkadimah.com) or by phone (416)634-3089.

Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program

Editor's note: Last spring 15 Maritime students from our communities completed the Asper program and travelled to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Below are reflections from four Halifax students.

Anna Sadofsky: When I think of acceptance, I think of people who look beyond someone's exterior, and into they're hearts. Acceptance is being able to see someone for who they are on the inside, and not judging them for what they think or do. Before going on the Asper Foundation trip to Washington, I didn't understand why acceptance was such a big deal. At school, everyone has their own groups of friends, and when someone new comes along, they go where they are comfortable. I didn't think that it was our responsibility to make sure people are accepted. Going to different museums and meeting different people opened my eyes.

People that struggle with confidence issues, insecurity or unhappiness take out their anger or their frustration on others differences. No one is the same, and everyone has something that can be pointed out as bad or unattractive by someone else. People that go digging through their peers' faults are just looking for a way to make themselves appear better, or cooler, or to get

accepted themselves. Some people make fun of other's races or beliefs

The effects of racism have never really bothered me. I knew that racism was unfair, and unnecessary, but since I had never encountered a racist situation, I had no interest in the subject. Going to the Holocaust Museum in Washington gave me a completely new perspective. After seeing all that not only the Jewish people went through, but people who voice their beliefs and opinions, I don't know how I'd gone through my life never thinking about a simple question; why are people racist? One thing that we can do to stop racism in its tracks is to call people out on it when we see it happening, the museum taught me that. It taught me to stand up for myself if I see someone else doing something that may affect me not at that moment, but later on in life.

Some life lessons are learned from personal experiences, and some are learned from the experiences of others. I learned to be more accepting and to open myself up to other's opinions from both. What I saw in the museums and read in the books really changed how I treat others. The saying "treat others how you want to be treated" is a saying I like to live by. I know that if I'm nice to someone, they will be nice to me, so why would you be purposefully rude to someone, if all that's going to come out of it is more hate?

This trip affected me in so many ways;

I can't even express them in writing. I am very thankful that I was able to experience it with some of my closest friends, and that I was able to meet new people and make new friends in the process.

Alanna Pink: To start off, the trip surpassed my expectations. The programs were phenomenal and the experience was unforgettable. I had an amazing time and learned many new things.

The museum was the high point of the trip and the reason we were taken to Washington, it taught all of us (whether we were experienced in the subject or not) the importance of remembrance. It was a shock to go through the museum and circle around from the top floor down. You completely lose track of time and when you have completed the museum from the top floor to the ground floor you do not realize how long it took you to do that. It was amazing!

Something that will always be imprinted in my mind is the boxcar. I could not believe the size of it and how the Nazis would stuff Jewish people by the hundreds into them. Another part was the many, many faces lining all three floors, some of which had not survived the horrors of the Holocaust. I remember coming out of the museum in a daze, not realizing that I had toured and learnt on all 3 floors of the museum. I was with my friend and we came out in silence, lost in our own thoughts. Remembering, always

remembering.

Hannah Novack: With a pen and a note pad in my hand I was in the midst of a long awaited trip sponsored by the Asper Foundation. Even though we prepared well by attending formal classes each Sunday, discussing many topics and reading a lot of books, I still had no idea what was to await me.

As the words "Holocaust Memorial Museum" became larger, I could not help but feel anger and sympathy at the same time. This was a strange combination of emotions but then again this was no ordinary trip. The line up was endless with many groups and individuals. They were Jewish and non Jewish and there were black and white. I realized that what I was about to experience had a universal appeal. I was becoming very anxious about entering the building.

The next thing I knew, I was standing in the middle of the museum surrounded by pictures and information of the Jewish people. There were many aspects of the experience that I could elaborate on, but two areas in particular made the greatest impression.

First there were the shoes of the Jews of who survived and didn't survive the death march. The words state "we are the shoes, we are the last witness. We are the shoes from grandchildren and grandfathers from Prague, Paris, and Amsterdam and because we are only made of fabric and leather and not blood and flesh, each one of us avoided the hellfire."

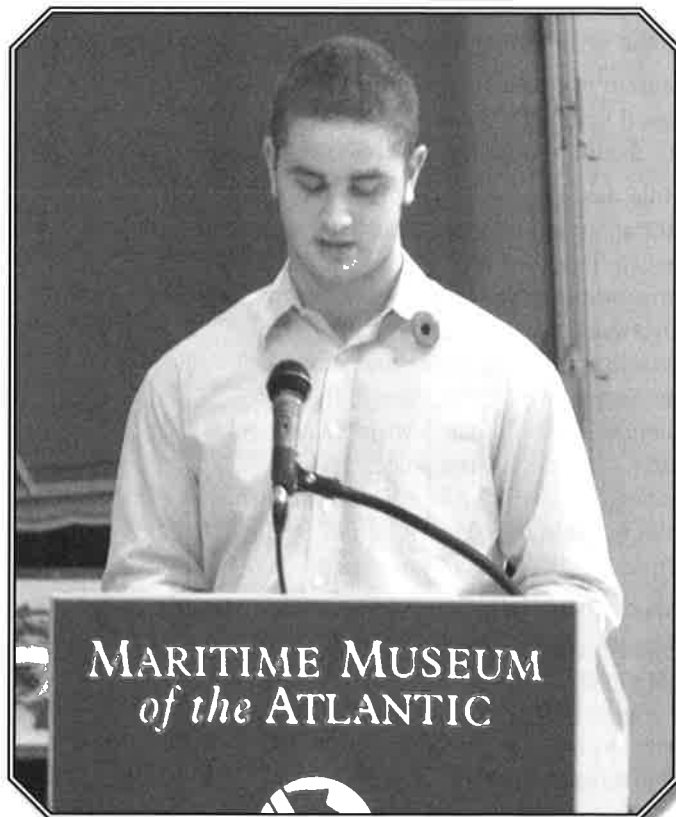
The other area was walking across a glass bridge where we saw a portion of a train

where Jews were transported to the concentration camps. Each car carried a hundred people or more. They were crammed into the car like animals and had little food or water. They had no sanitation. Many did not survive the journey.

It was extremely emotional moving from one room to another. I kept thinking about the people who died. They must have been watch makers, doctors, teachers, musicians and maybe even inventors. How much better could the world have been had they lived? What diseases might have been cured? But they were also mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and Bubbies and Zedas. I simply could not imagine the sorrow of losing so many members of your family. I could not imagine the strength needed to continue if you survived.

It is important for us to never forget and to educate our people.

Last but not least, I want to thank Judith Goldberg and Fig Margolian for their wisdom and guidance.



Shael Brown, Halifax, a participant in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program, read a poem, written after his trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, at Kristallnacht ceremonies.

Reflection

by Shael Brown

Crash, and my mirror's broken
 boy am I clumsy
 picking up shattered pieces of myself
 I flashback
 to a time
 way back when
 November 9th
 1938
 when my life as a young German-Jew
 ended
 in one night
 Cleaning the shop with papa
 late at night
 dust settles in the air
 and then on the broken pottery
 sweep left, right
 cleaning myself up
 getting ready for eternal sleep
 and it came abrupt
 in that they came
 axes, hammers, you name it
 no place to run
 it was the glass or the axe
 to shatter me
 like broken glass
 because it isn't called
 the night of broken glass
 for the windows
 but for me
 I died on that day
 just like papa, just like my family
 every person that I know
 every person here that I see
 died on that day
 They should rename the night of
 broken glass to the night of broken us
 we were broken yet mirrors can be
 fixed otherwise I wouldn't be standing
 here before you today but my mirror
 still has the crack so I never forget the
 glass or the axe and for good reason it
 is my past the pieces are back together
 but we keep the cracks to remember
 Rest in Peace: Shael Brown July
 1st 1995 - November 9th 1938

Riteman Book Launch, Films, Art Exhibits, Teaching Seminar Highlight Holocaust Education Week

by Joel Jacobson



Joel Jacobson does a Shalom interview while Philip Riteman chats with Jim Leahey of Halifax, a retired teacher, whose grandfather assisted Philip when he arrived in Newfoundland after the war.

Philip Riteman can never hold back the tears.

And never should he.

The Bedford NS resident willingly, and at times eagerly, tells his story of tragedy and triumph surviving the Holocaust to school children and adults throughout Atlantic Canada, across the country and even into the eastern United States.

Now his story will be permanently available through his memoirs.

The Riteman book launch was the start of a busy Holocaust Education Week in Halifax.

On October 26, Riteman launched his book, *Millions of Souls*, as told to author Mireille Baulu-MacWillie, and published by Flanker Press of Newfoundland.

In front of a class of 30 Dalhousie University students and about 40 members of the Jewish and non-Jewish communities, Riteman verbally abridged his story, one he has told hundreds of times to junior high, high school and university students and community audiences across Canada and into New England. He has always preached the same message – "It is better to love than to hate. Be aware of evil. Think for

yourself. Don't be brainwashed."

Riteman is 85 years old. He was incarcerated in concentration camps from 1941 to 1945, from the time he was 16 years old and in good health, until he was almost 21 and liberated, weighing a scrawny 75 pounds.

He concludes with stories of gratitude for

Newfoundlanders who supported him as a peddler who knew little English, who took him into their homes for food and lodging in the small fishing villages on the island.

Most of the students attending had never heard Riteman speak nor did they know a lot about the Holocaust.

Holocaust Education Week continued in Halifax and included the screening of two films. The first, *Po-Lin*, the 2008 prize winning film from director Jolanta Dylewska, offered a rare look at Jewish societies in Poland before the outbreak of the Second World War. Prior to the war there were 3.5 million Jews in Poland and after, only 350,000 remained. "*Po-Lin*" means "we shall stop here" in Yiddish. The film was introduced by Holocaust Studies Professor, Dr. Dorota Glowacka.

Another Holocaust-themed film, *Killing Kastner*, directed by Gaylen Ross, chronicled the life and death of Kasztner, a Jew in Hungary whose negotiations with the Nazis resulted in the rescue of over a thousand Jews. After Kasztner moved to Israel, he was accused of being a collaborator which resulted in a trial that condemned him as, "the man who sold his soul to the Devil." He was

murdered in 1957 in Tel Aviv. The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, was released in the United States in October of 2009, and won the best documentary at the Boston and the Minneapolis Jewish Film Festivals.

The Azrieli Foundation Educators Workshop drew local teachers to learn about teaching Holocaust studies. Guest speaker was Anne McLeod who led students from Dartmouth's Prince Andrew High School on a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington earlier this year. She has documented her own visits to the concentration camps through powerful photographs and will talk to teachers about teaching of this subject matter.

An art exhibit of ceramic works featured the work of Marita Benke Gajda, artist and professor from the Studio of Sculpture in Ceramics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, Poland. Maria has been involved with the art of ceramics for the last 30 years, and the art in this exhibit reflects well-known Jewish scenes and situations from the period before WWII.



Dartmouth educator Anne McLeod leads the Azrieli Educators Workshop for the launch of the third series of books.

Theatre, Poetry and Remembrance Highlight Dignity Day

by Megan Rudson, University of King's College, School of Journalism

Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, was a night of terror, fear and lost hope for the Jewish people living under Nazi rule.

On November 7, 2010, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax remembered Kristallnacht, which took place on November 9, 1938, and The St. Louis ship. The St. Louis exhibit commemorated the 900 Jewish people who sailed away from the Nazi's in hope of a better life.

Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council, began the ceremony. "Dignity Day is to stand against intolerance and remember Nazi victims."

Candles were lit remembering the six million who died in the Holocaust and the servicemen who gave their lives for peace.

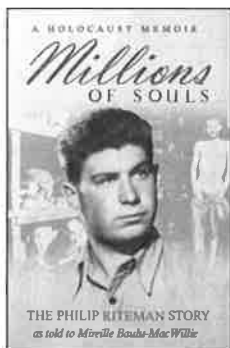
"Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax is the first museum to do an exhibit on the St. Louis story," said Don Conlin, curator of marine history at the museum. The St. Louis carried 900 passengers,



Elizabeth Mills, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, lights a memorial candle during Kristallnacht ceremonies at Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

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MILLIONS OF SOULS: THE PHILIP RITEMAN STORY by Philip Riteman as told to Mireille Baulu-MacWillie



Philip Riteman is a Holocaust survivor whose mission is to educate today's youth on the atrocities committed against millions of Jews and Gentiles by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime during World War II. From the Pruzhany Ghetto, Poland, Philip and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, his entire family was exterminated. As the lone survivor, Philip was used as a forced labourer in five concentration camps, where he witnessed the cruellest treatments that can be inflicted on human beings: degradation, dehumanization, starvation, hard labour, daily beatings, torture, and deliberate, cold-blooded murder.

Millions of Souls is told in three parts. First is Philip's account of life in his hometown and as an eyewitness to the struggle for survival in the concentration camps. Second is the story of Philip's exodus to Newfoundland after the war, where he discovered that there was still some humanity left in the world. Third is the story of Philip Riteman today, and his commitment to his mission.

Philip Riteman's story was recorded by Mireille Baulu-MacWillie during a series of interviews at Philip's home in Nova Scotia, Canada.

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but was turned away from every government on the continent. Originally headed for Cuba, the ship attempted entry into the United States and Canada, but the refugees were refused everywhere.

Captain Gustav Schroeder of the St. Louis tried to wait in ports before going back to Europe, hoping a country would change their mind. None of them did. Frederick Blair, a member of the Immigration Department of Canada during the late 1930's, was anti-Semitic

and tried to keep the Jewish people out of Canada. "People were blinded by fear and ignorance," said Conlin.

Theatre major Tringa Rexhepi performed a moving interpretation of a young woman aboard the St. Louis. "The Captain ordered everyone, Jewish or not, to be treated equally," said Rexhepi. Life on the ship was better for the Jews, which created even more heartache when they were told they would be returning to the Nazi's.

With distant relatives who passed away in the Holocaust, Lynn Rotin brought her 18-year-old daughter to the ceremony. She said the theatre piece personalized the ceremony, "out of respect to those who perished".

Kristallnacht was only the beginning. Many people died later at the hands of the Nazis, and the St. Louis attempted to save some, but had no such luck. Many of the passengers aboard ended up dying in the Holocaust. Shael Brown performed a poetry reading. He placed himself in the shoes of a German Jew during Kristallnacht. "My mirror still has a crack," he said.

Healthy Discussions Highlight AJC Conference Community Building, Communications and Camp Among Featured Topics

by Joel Jacobson

When the format for the 18th Biennial Conference of AJC, Nov 20 and 21, 2010, was planned, more discussion from smaller communities and how they affect the larger Atlantic region was considered.

The chosen themes stressed community gathering, unity, communication and youth, all important factors in keeping small communities thriving and growing, both in their Jewishness and their relationships with the secular community.

Panellists and almost 100 delegates from all areas of the four Atlantic Provinces

jumped on the theme of the conference
- What Will Our Future Hold

- and grasped the major issues: Immigration and growing our small communities, keeping our youth involved and hopefully, remaining in the region, getting along with our non-Jewish neighbours, and as importantly, with ourselves. These are dilemmas facing every small community in Canada.

In a well-attended panel early Sunday morning, Arnold Bennett of St.

John's, who emigrated from the United States 15 years ago, led a session on

Bringing Religions Together to Work for Community Peace and Social Justice.

He told how he and fellow Jews in his city have worked with leaders of various other church groups, including the Catholic Bishop, Muslim Imam, and Protestant leaders, for a common cause - to stamp out poverty and lessen the gap between rich and poor. The combination of religious backgrounds has tightened the sense of good feeling between all communities on the island.

"We need the Jewish community of Atlantic Canada to support this program, to diminish poverty," he said. "We need to

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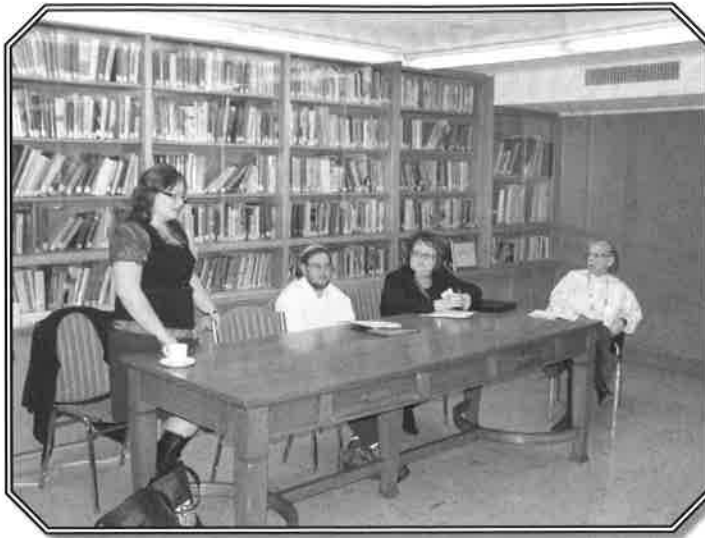
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send messages to our Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Legislatures. I ask all of you to fill out a card to your respective government members and either mail it or give it to me to have mailed in bulk, asking them to make stamping out poverty a priority."

In a session called Rural Judaism and How To Get Along The Neighbours, Jerry Costa of Annapolis Royal, NS related her story of coming with her family to Nova Scotia from New York City in 1970. It was a marked change from a bustling Jewish community in a city of eight million people to an area where they were the only Jews among 900 people.

"It was Christian world here. I decided to enter that community with, what else?, food!," she laughed. I invited people to my house and they had matzo and blintzes and tzimmes and potato kugel. We invited them to celebrate our holidays with us, then played them Jewish music, did the Hora, invited people to Friday night Shabbat dinner and eventually was asked by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission to go into schools in the area and explain my story and what Judaism is."

"Two years ago, we had a seder and had 22 people, 20 non-Jewish, including two Anglican priests. Now we have a southwest Nova Scotia Jewish group of a dozen people and we're getting together for Chanukah. I asked Jon (Goldberg,



Nana Shteinberg, Halifax, who emigrated from Israel two years ago, speaks to the conference during an immigration panel that also featured Rabbi Yosef Goldman of Fredericton's immigration committee and JIAS executive director Mila Voihanski. Shulamith Medjuck, Halifax, moderated the session.

executive director of AJC) if he could find me candles and 100 dreidels.

We'll invite the whole community so they can learn our culture, so we won't look so different to them."

Stephen McDonald, Toronto, communications consultant for Canada-Israel Committee, presented tips for effective messaging for Jewish lay leaders dealing with media.

He praised Canadian media for the way they generally handle news of Israel, compared to what he hears from contacts in Europe. "In Canada, we see more coverage on other areas of the Mid-East, for example Afghanistan where Canada has troops and therefore an interest, and of Iran from where there is so much negative news.

He stressed that Jews across Canada are critical to building relationships with the media, to being the Jewish face media people see. "People need to know about us before they'll care about us," he said.

He said it's difficult to make people care about Israel. "We have to tap into what they know. For example, we took Paul Henderson on a mission to Metulla in northern Israel where there is an ice rink, and that got coverage. Canadians know and care about hockey and Henderson is an icon. It showed Israel as a country with a similar interest to Canadians - ice

and hockey. We took a TV fishing show to Israel because Canadians love to fish and it showed Israel from another side - recreation. It's not all about taking politicians and parliamentarians to Israel and showing them the political side."

In a final panel, newly-appointed Camp Kadimah director Jared Goldlust, though talking to the converted, stressed the importance of Camp to impart Judaism to children from smaller communities where contact with other Jewish children is minimal.

"Relationships last well beyond one summer," he said, "Children at Camp Kadimah achieve personal growth, they feel accepted for who they are. They see Jewish role models in staff and older campers, sensing that if Judaism is important to them it can be important to me. They get an informal Zionist education but don't have it jammed down their throats. There is diversity - Jews from the US, all over Canada, Israel, some in shuls, others not, some orthodox, others conservative or reform backgrounds."

Jared asked those attending to talk within their communities about Camp, talk to children, speak from the bimah, do home visits, reach out, try to get every child in Atlantic Canada to attend Kadimah (only about 50 per cent of those eligible in the region attend now) and that there are scholarships programs for children from families in need, a confidential arrangement that can be made.



Arnold Bennett, St. John's, a recipient of an AJC Community Service Award, led a discussion on bringing religions together for community peace and social justice.



Jerri Costa, Annapolis Royal addresses a workshop on fitting in to a small community

Brunch Speakers Praise, Review and Preview

by Joel Jacobson

The 18th Biennial AJC Conference concluded with a Sunday brunch, sponsored by United Jewish Appeal Canada.

National executives of UJA alternately praised Atlantic Canadians for their commitment and dedication, outlined new projects and reviewed the successes of the past.

CEO Linda Kislowicz praised Atlantic community leaders for what has been accomplished in the last two years, including the proactive immigration effort, the development of the Simon and Reva Spatz Chair in Jewish Studies at Dalhousie University, the continued strength of Camp Kadimah, and the volunteerism of young people to the newly-elected board of AJC.

"There are challenges and issues but you're making things happen because you realize what's needed," said the woman responsible for national operations in Canada and Israel.

Linda presented remarks prepared by volunteer UIAC president David Engel who was scheduled to attend the conference but the birth of his first grandchild two days before understandably kept him home.

In his remarks, David noted the contribution of Howard Conter as AJC president for the past two years as "outstanding" but cited his impact on the national scene, too. "His participation in committees and task forces has brought an important point of view and helped leaders in larger communities understand and appreciate the complexities of sustaining Jewish life in a small community."

David offered best wishes to new president Shulamith Medjuck, praising her commitment to the immigration project and saying, "I know you will bring the same dedication and energy to your role as chair."



Mila Voihanski, JIAS Canada, Daniel Stern, UIA Federations Canada, Linda Kislowicz, CEO, United Israel Appeal of Canada, enjoy UIA brunch.

He noted UIA Federations of Canada was asked to assist in sustaining the Atlantic chaplaincy program by matching a contribution that had been secured locally. "We were pleased to be supportive and to help create a partnership. It is a win-win approach that excites us as it allows us to leverage our strengths. We look forward to more collaborations in the future."

He addressed advocacy and planned giving on the national level. The latter will provide long-term security for AJC and for the development of projects and programs in Israel, he said.

Daniel Stern, director of campaign and regional community services of UIAFC, presented a power point on how the funds raised in the region assist Israel and people in the diaspora.

He said the work of Atlantic Canadians has saved thousands of lives throughout the Jewish world but stressed the campaign also helps Canadian and local projects as well, such as Birthright

Israel which has enabled 23,000 young Canadians to make their first visit to Israel, March of the Living, Hillel Canada and campus programs, and Camp Kadimah.

The power point outlined new initiatives including a communication forum for leadership in regional Jewish communities, a manual for sharing program ideas and governance and legal issues, improved Jewish programming for youth, teens, families and adults, and a virtual Jewish classroom pilot project for youth, teens and adults that will use the internet and technology to join regional communities.

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Community Leaders Honoured by AJC

by Joel Jacobson

Four leaders from Atlantic Canada were recognized for their contribution to Jewish community and secular life during the 18th biennial conference of Atlantic Jewish Council.

Arnold Bennett, St. John's NL, Shirley Burnstein, Halifax, Arnold Chippin, Fredericton, and Francis Weil, Moncton were honoured for their commitment and integrity, their love of things Jewish, and enthusiasm to keep tradition alive in their communities.

Bennett, a founding member of the Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador, is a director of the Religious Social-Action Coalition of NL.

The coalition of various religious leaders is working to bring the margin between rich and poor closer together in Newfoundland and nationally.

Bennett, who immigrated to St. John's in 1996 and became a Canadian citizen in 2004, is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker whose productions have been seen on the Vision Network in Canada and PBS in the United States. He's a former political consultant to the Democratic Party in the US and consulted with President Bill Clinton and wife Hilary on health reform during his term in office.

Burnstein has brought a lifetime of musical enjoyment to people in both the Jewish and outside communities through her leadership in many programs. She was a programmer for Beth Israel Synagogue Sisterhood and Atlantic Jewish Council, directing several musical productions involving youth and adults.

She has been program coordinator for Massada, a seniors' group in Halifax, for the past number of years. Shirley is director and musical arranger of the Northwood Players, a group of seniors in Halifax, who entertain the community with shows several times a year. She stresses that "seniors have talent that



Arnold Chippin, Fredericton, was presented an AJC Community Service Award by President Howard Conter and UIA Canada CEO Linda Kislowicz.

they have shown as youth and, even though older now, can continue to foster." Northwood Manor named its performance centre Shirley Burnstein Hall in her honour.

Chippin, commenting about his honour, admitted that he, like most volunteers, does community and charitable work for the joy, not the recognition.

"In fact, I get more from doing these things, than I give," he said.

Many in the Fredericton community would disagree for Arnold has done much and helped many. He is a past director of B'nai Brith Canada, has been a five-time president of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, and served on the AJC board of directors. At age 22, he moved to Israel after earning a Bachelor of Arts from University of New Brunswick. He learned Hebrew, served in the infantry, worked on a kibbutz and as a social worker. He is chair of the Pastoral Care Educational Foundation in Fredericton, and the

Lieutenant Governor's appointee to the New Brunswick Association of Real Estate Appraisers.

Francis Weil immigrated to Canada in 1961 after spending the Second World War hiding from the Nazis, with his family, in the French Alps and in Switzerland. He earned a PhD in physics at Dalhousie University before moving to Moncton in 1968. The Jewish Community of Moncton couldn't be happier to have Francis in its midst. He has served on the board and as president of Tiferes Israel Synagogue. He was Gabbai, and is in his 11th year as editor of the shul bulletin. He has kept the Hebrew School going by organizing classes and teaching when no rabbi or teacher was in the community.

Francis has been on the AJC board, including a term as secretary, a member of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission and frequently speaks to schools and clubs about the Holocaust. He's a member of the newcomers committee of Moncton, assisting the immigrants in settlement.

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Dov Harris Honoured on Retirement from UJA

by Joel Jacobson



Jim Spatz, CIJA National Officer, talks with UJA fundraiser Dov Harris about his decades of service to Atlantic Canada.

The crowd stood and gave an extended standing ovation to Barney "Dov" Harris.

Slightly embarrassed, but visibly grateful, the retiring fund raising executive with UJA, who spent the last 25 years coddling, coaxing, and coercing Atlantic Canadians to give generously to Jewish causes in the region, Canada and Israel, accepted the applause graciously, which is the way he always did things. And, as usual, too, he said the right things, but from deep within his heart.

Born in South Africa, Dov grew up in

a Zionist environment. He held senior positions with the South African Zionist Federation, both in his homeland and in Israel, served in the Israeli armed forces and eventually came to Canada in 1982. He spent 35 years with United Israel Appeal, latterly as campaign director and director of bequests and endowments in Atlantic Canada. He left those positions in 2008, and since then, has been a consultant to the UIA.

While presenting Dov with a plaque of recognition, former AJC president Victor Goldberg, who worked closely with Dov, said he recalls Dov without gray hair 25 years ago, "and we called him Barney then. He has always been the epitome of the Jewish condition and Jewish politics and has always had a special affinity and connection with our region."

Dov was pivotal in establishing the Atlantic Jewish Foundation, Victor explained, plus "you raised millions of dollars for Israel. You recognized the importance of generating funds within our community to preserve and revitalize our own community."



Dov Harris, right, is recognized by Jon and Victor Goldberg for his outstanding work as a UJA fundraiser in the Atlantic region for more than 25 years.

Dov responded with words of praise for Atlantic Canadians. "Look what you've done with your campaigns. You've helped northern Israel. When there's been an emergency, you have been there with extra donations. What you are doing now with the establishment of the Chair of Jewish Studies (at Dalhousie University) and immigration to the region is an indication of a vital community."

"This has been more than just a job to me. You are my friends and I shall never forget you," he concluded.

Goodbye Howard

by Joel Jacobson

Howard Conter concluded his two-year term as president of Atlantic Jewish Council by highlighting the successes, citing a few problems and taking a look forward.

"Establishing the Chair in Jewish Studies at Dalhousie University will allow increased study and interaction not only at the undergraduate level, but in post-graduate and PhD levels as well, helping build a strong academic bridge between Dal, the Atlantic region and Israel. It will, too, create understanding of Jewish issues

among all people," he said.

Howard cited Holocaust education as being accomplished very well in the region. He thanked members of the communities who work to put on excellent programs as "education is the key to combat antisemitism and holocaust education is a vital pillar in the education process."

Chaplaincy received praise as a vital part of AJC programming. Fund raising continues to foster chaplaincy but, with no specific budget for it, new money will



AJC past president Kathy Zilbert thanks outgoing president Howard Conter for two years of outstanding dedication.

always have to be found.

Immigration has been an area where communities have worked together for a common good. "There has been excellent interaction between Halifax, Fredericton and Moncton in using common resources to increase immigration and strengthen Jewish communities."

Campaign success and the benefits of Partnership 2000 have increased the vital connection with Israel, particularly in the north he said. Many projects have been funded and supported by Atlantic

Canadians, with a focus on education, health and youth at risk.

He said campus committees in the region have been successful.

Howard noted there were problems in divisions within communities that must be addressed if those communities are to foster and move forward.

"We need to build united communities throughout the region. We need strong programs, strong campaigns and need to continue to do what we do well. We need

to continue to support Shalom Magazine, send our Atlantic children to Camp Kadimah and support and welcome our university students."

"We need to think region all in our work and we have to put the strength of our Jewish communities first. If we do these things, I believe Atlantic Canadian Jewry has a chance. I hope so, as I would love to see my children and grandchildren feel that this would be a good place to live a Jewish life."

Hello Shulamith

by Joel Jacobson

Shulamith Medjuck, Halifax, is all smiles, even though she faces the challenge of leading the Atlantic Jewish Council through the next two years.

She's happy because two of her new executive members are actually YOUNG (under 35 years of age), even though an AJC led by older members of the



Marilyn Kaufman, right, newly-appointed Fredericton representative to the AJC board, purchases Philip Riteman's memoir from AJC staffer, Shira LeVine.

community (into their 50's) has been successful in many areas of endeavour.

Shulamith was elected president of the Atlantic Jewish Council at the organization's 17th Biennial Conference on November 20th to 21st. She was vice-president of the AJC from 2008 to 2010. Her sister, Sheva, served as AJC president in the early 2000s.

She commented, "I'd love to see more young people attending. If we have to change the format, if we have to refresh it, it might bring the next generation to us to hear the issues and help us move forward"

Newly Elected AJC Board Members

President

Shulamith Medjuck (Halifax)

1st Vice President

Michael Argand (Halifax)

2nd Vice President

Joanna Wexler (Halifax)

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Goldhar (Halifax)

Legal Council

Jack Haller (Moncton)

Immediate Past-President

Howard Conter (Halifax)



Incoming AJC president Shulamith Medjuck addresses delegates at the Biennial Conference following her election.



Moncton's Francis Weil received an AJC Community Service Award. He is congratulated by conference co-chair Ruth Chippin, Fredericton.

JNF Atlantic Update

by Lea McKnight, Coordinator – JNF Atlantic

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our 10th JNF-sponsored kiddush in conjunction with the AJC Biennial Convention and to have Mark Mendelson, Executive Director for Eastern Canada, join us for the weekend.

It also provided an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, establish new contacts, and to meet many of the "voices on the phone" and "email buddies" I've been communicating with over the past year.

In Israel earlier this year, I toured some of our JNF projects. It was both impressive and inspiring. In addition to planting trees, JNF continues to build new communities, water reservoirs,



Leah Collins, Jessica Pink, Bessie Lecker-Evans and Marc Myer.

biking and walking trails, and develop new varieties of fruit and vegetables.

In Canada, Manitoba is using our Israel research to manage its huge water

reservoirs.

JNF recently participated in the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties, part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Mexico. We play an important role in the fight against global warming and co-hosted an event on arid land forestry.

In Atlantic Canada, we have been busy raising funds and awareness of the incredible work of JNF.

Last spring, we were guests of Halifax Massada Club and visited Grades 4-7 of the Halifax Talmud

Torah where our JNF Ambassador, Eric MacKenzie, wowed the groups with his presentation. We were very impressed with the students' knowledge of Israel and they each planted a seed to take

EMERGENCY APPEAL

JNF RESPONDS TO MT CARMEL FOREST FIRES



ON DECEMBER 2, 2010, THE WORST FOREST FIRE IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY SWEEPED THROUGH THE CARMEL REGION. THE DEVASTATION TO DATE: 42 ISRAELI CITIZENS KILLED • HUNDREDS OF WILD ANIMALS AND THOUSANDS OF BIRDS DESTROYED • 5 MILLION JNF HAND-PLANTED TREES BURNED • ISRAEL'S STOCK OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND FIRE RETARDANT DEPLETED

HELP JNF REHABILITATE THIS GREEN LUNG AROUND HAIFA

PLANT TREES OR GIVE TO THE EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

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home and nurture. We also assisted AJC with its Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in Halifax.

On a very rainy summer day, we presented to 100 campers at Camp Kadimah, where a love of Israel has always been fostered. It was a great opportunity to meet the campers and highlight JNF's work. As part of their program on the Jewish holidays, we provided the Chabad summer day camp with tree seedlings for a planting activity related to Tu B'Shevat.

In November, Eric presented to the Valley Recreation Directors and Coordinators Association in Nova Scotia on "Recreation in Adverse Conditions" which included the JNF indoor playground in Sderot, and to several church congregations in Truro, NS.

Eric Malloy, incoming Deputy National Director for Canada with Bridges for Peace, promoted JNF through his class, Israel: A Journey through Time, held at Rock Church in Sackville, NS. A heartfelt thank you to all of the churches for their generous support and friendship.

During a stimulating evening with guest speaker, Gil Hoffman, Chief Political

Correspondent and Analyst for the Jerusalem Post, his knowledge, humour and insight into Mideast politics fascinated the crowd and generated many questions. Many thanks to our partner Bill Chernin and the Israel Awareness Committee and to my willing JNF helpers Ethel Kostman and Eric MacKenzie for their assistance with this event.

Please support our annual Tu B'Shevat Telethon coming up on Sunday, January 23rd. Our enthusiastic volunteers will be calling to ask you to purchase trees. This year consider buying a tree bank. While a tree is \$18, a tree bank gives you 10 trees for \$150. Whether you are at home or travelling, a simple phone call or email will ensure your dedication cards will be forwarded to the recipients.

Many of you have had the iconic JNF blue box in your homes since you were children and are continuing to instill that tradition of tzedakah in your homes today. Let's make the blue box a fixture in every home. Those coins really add up!



Eric MacKenzie, Gil Hoffman, Lea McKnight, Ethel Kostman

Thanks to all of our JNF supporters and to the people who have helped me distribute information and materials across the Atlantic Region: The AJC, Rabbi Ellis, Rabbi Goldman, Ruth Noel, Rosalie Simeone, and Francis Weil.

If you need a blue box, have a full one to return, or want to purchase trees please contact me at 902 444-4563 or atlantic@jnf.ca. Keep up to date with JNF through our website at www.jnf.ca. Like a tree with strong roots, let's keep our connections growing.

CLUB MASSADA 2011 - 5771

by Barbara Alberstat, President

Once again, Club Massada has had a successful beginning of the year 2010 - 2011. We are very proud to be the longest continuing Jewish club in Halifax, and probably in the Maritime Provinces. There is and have been a handful of extremely dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy to see that this wonderful club exists and prospers. Our heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to all the volunteers of this great organization. If it wasn't for this group of volunteers year after year, our service to our and your Jewish seniors could not continue. BUT, there comes a time when we also get older and feel our ages. Our meetings once a month brings seniors out of their

homes and rooms to communicate with other like souls and to enjoy a healthy hot meal. Sometimes this is the only contact with other Jewish people. Where is YOUR volunteer commitment? We hope that in future years you will be able to say, "I helped the Jewish Seniors of Halifax." We need members, but also volunteers to keep this unique organization active. Please consider giving a

couple of hours each month.

In October, our featured guest speaker brought us information about medical

continued on page 24



Club Massada singers ready to perform

continued from page 23

drugs and encouraged us to take our meds on time and when needed. He also recommended that we should all get the flu vaccine once again each year. We found it very interesting. Our November meeting at Northwood started with hot tomato soup, followed by assorted vegetables, potato salad, fresh green salad, and potato squares (sort of like

latkes), with applesauce and sour cream. Dessert is always good with a generous helping of fresh and canned fruit mixture, lemon cake, tea and coffee. The Beth Israel Gift Shop, convened by Mindy Jacobson, was in attendance to offer Chanukah items galore. Many people took advantage of her being there.

Our January's guest speaker is from the Police Department telling us about safety

in and around the home. A real must for many of us. We hope to have a VON speaker in the near future.

Molly Rechnitzer is our new Membership Chairman and a welcomed Board Member. To become a member, or if you have any questions please call her at 443-4770, or contact Shirley Burnstein at 475-3204.

Newfoundland tour group impressed with Israel

by Michael Paul

The small group representing Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religions was understandably excited as we assembled at the St John's airport October 6, 2010 for the second annual Newfoundland and Labrador Jewish-Christian group tour to Israel.

I began to develop the itinerary as soon as I returned from the first joint trip in November 2009. In February 2010, about 20 people met to discuss joining the group. During the year, the itinerary was formed, with the addition of a trip into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to tour the ancient Roman city of Petra.

In slightly-overcast St. John's October

weather, the spirits of the group members was the exact opposite, as the highly-anticipated trip had input from all participants.

On arrival at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, we met our guide, 58-year-old Israel Garfunkel, a former chicken farmer who also served with distinction as a tank commander in the 1982 Lebanese War. Interestingly enough, on the same flight from Toronto to Tel Aviv, we met a well known entrepreneur from Halifax who had the same idea about a joint tour of Jews and Christians to Israel. We wished each other hatzlacha.

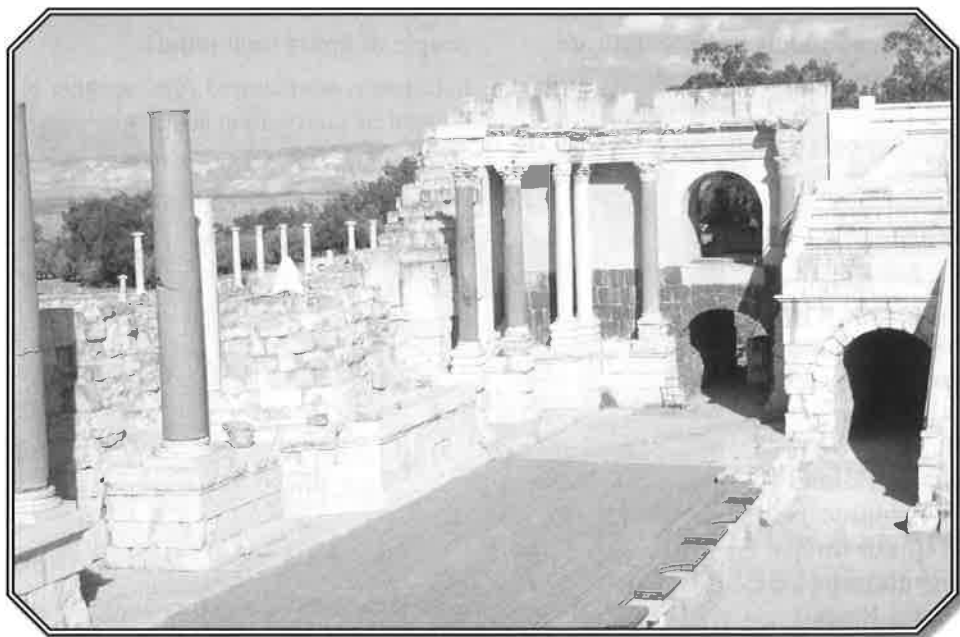
The main aim of the Newfoundland tour was to explain to the non-Jewish

participants the centrality the State of Israel has in the minds and hearts of Jews worldwide, and to show the progress in absorbing and using the talents of Jews from all corners of the world in building a very vibrant and successful nation.

The tour was not meant to be a "white wash", but that a balance could be struck between the astounding accomplishments and the work yet to be done. Another goal was to show the need for Israel to live within secure borders to protect its population.

Over the 10 days of touring, we visited Tel Aviv, Haifa, Akko, Rosh HaNikra, the border regions between Israel and its neighbours- Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Tiberias and its environs, Nazareth, Eilat, with a side trip into Jordan, and Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Each place afforded its own unique story both past and present. Our guide added to the knowledge that some of us already had from previous visits and readings.

There were several highlights including the Baha'i Gardens- upper and lower terraces, the Mount of Beatitudes, Nazareth with its Church of the Annunciation, Eilat on the Red Sea, and of course the eternal city of Jerusalem where the Holocaust Memorial of Yad Vashem, was a very important stop, no matter how many times one visits Israel. The horrors of the Holocaust, as presented by the museum, made a



Beit She'an

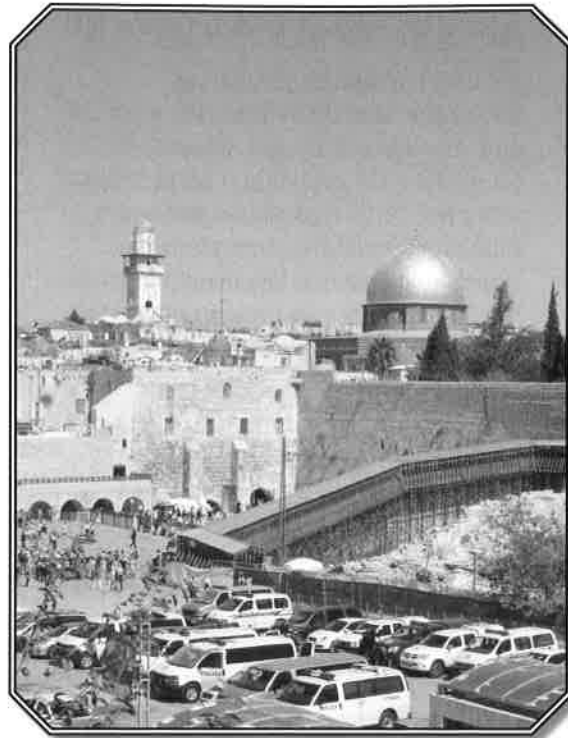
very profound impression on my fellow travelers, some of whom found the visit very emotionally draining.

A trip to the newly-reopened Israeli Museum and the Scroll of the Book Museum enabled us to realize the ancient ties the Jewish people had and have, in ancient and current times, to the land of Israel. The exhibits also demonstrated the vibrant life that Jews have had over the millennia.

The trip to Bethlehem was greatly appreciated by my non-Jewish colleagues. We had to pass through the Separation Barrier and check point, and this started a discussion about the security needs of Israel. I pointed out to them, that whereas there was likely disruption caused to the inhabitants of Bethlehem and Palestinian Authority each time they needed to enter Israel for work, medical care or shopping, there has not been a single successful suicide bombing attack on the citizens of Israel since the completion of this barrier of walls and fences. After a lively discussion, all agreed that any nation has the right and duty to offer protection to all of its citizens as they go about their daily lives, even if this meant inconvenience to certain persons.

One of the highlights was the Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Kotel in the late afternoon of Friday, October 16. There were throngs of Jews present, of virtually every description - from the Ultra- Orthodox in their Shabbat kittles and Shtreimels, to the very secular Jew who did not know how to follow a service at all. There must have been about 50 different services

going on simultaneously, all at different parts of the service. It was organized pandemonium!



Old City, Jerusalem

Suddenly a large group of religious Tzahal members arrived. These young men in the IDF from all types of units, as could be seen by the different shoulder insignias and caps, felt a great unity with one another, as they prepared to welcome the Shabbat bride into their midst. They prayed with such feeling and emunah, that their devotion spread like a river engulfing us all. Many others, including me, decided to join their service.

A young officer led the Sephardic prayer service. At Lecha Dodi, they spontaneously broke out into a dance with two soldiers climbing on the shoulders of their comrades and waving

large Israeli flags. Tears flowed from many of our faces at the sight of such devotion to, and love of, the Jewish nation and religion. By the conclusion of the service we were emotionally uplifted, yet physically tired.

The Shabbat morning service at the Great Synagogue of Jerusalem- the Heichal Shlomo on Melech George Street - was another highlight. The famous chazzan, Dudu Fisher, led the service accompanied by a 25-member male choir, with well over 2,000 people present.

Impressed by the vigor of Israeli life, we saw full indoor and outdoor cafes, very busy shopping malls and outdoor markets, almost full hotels, busloads of tourists literally everywhere. To all appearances, the Israeli economy is back on its feet and is thriving.

We travelled the entire length and breadth of the country- from the Lebanese and Syrian borders, to the port of Eilat on the Red Sea. We were exposed to the positives and less positives of the nation and acknowledged the work that has yet to be done. Each of these projects requires devoted people and money. Each of us was very impressed with the beauty of the land and its promise for the future. We return to Canada as goodwill ambassadors for Israel, to let others know that what they read and hear in Canadian media may not be the full or accurate picture of what is truly happening in everyday Israel.

As a few of us want to return, and soon, I am now planning the 2011 trip to bring Christians and Jews from Newfoundland and Labrador to the land of Israel. Even for the multi-time visitor there is still much to see, learn and appreciate.

The Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

The past four months have gone by quickly. Rosh Hashanah started immediately after Labour Day. And after the typical

summer of out of town visitors and warm weather activities filling the days, it took much organization to get ready for the High Holy Days - but

we did it. During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we welcomed back old friends and greeted new ones. One

continued on page 26

continued from page 25

of our visitors was Moria Gabsi who first came here as an areiva from the Jewish Agency for Israel five years ago when she did an amazing job teaching, working with the Jewish Community and doing outreach to schools and organizations. She has been back twice since her job here finished.

During Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we had two community dinners and one brunch. Nancy Bennett and Ruth Noel and organized the meals. Elizabeth Siegel organized services and several members learned their Torah portions and read from the Torah, gave D'var Torahs, recounted the story of Jonah, led portions of the services and helped out with the community meals.

Sukkot proved to be a challenge as Hurricane Igor made its devastating appearance. The Sukka was built in the backyard of Paul, Lisa, Matthew and Nicky Bendzsa's home. The storm struck but as Paul said "G-d placed his hand on the Sukka, and it held". Their backyard was sheltered from the wind while their neighbours were not so lucky. Many people were without power for days and large trees were down everywhere. On Sukkot eve, we held the service in the Sukka which was inspirational yet humbling since it was only a day after the hurricane had struck. Then on Sunday we held our traditional Sukkot brunch which was organized by Diane Siegel and Ruth Noel.

Simchat Torah was hosted by Kari, Shamus and Eli Brown and Paddy Mackey. We held our service, ate delicious sweets and desserts, drank an appropriate amount of wine and Slivovitz, and danced with the Torah - inside and in the street out front --

before saying goodbye to a month of holy days and festivals.

With the onset of October, we continued with our regular Shabbat Services and Oneg Shabbats, Hebrew School and

planning for upcoming Havura events. Our Hebrew school grew by four children this year which is a great bonus to our community and an eleven-year-old signed up for Bar Mitzvah lessons.

We held our annual elections in November, with many thanks to our outgoing Board. Our new officers are Nancy Bennett, president, Lisa Bendzsa, vice president, Lorne Sulsky, secretary, Elizabeth Siegel, treasurer, Elena Hammel, member at large, and Ruth Noel, immediate past president. Arnold Bennett will continue to serve as our AJC representative.

In mid-November, after many months of planning, the Havura did a very

as well as by the provincial paper, the Telegram. Steve Wolinetz and Karen Lippold hosted a reception for Carson and we had a chance to speak to him on a more informal basis. Chief organizers of the film showing, lectures and media attention were Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Shari Ritter, Katherine Side and Steve Wolinetz. Martin Connelly designed the excellent poster advertising the film showing. The Havura thanks the United Jewish Appeal of Canada and the Claims Conference-Holocaust Education Grant as well as a grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, which made this all possible. Paragraph 175 is an important Holocaust story that needed to be told and must not be forgotten.



Organizing Committee of film and discussion of Paragraph 175 Dr. Katherine Side, Carson Phillips, Shari Ritter, Elizabeth A Malischewski, Dr. Steven Wolinetz

successful showing of the award-winning documentary film Paragraph 175 in which historian Klaus Müller interviews survivors of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. Carson Phillips, a Holocaust Educator at the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre in Toronto and a native of Grand Falls-Windsor, led the discussion after the film. The film was well attended and well received. There were plenty of comments and questions which Carson skilfully handled. For the two and half days Carson was in the province, he spoke a total of thirteen times to schools, groups, and the media. He was interviewed on radio and television

"Hanukah oh Hanukah let's light the menorah". At our Chanukah party we lit many, many menorahs. Twenty pounds of potatoes had been turned into latkes beforehand at the home of Nancy and Arnold Bennett by a team of Havura members. Sixty people attended the party, lit candles, brought delicious vegetarian food, played dreidel and danced and sang to our local klezmer band, the Newish Klezmers. By the way, if you'd like some great entertainment in your province, we'd be happy to connect you with this fabulous group. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski organized the event. Inbal Bahar

organized a very successful gift sale. The party was a great success and to top it off, we welcomed some new members.

Matthew Bendzsa and Shamus Brown were interviewed as part of CBS's year-end review. These two young men made their Bar Mitzvahs in July and the interview focused on what that meant to them. The interview went so well, it won't have to be edited and it may be heard across Canada in late December. We are very proud of these two young men.

Mazel tov to Arnold Bennett who received a Community Service Award at the Atlantic Jewish Council Convention.

Report from The Rock

by Claire Frankel - Salama

Well, I think the smell of fresh latkes has finally left the Shul. It took two fans on high for several hours, but that unmistakable aroma has definite staying power. About eight days worth, it seems.

We had a very successful Chanukah party on Sunday, December 5th. We started with the most important part - the lighting of the candles. This year the first blessing was recited in Hebrew by Ayla Rouah. Dr. Messod Salama and Ernie Mauskopf completed the rest of the ceremony while guests at each table lit their own Chanukiyah. This was followed by songs and a recitation by the four children attending our Hebrew school, accompanied by their teacher. (see pictures) Our new Talmidim are making great progress, learning about the holidays and customs as well as beginning to read and write Hebrew. Indeed it was a true blessing for us all to witness the next generation of young children beginning their Jewish education. Thanks go to their new Moreh for his energy, enthusiasm and knowledge. Yasher Koach, Michael!



Dr. David Mercer blowing the Shofar at the Shacharit service at Cape Spear, Newfoundland, prior to Rosh Hashanah.

Following the candle lighting, we ate a delicious dairy supper. Thanks to Mindy Jacobson of Halifax for sending us everything we needed for the evening - Chanukah confetti, dreidels, Gelt and talking yoyos for our star students. The well-fed guests were then divided into



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

teams for a trivia quiz which was followed by a Dreidel-spinning contest. After an exciting quarter-final and semi-final, Dr. Elliott Leyton and Jack Bishop squared off for their best two out of three. This year's ultimate Dreidel spinner was Jack Bishop, grandson of Dr. David and June Mercer. In his honour we are planting a tree with the JNF in order to begin replacing the thousands of trees burnt in the terrible fire in the Carmel.

This fall's activities began with our annual Shacharit service on Cape Spear just prior to Rosh Hashanah. It was followed by our annual memorial service in the Jewish cemetery on Blackmarsh Road in St. John's. There are a number of graves that never receive visitors, so we feel that it is incumbent upon us to make the effort to honour their lives at least once a year.

The first night of Rosh Hashanah was very busy, as we held a full Kosher dinner, complete with turkey, wine and honey cake. Attending this year were Mr. and Mrs. Felix Kohn of Montreal and several new university students who have become valued friends of our Congregation. Services were led by Dr. Messod Salama,

Ernie Mauskopf, Dr. Michael Paul and Shimon Wilansky. We were all very moved when Mrs. Sylvia Kohn, Michael Paul's mother from Montreal, had her very first aliyah. We were happy to welcome back Moriah Gabsi, one of our former Arevot, who was visiting from

Israel. Thanks to Shimon Wilansky for his excellent Shofar blowing.

Full Yom Kippur services were held, led by the usual volunteers. Thanks again to Shimon Wilansky for his help. The fast was followed by a communal breaking of the fast when we had the opportunity of meeting Gabriel Riff, son of out-of-town members Sandra and

Ivar Riff, who was racing with the Targa here on the Rock. We were also pleased to welcome Dr. Richard Rivkin, who arrived back from Hong Kong, and Dr. Robin Anderson.

A Sukkah was built just before the beginning of the holiday, but was somewhat damaged by Hurricane Igor. Luckily we had plenty of Schach to put on top when the storm was over. We certainly received a good lesson of our own fragility during that period.

On September 29th we received our first student visit of the year from the Graduate students at Queen's College School of

continued on page 28



Students from Queen's College School of Theology visiting the Synagogue

AROUND OUR REGION: NEWFOUNDLAND

continued from page 27



The children of the Hebrew school and their teaching singing a Chanukah medley

Theology at Memorial. As usual, after the tour and presentation, we assembled for tea and honey cake, a new taste for most of them. (see picture)

After Simchat Torah, which was also celebrated by a community supper after the Hakafot, we welcomed our second group of visitors, this time by mature students finishing off their high school diplomas at the Brother T.I. Murphy centre. (see picture)

During the month of October, Dr. Michael Paul guided several non-Jewish Newfoundlanders on a trip to Israel. Yasher Koach - we need all the support we can get!

On the first Sunday of November, we started up our weekly Hebrew school, to the delight of the pupils, their parents and the entire community. Our future scholars are all very bright and we wish them great success and satisfaction in their studies.

We have had several Oneg Shabbats, including the graduate theology students from Queen's College, and another one to honour Dr. Philip and Dorothy Riteman. Philip was here to launch the book of his memoirs entitled, *A Million Souls*, written in conjunction with Mireille Baulu-MacWillie. Many members of Beth El went out to the Reid Theatre at the University on November 9th to hear Philip as he spoke to the MUN Alumni. In fact, the original venue at the music school was deemed too small, and several members of the synagogue were turned away due to the scarcity of tickets. We are all very

proud of Philip and Dorothy and wish them many more years of good health and strength.

That weekend I was also thrilled to welcome my only aunt, Mrs. Mieke Benninga, and my cousin, Conny de Vries Robles Oraby, from Amsterdam. Interestingly enough, my aunt, who was a teenager during the war, was able to get a false passport, unlike my mother and grandmother who were hidden for 3 1/2 years by righteous Christians. It was quite moving to have three Holocaust survivors (Philip, Ernie and my aunt) all present in the synagogue at the same time. These gatherings are becoming fewer as the survivor generation is becoming very old. Conny's son is studying business at McGill for this term as my son Daniel is studying law at the University of Groningen in



French Immersion students from St. Paul's Junior High visiting the Synagogue

northern Holland, where my mother's family lived for over 200 years. In fact, he and my daughter, Arielle, also visited Prague this fall, as my late father was from the Czech Republic. As with many Jewish families, we have been blown about all over the globe, and have ended



Ayla Rouah and Ernie Mauskopf lighting the Chanukiyah at the Chanukah party



The Dreidel-spinning finals between Dr. Elliott Leyton and Jack Bishop

up in places our great-grandparents would never have dreamed of.

Later on in November we welcomed 40 French Immersion students from St. Paul's Junior High School to the synagogue for a presentation in French and samples of last Pesach's matzah. (see picture)

In November, Dr. Messod Salama gave a lecture at Memorial University on the musical legacy of the Sephardic and Crypto-Jews of Portugal. He had previously delivered a related paper at the International British Conference of Judeo-Spanish studies held at the University of London, St. Mary's and Westfield College.

As we head into the long winter season, we tend to think about hibernating rather than about tree-planting, but I urge you all to remember to honour the living and the dead by planting as many JNF trees as possible. While the fire was raging, I was skyping with a young Israeli architecture student, Yossi Abkin, who enjoyed the summer after his army service by hitchhiking around Newfoundland, after spending a week of seemingly endless rain at our house. He lives and studies in Haifa, and he kept our Congregation up to date on the conditions of his family and his friends, many of whom were evacuated. Israel is the only country in the world that could boast of having more trees at the end of the twentieth century than at the beginning. Let us try to reforest the Carmel once again.

Saint John News

by Susan Isaacs-Lubin

On December 5, 2010 we held our first large dinner in the Synagogue making use of our new Fleishik kitchen. Approximately 80 people attended, enjoying a meal of salad, home made rolls, chicken, latkes, tsimmes and a wonderful dessert of Chanukah cake and Chanukah cookies. Before the meal, the Hebrew School children performed to the delight of all. Our thanks to Sandra & Ron Levine for organizing the event.

That same evening, the public lighting of our large Menorah was held. The Menorah

was made about 60 years ago by Harry "Papa" Davis and has been used by the Synagogue since then. Our thanks to Gary Davis for having the Menorah refurbished. There was a very good turnout by members of the Saint John



The Wiezel family plays dreidl in the museum



Dan Elman, Gabbai, Congregation Shaarei Zedek; Gary Davis, President, Saint John Jewish Historical Society and community children lighting the menorah

community for the lighting, and Chanukah cookies were again enjoyed by all.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of the late Ethel Shepherd.

Although Ethel lived in Toronto for many years, her children

- Ralph, Karen and Rhonna and their families - came to Saint John for her interment.

Our Snowbirds have started to fly south for the winter - with many already there and more leaving toward the end of December and into January.

Saint John is so pleased that we have several new members join our Synagogue in recent months. Our numbers have been decreasing over the years, so having new members is very welcoming.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on June 2, 2011!

Traditional Jewish Dinner (not Kosher)

Guest Speaker: Joques Steinberg, New York Times Correspondent

Price: \$100 per person or reserve a table for 8

For more information please contact Marcia Koven: marciak@nbnet.nb.ca

300 Pints of Blood Donations – and Counting

Retired hair stylist and travel agent Morton Allen Cohen has been giving blood for more than 40 years.

To date, the 68-year-old has donated 380 pints. He said, "I guess I've been a 'mitzvah boy', all my life." Morton gives blood as frequently as he can. "If I could, I would give more," he says.

Over the years he has been called on many occasions to donate because of his RHO Positive blood type. "One night, I received a call from the Toronto General Hospital and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto telling me that they needed my blood type," he recalls.

Once he received a call that a little girl, aged 3 months, was dying and needed a transfusion. "I went to the Hospital at 3

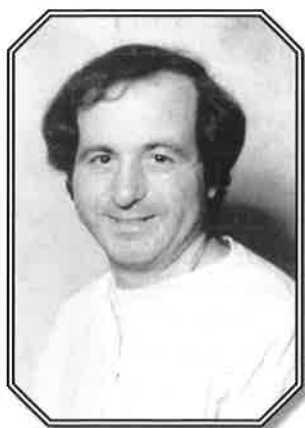
a.m., gave my blood and the baby survived. I thought, 'Why couldn't I do it for other people too?'

"In 2009, I was asked by Jewish Baycrest Hospital in Toronto to come to Sunnybrook Hospital ASAP to save this little 100-year-old Jewish lady who was going to die. I went to the Hospital to give blood to save her life and I spent hours with her. I held her

hand and said, 'Bubbie, you are going to live.'

"She said to me, 'I am going to die' and, as I took her hand, she said to me, 'You will live and I will die.' I spent all night with her, and my good blood. After two days in the ICU, she was transferred to a room. She lived, and her family kissed me and said 'You saved my Bubbie's life.' I broke down and cried."

Morton volunteers on the telephones for Canadian Blood Services. He has received several awards for his commitment to



the Blood Program. Morton was honoured in Ottawa in November by the Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

Morton also volunteers for the United Jewish Appeal Campaign and has been a member of B'nai Brith Leonard Mazel Lodge for 26 years in Toronto, and was involved in Fredericton and New York.

He says it's important to help others by donating both times and says he hopes others in Fredericton, Saint John and Toronto will follow Morton's example and donate much needed blood.

Born in Fredericton and raised in Saint John, New Brunswick, Morton is the son of Lillian Budovitch and the late Israel Cohen. Both sets of grandparents came to New Brunswick in 1914. Morton retired to Toronto with his wife, Edith in 1981, with almost all the people there are his family and relatives.

Morton is very proud of his family. "My late grandfather, Myron Cohen of Saint John did well and my younger brother, Warren Cohen, a former resident of Fredericton and now living in Toronto with his wife Miriam, is a past President, B'nai Brith of the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in Fredericton, just to name a few."

Morton graduated from Wilfred Beauty School in New York where he received an honours degree in hairdressing and in his Travel & Tourism Course, Centennial College in Toronto.

Morton has been doing volunteer work at Baycrest Jewish Hospital. He smiles. "The bobbies and zaides gives me tips, but, I don't like to accept them he says, I give it all to Israel."

Morton was born on Yom Kippur day and his Shul at Beth Radom by his Rabbi Steven Schonblum and Cantor David Rosen held a surprise birthday party after the fast.



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Fredericton Chanukah Party

by Ellen Lupu



Marilyn, Ayten and Ziv

The Sgoelai Israel Sisterhood sponsored its annual Chanukah party on Sunday, December 5. It was well attended by longtime community members and recently arrived families with young children, who made for a lively celebration. We feasted on latkes prepared by Simmy Airst and his team of volunteers and on jelly donuts and other baked treats prepared by Shelley Stephens and her committee, who also decorated and tidied up. Some of the children sang a song and performed a play under the direction of Rabbi Yosef Goldman, and Anna Kaplun danced with the children to festive music.



Making latkes Simmy, Sharon, Ayten and Yana

David Ferdinand prepared music and trivia questions, and the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel generously donated a dinner for two as a door prize (the winner was Jonathan Lazarev—congratulations!).

In the spirit of the holiday, all guests brought a donation for the Fredericton food bank, and leftovers from the party were donated to the local soup kitchen. A special thanks to Eileen Duguay and Marilyn Kaufman, who delivered plates of goodies to community members who were unable to attend the party.

Sisterhood president Shelley Stephens and synagogue president Louis Budovitch wish everyone a Happy Chanukah. Shelley thanks all the volunteers, without whom our simcha would not have been possible.



Shelley, Ziv and Naomi, Rabbi Goldman and David



Playing majong in Fredericton



Yana and Albina

Dr. Israel Unger Receives the First Annual Hampton John Peters Humphrey Foundation Human Rights Award

The Hampton John Peters Humphrey Foundation is a charitable organization committed to providing an ongoing tribute to John Peters Humphrey by educating individuals of all ages about his life and accomplishments; to provide a venue to learn about John Peters Humphrey and his work; and to educate people about human rights.

On Monday, November 15, 2010, the Hampton John Peters Humphrey awarded, Dr. Israel Unger, their first Human Rights Award at their Annual Human Right Forum.

"Our annual Human Rights Forum is an engaging evening that helps create awareness about human rights issues, and this year we are especially pleased to have Dr. Israel Unger join us to share his very personal story from the lens of a child survivor of the holocaust." notes Anne McTiernan-Gamble, Chairperson of the Hampton John Peter's Humphrey Foundation. "It is tribute to the legacy of Hampton born John Peters Humphrey, who authored the original draft of the



Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Dr. Unger was born in Tarnow, Poland in 1938, and came to Canada in 1951. He studied at Sir George Williams University, the University of New Brunswick and the University of Texas. In 1965, he started his career as a professor at the University of New Brunswick, where he also served many years as Dean of Science.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Dr. Unger authored some 50 research articles, and held numerous leadership positions including (but not limited to) President of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Chair of the National Research Council Advisory Board on Scientific and

Technological Information, President of the Canadian Conference of Deans of Science, a member of the Prime Minister's Committee on Teaching Excellence, President of the NB Chapter of Science for Peace, Co-Chair of the Holocaust Commemoration Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and Chair of the Atlantic Jewish Council Community Relations Committee.

Dr. Unger is one of 50 Holocaust survivors honoured by the Government of Canada in 1998 as part of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He continues to share his very personal and difficult story, of survival of the holocaust, with high school students and broader audiences alike. In his retirement, Dr. Unger is Vice Chair of the Board of Genome Atlantic, Educational Advisor for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, Atlantic Representative of Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and board member of the recently formed Holocaust Survivors Association of Canada.

Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen, AJC Community Representative

Moncton celebrated Hanukkah in style with a gala dinner held at the synagogue. The dinner was sold out and was certainly the place to be on December 5! Even the mayor of Moncton was there! The whole affair was catered by volunteers Anne Jochelman and Carole Rinzler who put together a delicious dinner in the beautifully decorated social hall.

On the first night of Hanukkah there

was a large crowd for the public lighting of the menorah at City Hall and a picture of the event appeared the next day in the Times and Transcript. Before the first candle was lit, Moncton Mayor George Leblanc addressed the crowd. A public lighting also took place at the Moncton City Hospital on the second night of Hanukkah.



Candle lighting at City Hall



Quilt Draw Dec. 2 at the chanukah candle lighting at the Moncton hospital by Rabbi Yagod

breakfast after the minyan. Renovations to the mikvah are now completed thanks to the generosity of Rabbi Nachum Rosenberg. Rabbi Rosenberg is a world famous mikvah expert and he donated a large amount of money and time away from his family to rebuild our mikvah. At no cost to the shule Rabbi Rosenberg stayed in Moncton to oversee the renovations. Rabbi Yagod has informed us that "Rabbi Rosenberg is also a recognized and highly

decorated child advocate and fearless crime fighter in the area of abuse and molestation. He succeeded in breaking the conspiracy of silence in many "closed communities". He works very closely with the NY-Police, FBI, Shin-Bet and Interpol to bring criminals to justice and has won many awards from the U.S. authorities and local child welfare agencies." Rabbi Rosenberg's generosity was recognized at the Hanukkah dinner where the community presented him with a plaque.

Mazel tov to Barrie and Evy Carnat on the birth of their new grandson Jacob Morris Carnat, a brother for

Sarah and Benjamin. The proud parents are Uri Carnat and Kelly Wood.

Mazel tov to John and Joan Sichel on the birth of their first grandchild Oliver William Neden-Sichel. Oliver is the son of Mindy Sichel and Kevin Neden.

Mazel tov to David and Margie Attis on the birth of their grandson Zachary. Zachary is the first child for their daughter Samara and her husband Dany.

Mazel tov to Francis Weil on receiving the AJC Community Service Award.

Our heartfelt condolences to Audrey and Irwin Lampert and family on the passing of Audrey's sister Joyce.

Tiferes Israel Sisterhood has just completed a successful fundraiser that raised money for both Sisterhood and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. A raffle was held on a beautiful handmade quilt, made and donated by Doreen Dempsey, a good friend of many Sisterhood members. The winner of the quilt was Bruce Bailey of Riverview who bought his ticket from Linda Coleman.

Rabbi Yagod has recently started a new program of monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions at the shule. The rabbi promises a wonderful 45 minute break from workday pressures with a discussion of interesting topics along with a delicious lunch. Food is also on the agenda for those attending the Sunday morning minyan. Once a month Anne Jochelman volunteers her time and her home to serve a hearty



Winner - (holding quilt) Bruce Bailey from Riverview, Part of our profits donated to the Child Diabetes Research Foundation - cheque accepted by Sara Hahn-Robinson (in photo) The presenter on behalf of the sisterhood - Evy Carnat

The Power of a Penny

by Francis Weil

Karen Horsman is the teacher from Riverview Middle School, NB, who got her grade 8 students very involved with the Holocaust.

She started late last year (2009-2010) by reading the book, *The Silver Sword*, which is set in Warsaw during the Second World War. The project evolved into something called "The Power of a Penny". She wanted the students to realize what the murder of 6 millions innocent Jews meant, so she convinced them to start



Francis Weil, center with teacher Karen Horsman to his left, and Riverview Middle School students.

collecting the same number of pennies. The project is so huge that it will take three years to achieve it.

The students have read extensively on the Holocaust. They asked Karen to bring a speaker. Through AJC and Edna LeVine, Karen got in touch with me and invited me to visit Riverview Middle School on October 14th.

The auditorium was filled. There were more than 300 attentive students. You could hear a fly during the power point

continued on page 34

continued from page 33

presentation. Later, they told me that hearing what happened to my family during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 is what impressed them the most. The keen interest they showed, the numerous questions they asked, the tears in some eyes, tell me that Karen has succeeded in her project. The students are totally involved.

One question is asked every time I speak in a school: "Why? Why that hatred for the Jewish people?". There is no answer, but it is good that it is asked.

After the talk the students took me to their classroom, they were proud to show what they have learned and how many pennies they had already gathered. They know it will take time to reach their goal.

If you want to help, send your pennies to

Tiferes Israel Synagogue. You can find our address on www.tiferesisrael.com. We will pass them to Karen.

You can read all about her project on <http://powerofapenny.com/>

On December 15, the students had over 152 thousand pennies. Find out what they will do with the 60 thousand dollars that will be raised in 2012.

PEI News

by Anna Serapins, AJC Community Representative

Editor's note: Anna Serapins, a nurse from Montreal, arrived in PEI in March 2010; she is keen to be involved in the Jewish community and looks forward to becoming active in young leadership.

The PEI Jewish community on the island is pleased to welcome new families. Our annual picnic was hosted by Ayelet & Larry Stewart. The afternoon was enjoyed by all who attended.

This year many members of the community were in attendance for the the High Holiday services; which were held at the home of Rachael Kassner and Joel Palter. During this important time of the year we welcomed several visitors to join our community.



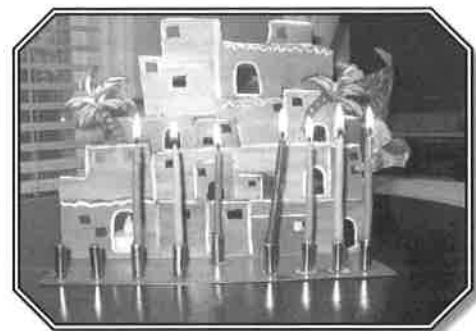
PEI delegates at the 17 AJC Biennial Convention, (l to r) Joseph and Jane Naylor, Marcela Rosenberg and Rosalie Simeone

Our community was blessed with two Bar Mitzvahs this year. Mazel Tov to Ariel Bloom and Kass Palter.

Winter has now embraced the island, and gave us a dusting of snow for Chanukah. Chanukah was celebrated at a community potluck party at the home of Leo and Beverly Mednick. Everyone contributed to

this potluck. The children had a wonderful time playing dreidel and decorating cookies.

Yom HaShoah will be observed on Monday, 2 May 2011. Further announcements will be made when plans are finalized.



Menorah made by the community children.

Report from Cape Breton

by Adam Conter, AJC Community Representative

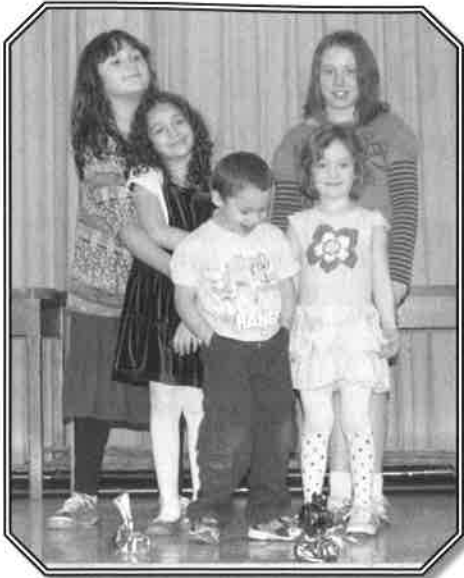
The report from Cape Breton for the end of 2010 begins down a path of reflection and recognition of lives lost in the past 3 months. Our community has experienced several great losses. In late September, we said goodbye Irving Schwartz, a loss that was felt around the island and across the Maritimes. His dedication to the community at large will go unmatched for generations cemented in the fact that

close to a thousand people gathered to bid farewell to a well known and respected mensch.

All too quickly, our community gathered again to mourn with the passing of Ike David, a character who will never be forgotten. Ike could be counted on to be in synagogue each week, punctual and dressed for the occasion. After 94 years Ike will be remembered for his love of the community, downtown Sydney and his

ever evolving interest in tinkering with tech toys.

Cape Breton lost another business legend just a short time later with the death of Toby Ein. Toby, who ran clothing (shmatas) in downtown Glace Bay for well over 40 years, passed away in early December. Her son David maintains the store allowing it to continue as a pillar of downtown Glace Bay. The community surrounded David and his brothers and



Children performing a Chanukah song to keep the party going!

family each night for Shiva services a true testament to his mother's memory and as recognition for David's ongoing dedication to the community.

We end 2010 with yet another loss as this week we said goodbye to our dear friend Jack Columbus. A celebrity in his own right, a synagogue mover and shaker, and a man whose shoes I must try to fill as I take the reigns of the Cape Breton Report. I will miss you Jack, and I thank-you for your time, your energy, leadership, and enthusiasm, you were a tremendous ambassador for our community to the community at large.

In their memory we must shed light on the terrific activities that have filled our community with life and our synagogue with people in these last two months. The Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays have come and gone marking the first time where the "Temple Sons of Israel" in Sydney was the lone service. When you close a door, you must open a window, so as we reflect on the closing of the Glace Bay shul we must embrace the change and look forward to our future of a combined service and unified community for years to come. After Yom Kippur our community welcomed Sukkot, the holiday of the harvest. This Sukkot, thanks to the efforts of Mark Silverberberg and Darren Strong, we constructed a brand new Sukkah. Services were held inside the shule with kiddush served under the thatched roof. (See the pictures to see what a little effort and some PVC pipe can do!)

Hanukkah arrived early this year much to the delight of the children here in the community. The Hanukkah party drew a crowd of over 40 guests who were entertained by four local children performing festive songs on the Synagogue stage with professional musical accompaniment. Leon Dubinsky tickled the ivories to the tune of "I had a little dreidel" and the audience applauded with delight. I would like to extend my deepest

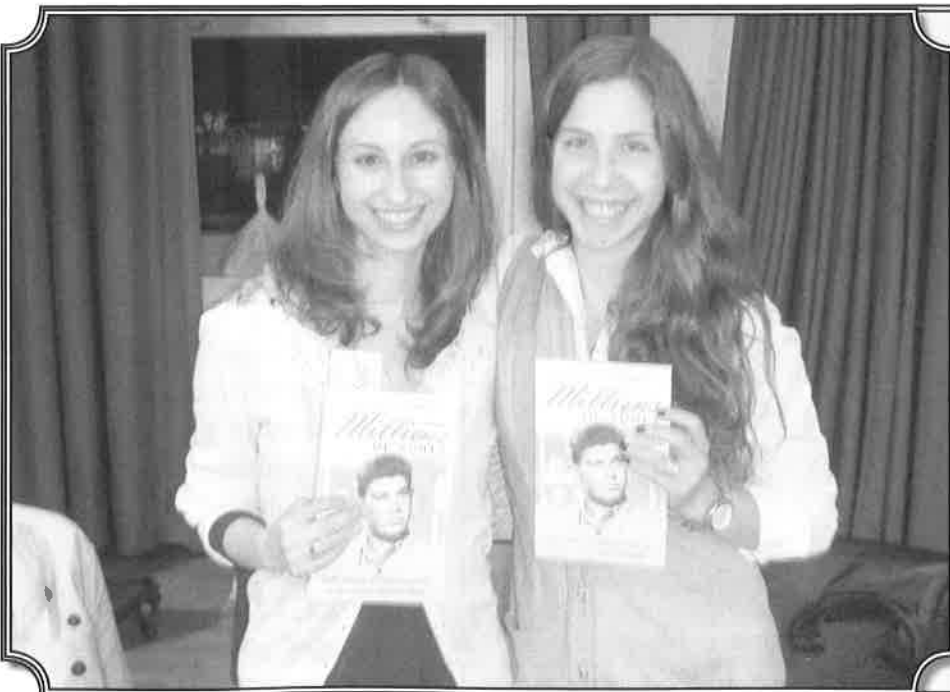


Community member enjoying a great day!

gratitude to Shayna, Linda and Tamara for all of their efforts and to all those who contributed food, ideas and gifts. We truly have a terrific community here and we look forward to more times together in 2011.

In 2011, Cape Bretonners will come together and weather the winter storms and keep our community strong. We look forward to the many more Oneg Shabbats, continued support to our Minyans for services, and more good times filled with laughter and joy. We will not forget those we have lost in 2010 and work to keep the community, friends and family they have left behind strong and supported, as only good Cape Breton spirit can do.

Thank-you for the opportunity to join you here in Shalom and I look forward to speaking to you soon.



The AJC has a limited quantity of Philip Riteman's book, *Millions of Souls*, signed by Philip Riteman and Mireille Baulu-MacWillie, for sale for \$16.95. Proceeds from this sale go to the AJC Fund for Holocaust Education.

Please contact Edna LeVine
 elevine@theajc.ns.ca
 or (902) 422-7491 x226.

It's Not Over Till It's Over

Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Regional Chaplain

You must have a number of Yogi Berra proverbs, which are, after all, Jewish ones--Jews and Italians are ethnic cousins, to persist being Jewish in Cape Breton these days. For many years, Jews have been leaving Cape Breton and those remaining passing on. But within three months, I have been back and forth for five funerals for persons who have made significant contributions to Jewish life and the general community there. Let me share my memories.

IRVING SCHWARTZ--Could anything be said about Irving Schwartz which has not been said already? His life was that of a small town Jewish boy growing up to have a major influence on local, Canadian and international events. His contributions are summed up by the schtick from his commercials--"I Guarantee It!" When someone was in need, Irving asked, "How much do they need and when do they need it?"

MOSIE CLAENER--Irving's Uncle Mosie outlived him by one week. Mosie had a long career and a dentist in Sydney. He had fascinating stories about his service in Europe during WWII.

IKE DAVID--The slogan "I Like Ike" could have referred to the former deli owner on Charlotte St. as well as to the former president. I will always recall the remarkable hospitality of the David home, which often saw half the community as guests on Rosh HaShanah.

TOBY EIN--Toby was the all-around Jewish woman of Glace Bay--mom, wife, Hadassah worker, and storeowner. She was also the first nurse to serve at Camp Kadimah.



Rabbi David Ellis with Israeli Defense Minister and former Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Barbara Stegeman at a conference on security in Halifax.

JACK COLUMBUS--Did anyone ever live up to his surname more than Jack? He was ship captain for many new adventures in Cape Breton--synagogue services, Jewish learning, Holocaust awareness, a film festival, the web page. He brought many aboard boat on his sailings and had many more cruises planned.

As I walked down the streets of Cape Breton, all shared our sorrow. Everyone had bought something from Irving or Toby over the years. Mosie was the dentist for many. All had recalled a smoked meat sandwich and pickle from Ike's deli. And the whole island had heard Jack for many years on the radio.

You would expect that there would be despair at the loss of such fine persons. But this is not what I saw. As I left yesterday, someone was sending out the emails, people were showing up for the minyan, those who had not been to shul regularly were now coming.

So the game is still over in Cape Breton. When it's over, they will go down swinging and not be called out on strikes.

NEW COMMUNITIES

What do Esther Bauer, Jerri Costa and Leslee Sack have in common?

They are all Jewish women, originally

from the States, who have moved to the Maritimes and are extensively involved in Jewish outreach.

Leslee Sack moved to PEI several years ago. She found that she could exchange a Brooklyn apartment for a very decent house on the Island. She has moved quickly into a leadership role and is respected by all. Look to see her to be involved in many projects in the next years. Esther and her husband Sam moved

to Wedgeport near Yarmouth about two years ago. Esther has

a profession of translating old German documents. Since she has come to Canada, she has rounded up many unaffiliated Jews in her region. Jerri Costa lives in Annapolis Royal. She has been organizing Hanukkah parties and other events with Jews from Digby to Wolfville. Recently, she met Esther, and their communities are now joining together for certain events.

So while the older established communities may be dwindling, it is possible that new ones may be emerging. It is possible that someone in Truro, Antigonish, the South Shore or elsewhere may find Jewish souls which others have missed. If you need help with ideas, call me and I will get you in contact with these innovative women.

Rabbi David Ellis is available for introducing persons looking for Jewish mates in the region. All inquiries and discussions are strictly confidential.

Rabbi David Ellis

902-422-7491, ext. 228

rabbiellis@theajc.ns.ca

Why are we Jewish?

By Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

Every day, we meet people who tell us stories, some personal and some less personal.

Recently, I was introduced to a couple who came to Fredericton from Senegal in West Africa. They told me that their family and friends could not believe that they moved to Canada by choice, going from such warm tropical weather to minus thirty degrees (sometimes).

We just finished celebrating the Holiday of Hanukkah, and as a Rabbi in a small community, I was asked by a couple of University students the funniest question. The question was: What is the difference between Hanukkah and Christmas? At first I thought of answering that it is the same as the difference between an apple and an orange, but I don't really know how these two fruits differ from each other.

So, it got me thinking about a larger

question, which I believe we haven't really addressed, and we may be afraid to ask: Why are we Jewish? Do we celebrate Hanukkah because our parents did, and their parents before them? Do we know? Are we Jews by choice, or do we just live our lives and not bother asking ourselves this "scary" question? Maybe we celebrate Hanukkah because we "have eight crazy nights" (from Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song), or because it is a really "cool" holiday...

I think it's time to face and answer these questions. In the Haggadah we read a saying by our Rabbis, which I think will



help us answer these questions. The saying is: "In each and every generation, a person must think as if they, personally, were in the land of Egypt and came out of it." The full meaning of this is that we each must feel that we could have ended up just being another person on this planet, but we each made/make the choice of being Jewish. We leave the METZARIM (boundaries) of slavery and of celebrating other religious holidays, to have our own special and unique experiences and holidays.

If Hanukkah was just a 'festival of lights', then why not express it by having lights in our windows for two and a half months (that's what we have here in Fredericton) in the darkness of the season?! The name Hanukkah means dedication (or re-dedication) check it up in the New Testament (don't really, but trust me it's there, in John) and does not mean a festival of lights. We are dedicated to our

choice of being Jewish, and we must teach our children what it means to be Jewish by educating them. The Mussar movement named Hanukkah, the Holy days of Education (derived from the Hebrew word Chinnuch). I think the best way to do this is by making our homes more Jewish and by teaching through personal example the beauty of Jewish Community life, like visiting the ill, going to funerals, giving food and charity to those who are less fortunate than us.

This is why I am proud to be Jewish. A healthy and good winter to all.



Rabbi Goldman speaking on immigration at the AJC Biennial Convention with Mila Voihanski, JIAS Canada.

Grow & Let Go of What's Familiar

by Rabbi Ari Sherbill, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

I was once walking in Halifax when a person noticed my Kippah. They asked me, "are you Jewish" and I said, "I try to be".

Recently I've come across a very fascinating author and professor at Stanford University, Carol Dweck. Her book, "Mindset: the new psychology of success" has become very popular in the past few years, as it debunks many myths of our culture and society while inspiring us with new studies.

Dweck's broad argument is based on the following question. If you could put the entire world into two categories of people, what would it be? Strong and weak, successful and unsuccessful, religious and not-religious, happy and unhappy? Dweck's studies have shown that the two categories are learners and non-learners.

Non-learners are people who have a "fixed mindset". Whereby intelligence is an entity, and talent is something we're born with. This mindset says that a person is not smart based on study and learning but rather based on what level of intelligence they're born with.

Learners are people who have a "growth mindset". They believe that intelligence can expand through effort and practice. They believe that talents are not a given, they are earned.

Their strengths are worked at and with effort those strengths can become stronger. Life is about growth, evolving, becoming - it is a process, not a product.

Dweck sets out three principles of how different the two mindsets are. The first principle is that in a fixed mindset, the main thing is showing how talented, intelligent and great you are. Because my intelligence is fixed, I have to show that I am intelligent at all costs. In a growth mindset however the main thing is learning and growing - not showing how much I know or getting by with "good grades".



The second principle is about effort. In a fixed mindset, it is not about working because it should come naturally. People in this mindset

feel that when they study new things they feel stupid because it is something they should know inherently, not something to learn. If you do well at school and at work without effort - all the better! In a growth mindset however, my goal is growing and growing happens through effort and work. Work is enjoyed because it is part of the process of growth. Work and effort lead to getting better and improving what I'm working towards.

The third principle is in regards to obstacles, difficulty and mistakes that happen along the way. In a fixed mindset, mistakes are to be hidden because they show one's imperfections and lack of talent. When facing mistakes and failures, people in this mindset see the next step as avoiding such failures at all costs, hiding them and even cheating and lying to do so. In a growth mindset, deficiencies are to be confronted and mistakes are to be identified clearly. Addressing mistakes

and failures is an opportunity to become better, to refine, to improve.

Dweck's conclusions are that people's mindsets shape their achievements, irrespective of resources or talent. It is not about what you have or have been given, but what you can create, develop, achieve and become.

Powerful stuff. Think about your own life with these findings: when you come across mistakes or failures, how do you deal about them? Do you hide them or embrace them? Do you feel a desire and excitement of what you work on or are you frustrated by how much effort it takes? Do you enjoy your relationships and work or are you tired of the constant energy you put into it? Do you feel like you grow in your work and relationships or are they the same as always? Simply said: are you happy with your output in the world or frustrated by it?

It would be safe to say that we all want to be happy, enjoy our work and relationships and wake up every morning with excitement. For some reason though, there seems to be a disconnect between what we want and what we experience.

If this is true of many of our lives, then all the more so in our communities. Why do so many Jewish communities feel frustration with their Synagogues? Why is there so much infighting, conflict & gossip when we really want enjoyment, excitement and an uplifting experience? Why is there a disconnect between what we want and what we experience?

My deep belief is that the disconnect between what we want and what we experience is the disconnect between Jews and Judaism. This is because too many Jews are in a fixed mindset while Judaism itself is a purely growth mindset.

If what we're looking for in all spheres of our lives is happiness, let's take a look at the word in the Torah for happiness. A person who is lives in happiness and is joyous is called, "B'Simcha". Rabbi



Raaya Sherbill, family fun creating a Chanukah menorah at an AJC art workshop program.

Yitzchak Luria (1534-1572, Sefad Israel), known as the "Arizal" explains that the word "B'Simcha" is the same word as "Machshava" (Beit-Samech-Mem-Chet-Heh) which means thought, when the letters are rearranged. The deep meaning of this is that a person who is in a growth mindset of constant thought, process and learning is a happy person.

Life is about constant growth, constant processing, and consistently new mindsets. Carol Dweck has been studying and teaching this for decades and Judaism has been teaching it for thousands of years - to those who study it, to those who learn it.

To be Jewish is not a given, but needs to be earned and learned. As we've learned, a fixed mindset is a frustrated one and a growth mindset is a happy one. To be happy and to enjoy is to grow, to change,

to evolve. To make mistakes and learn from them, to fall down and get up - again and again and again.

The Jewish communities of today need to evolve from fixed mindsets to growth mindsets. From focusing on what was to what can be, from yesterday to today. Too many Jewish people are frustrated and embittered from their Jewish experience and we need to change that. Not to dwell on mistakes or failures - but to grow and learn from them.

What Jewish communities need to do is to create meaningful centers staffed by a team of inspired leaders and builders. The old model is based on one Rabbi and perhaps an assistant Rabbi - the new one is based on a team of enthused, educated and excited professionals to respond and relate to everyone's needs. The old model is focused on services - the new one is

focused on the whole picture of Judaism with programs for anyone and everyone, including services. The old one looks like a sanctuary, the new one should look like a warm, modern, fun, inviting and exciting center. Not a place of necessity or convenience but a place of positive energy, real content and that inspires you.

In a fixed mindset, the answer to, "are you Jewish" is a mere yes. In a growth mindset, the answer is that I'm working on it, I'm trying to be. If you're excited by this vision, if you're inspired by the new model of growth and possibility, let me know how we can make this happen. My email is ariysheerbill@gmail.com and I'd be thrilled to be in touch to work on this process together. Our opportunity is to create communities of enthusiasm, inspiration and real Judaism. Why wait? I'm gearing to grow and let go - let me know if you are too.

Hashgachah Protis - Individual Divine Providence

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

*"Know the G-d of your fathers."
(Chronicles I 28:9) The Kabbalah explains that the ultimate knowledge of G-d, is to realize that everything that happens to us in life, and in the world around us, is from G-d.*

Belief is complex; it is not the conclusion of a logical exercise and it does not come without effort on our part, we must constantly train ourselves to believe and realize that all happens from G-d.

Throughout the generations, our Sages have guided us in our belief; they have repeatedly enabled us to hold on to our faith. Rabbi Shimon says that each and every blade of grass is individually and directly inspired and enabled from Above, to grow.

Rabbi Yisroel Baal Shem Tov (the founder of the Chassidic movement) set our faith in absolute Individual Divine Providence as one of the cornerstones of his work. He would constantly remind his disciples

that each and every occurrence is an individually planned detail in the grand order of creation, and that nothing happens by chance without Divine synchronization.

The Baal Shem Tov would say, one is to draw a lesson in his service of G-d from everything he or she hears or sees, even a leaf blowing alongside the street is directed by G-d and has a purpose.

The Baal Shem Tov's disciples found this concept difficult to comprehend and approached their teacher for clarity. It was a hot summer day, he asked them to join him on a walk. As they were walking, a leaf fell from a tree alongside them, they asked Rabbi Yisroel what possible lesson could be learned from a prematurely fallen leaf? He said to them pick it up and perhaps you will see. After a long chase



they lifted the leaf and noticed that it had been resting over a worm and had been serving as a shelter for the worm that had obviously strayed from its hideaway and was in danger of becoming overheated by the hot sun.

Rabbi Yisroel suggested that the entire purpose of the leaf's creation was achieved that very afternoon by the leaf falling from the tree and coming to rest upon the stranded worm. Yes, Divine Providence is individual, even for a lone earthworm that had lost its way.

If the swaying of a blade of grass is brought about by Divine Providence and is crucial to the fulfillment of the purpose of creation, how much more so with regard to each and every one of us that each and every detail of our lives is personally observed and directed by His Loving Hand. May he visibly protect us and deliver us always.

Letters to the Editor

Irving Schwartz - I Knew Him

I knew Irving, but then maybe I didn't; you see I knew him my way. By that I mean, I'm not qualified academically but I feel, by instinct, I have the ability to read the character of a person and what ingredients that person possessed on the inside that allowed him to function as he did.

First and foremost, Irving Schwartz was a man of vision. He was humble, adventurous and challenged every hand life dealt him. He had great natural talents that didn't and can't come from or be acquired from textbooks. This is something that can't be taught or imparted to others. As a matter of fact, it's not as if he felt above or superior to the average

intelligence of others; he didn't even think in terms of that awareness.

I can only attempt to describe him by telling and writing straight lines about him, stories that come to my mind, so vividly, whether they come from time periods as far back as 50-40-30-20 or recent as 10 years ago. He held honorary degrees and many awards which are well known and not necessary to detail. His achievements reach beyond the academic field. I read a quote recently that said "His education lies far above his intelligence." With Irving, it was the opposite, his natural intelligence stood far above his formal education.

He did his business his way; a story tells it best. As chairman of our downtown merchant's association in Glace Bay, I invited him to speak to us on the subject of doing business. Procedure, ethics, sense, commitment, selling and buying, the hows and the wherefores, the whole package, and believe me when I say we all learned a whole semester in one lecture.

His style of business had its own personality, its own character. His advice on running a business, "Make sure you have the ability to cover all departments yourself."

Nobody dared attempt to stop him from doing what he intended. He was a member of the New Waterford fire department because he wanted to. He earned his pilot's license for the excitement of it. He loved the act of challenge in any area that dared him, or any person that invited him.

He took control of his own destiny and made it most of the way, his way. He took risks and backed his own decisions. He always kept the sheets balanced. He had a shtick, all his own.

He was rich; I'm not talking about financial wealth but by way of "the smarts". Evidently he mixed the right ingredients in the test tube of life to find his lot and loved every minute of it. He lived his way, he left his way, with his boots still on. Yes, I can say I knew Irving Schwartz, his way and my way.

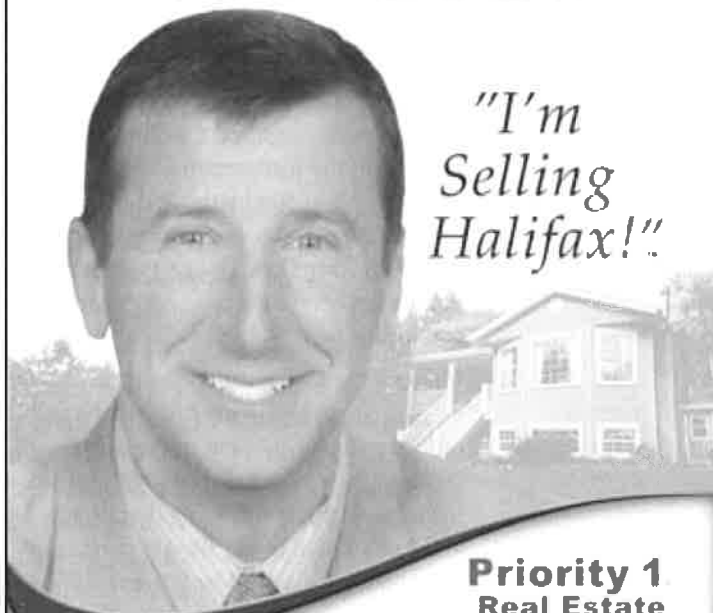
I can hear him saying...there's but "one life to live", make it work your way but the right way.

Elliot Marshall
Nov. 6th 2010

Long time Glace Bay resident, now living in Ottawa.

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