

SHALOM! שלום

Winter 2012 Vol. 37 No.3

Tevet 5773



TOM FORRESTALL
Mount of Olives from Jerusalem

· HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 18TH AJC BIENNIAL CONVENTION
· NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





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Cover artist Tom Forrestall

On October 28th, 2010 Tom Forrestall, accompanied by his son Frank, joined with 24 participants on an eight day AJC - UIA Ruach and Chevre Mission to Israel. When the mission was completed, Tom, assisted by Frank, spent the next 27 days in the Holy Land wandering through Israel, during which he painted 35 watercolours, expressing his feelings and personal observations of many parts of the country.

Tom Forrestall is one of Canada's most exciting realist painters. Forrestall was born in Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia in 1936. In 1965, he held his first solo show at Roberts Gallery in Toronto and has since continued to show in galleries and museums across Canada. He completed a large outdoor piece for Expo '67. He was elected a member of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1973.

This original watercolour is available for purchase from the AJC.
Please contact Jon Goldberg, executive director.

שלום!

President: Michael Argand

The Atlantic Jewish Council

WINTER 2012

TEVET 5773

VOL 37 NO. 3

Mailed under Canada Post

Publications Mail Sales Agreement

No. 40052452

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This publication is printed by

Halcraft
Printers Inc.®

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

Email: sales@halprint.com

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.

President's Message

by Michael Argand

It is my honour to write to you and to introduce myself as the new President of the Atlantic Jewish Council. For those of you who attended the Biennial Convention, it was gratifying to see the younger generation step up and get more involved. I will talk more about the conference later in this article.

I want to tell you a little about who I am. I was born in Halifax, of new immigrants to Canada, survivors of the Holocaust. I have lived in Halifax most of my life, with brief stints in Scotland, Toronto and Calgary. My parents were founding members of the Shaar Shalom, where I am still a member, having had a brief stint at the Beth as well. At one point, I was a member of both synagogues simultaneously. My experience being a member of both the Shaar and the Beth congregations and of the Board of Governors of both congregations, has provided me with a special understanding of our community and I appreciate the importance that the AJC must play in continuing to develop and strengthen that community. My history with Camp Kadimah goes back to my days as a camper and as staff and years later, as a Camp Committee member. I have been a member of the AJC Board for many years as well, and I recognize the need to bring new faces and a variety of faces, to our table, to be inclusive of the many interests our community represents. I have three goals, to improve community ties, to continue our Holocaust educational programming and to strengthen our ties and support to Israel.

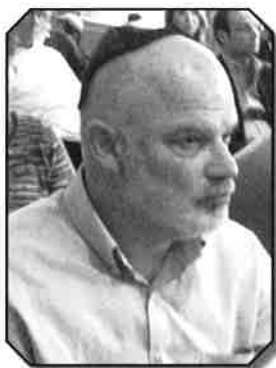
In the upcoming two years, I hope to stimulate the development of closer community ties. A primary mandate of the AJC, in my view, is to enhance the bonds we have as a Jewish community, both in our Atlantic Canada home, and with our homeland of Israel. Joanna Wexler, who did a fabulous job as the conference organizer, has introduced a program that I whole heartedly endorse. It is a Shabbat dinner program, Around My Table, where families are asked to invite another family they do not know for a Shabbat Dinner in their home. I think this is a wonderful example of how we can strengthen our bonds and get to know each other. Community programs, such as the Hanukkah Program recently held in Halifax which was

a spectacular success with over 300 people in attendance are essential to strengthening our community ties. I want to thank Derek Ross, Lysa Appleton, Jen Wolfson, Maya Moscovich and their committee for putting on a wonderful program. But I will be frank, in order to continue to have these programs, we need your involvement. Maya is already talking about a joint Purim party so please contact the AJC Office to volunteer.

Our Biennial Conference, organized by Joanna Wexler—thank you Joanna, was well attended. At the Biennial Conference we asked the participants to give us suggestions as to what programs and directions the AJC should follow in different categories, such as Jewish Art and Culture, Young Families, Across Atlantic Canada, and building an Atlantic Jewish Community. The AJC staff is already working on those suggestions that received the most recommendations (see page 9 for the top ideas). A volunteer group helped organize the Christmas lunch at Spencer House, a senior's activity centre in Halifax. We hope that this will be an ongoing partnership throughout the year, and is based upon our community response to do more work with the non-Jewish community. Thank you to Edna LeVine for organizing this worthwhile program.

Another popular suggestion was a Halifax community musical. In the past, community musicals have been very successful in bringing divergent ages and interests together. The initial meeting for people interested in participating in a musical will be held on January 9, 2013. If you are interested in participating, please watch for further notices. I would like to see the musical tour to communities outside of Halifax so that our community members can share the experience.

There was also a suggestion to have a



travelling art exhibit but, we need to determine if there is interest for this project from our Jewish artists in order to gain support for this initiative. Please feel free to contact Edna LeVine, if you want to be involved in this potential project.

These and other programs will be supported by the AJC, but can only be accomplished with the aid of many individual volunteers from teens to seniors. If you want your children and grandchildren to have those special Jewish memories, then you must create those memories for them. The AJC will be there to support you, but we need your leadership, your energy, and your involvement, to do this.

Holocaust Remembrance is another major role of the AJC. As the child of survivors, this too, is very important to me. For many years, Philip Riteman has assumed a major responsibility in educating Atlantic Canadian youth in particular, about the Holocaust. His efforts are very much appreciated, but we will need to develop other means to continue the work that he is doing so that we and the community at large throughout Atlantic Canada, can truly understand and never forget our history.

As I referred earlier, our bond to Israel, the keepers of the land of our heritage, must be strong and the AJC must work to support Israel however we can, financially and spiritually. We were privileged to have had Consul General Lion at the Biennial Conference and look forward to his return visits. He indicated that he wished to visit communities throughout Atlantic Canada. His message was clear, that we remain proud of Israel! Recently many of the new immigrant families to Halifax took a leadership role in planning and implementing our Israel Independence Day celebration. It brought the community together in support of Israel and demonstrated our pride in Israel.

I am looking forward to working with Jon and the AJC staff, the AJC Board of Directors and the Management Committee. I welcome our new members to the Board and Management Committee and thank the returning members for their continued support. And, I look forward to meeting and working with our community volunteers!

From the Desk of

Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Looking Back on 2012

On the precipice of 2013, I thought I might take this opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and my hopes for the next twelve months.

It's a foggy, dreary Halifax day. The Boxing Day shoppers patrol Spring Garden Road as I look out my window here at 5670.

One of the big happenings of 2012 was our move from the fifth floor to the third floor. It was not quite as easy as I imagined as we downsized by a third and our staff and I had to basically eliminate one-third of our library and many of our leaseholds that we have grown so comfortable with. Nine months have gone by and we are finally getting used to our new premises. The rent expense that we saved has helped balance our budget and also allowed more of our funds from our UJA Campaign to go to Israel.

Among the highlights of 2012 were Yom Haztmaut, Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Education Week, the Biennial Convention, and of course the Chagim that we celebrated in our communities. This year also saw the creation of CIJA – the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, which has replaced CJC and CIC as the Israel advocacy organization for Canadian Jewry. We have had a number of speakers and a number of activities coordinated by CIJA National and by Mark David and the local partnership committee, which extends throughout the region. I look for more activities this coming year from CIJA. The national priorities and structures that are created sometimes don't suit our Jewish organization here in Atlantic Canada. Certain changes that occur on the national level have caused even additional strain on our operations and budgeting; this is one of the major challenges that we face in the coming year.

As the year winds down, we are trying to finish off the UJA Campaign. I want to thank all of you who have given us your

support for our UJA Atlantic Campaign 2012. In particular I want to single out Howard Conter, our Regional Chair; Karen Conter, our Halifax Women's Chair; Mr. Perry Romberg, Director of Financial Resource

Development and Regional Community Services, UIAFC; and the many canvassers that volunteered to give us their time throughout the region.

Without these people and the many generous donors, the AJC would not be able to serve the Jewish community locally, nationally, and in Israel. I want to say that UJA strives to reach every Jewish home in Atlantic Canada, whether in person or by phone, we want to give everyone an opportunity to participate. We ask only that you give within your means, but please give. Over the years, many of our greatest critics do not participate in the campaign. I often wonder if they expect an organized Jewish community to appear like manna from heaven.

The Biennial Convention was very successful, due in large part to our Chairperson Joanna Wexler, our AJC staff, the out of town guests, and the many volunteers that stepped up to assist. There is much more in this issue about the Biennial and I invite our readers to enjoy the articles.

As the days of 2012 slide off the calendar, I want to thank our staff for their efforts and concern on behalf of the Atlantic Jewish community. To Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement- as editor of Shalom magazine, your work with Holocaust Education and our immigration program is much appreciated by myself and with whom you come in contact. To



Svetlana Ratchinski, Controller for the AJC, Kadimah, and the AJF, thank you for your loyalty and fine work. To Maya Moscovich, UJA Administrator and AJC Programmer, thanks for everything and I look forward to lots of new programs for 2013. Thank you to Mark David of CIJA, with whom I commiserate on a daily basis; to Rabbi Ellis and to Sarah Snider, Campus Director.

About a month ago at the Biennial, we elected new AJC officers. I want to thank our outgoing President Shulamith Medjuck for her diligence and efforts over the last two years to come to grip with the national structure and all its nuisances and in addition serve as President. Welcome to our new President elect Michael Argand, whom I have known for many years and will do a great job.

In closing, my hope for 2013 is to mold the AJC as much as possible into a vehicle that can best provide to the wants and needs of the Atlantic Jewish community. We can only do this with your support, both in time as volunteers and to the UJA campaign.

May the year 2013 bring good health, prosperity, and peace to our readers, their families, and Kol Israel.

AJC OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE 18TH AJC BIENNIAL CONVENTION

PRESIDENT

MICHAEL ARGAND

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

HOWARD CONTER

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

HOWARD BUDOVITCH

SECRETARY

MARILYN KAUFMAN

TREASURER

NANA SHTEINBERG

From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

Knowledge mobilization is a process that ensures research is transferred to active use. The AJC has developed a reputation as a connector, a broker of knowledge for Holocaust education resources to schools and community groups.

This fall at the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Symposium a common thread through many of the workshops was the presentation of educational strategies and evidence based research to educate and empower people to end discrimination. Nicole Miller, FAST (Fighting Anti-Semitism Together) National Program Manager, displayed "Choose Your Voice", an educational resource developed for classroom teachers to facilitate students to speak out against all forms of discrimination. This program is one of several educational resources the AJC distributes to schools in our region. In December I presented Holocaust educational resources to the principals in the Tri-County Regional School Board in Yarmouth. In addition to the FAST program, the Azrieli Foundation Holocaust survivor books, the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program and the exhibit The Courage to Remember from the Simon Wiesenthal Center were presented.

In the fall Holocaust Education Week in Halifax included programs with partners



*Holocaust Education Week at Pier 21.
Edna LeVine with Philippa Gunn,
Public Programs Coordinator*

from Dalhousie University, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (Pier 21) and ICEJ (International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem).

Upcoming winter and spring programs include International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January) and Yom HaShoah programs (April) in seven Atlantic communities. Holocaust survivors in our region continued to educate the public and Philip Riteman's speaking schedule continues to be wait-listed. Holocaust survivor Israel Unger's memoirs will be released in March and more information on his book, "The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger", is in the Around Our Region: Fredericton News section. Please see the inside back cover for important information from Yad Vashem regarding the recognition of Holocaust survivors.

It was our good fortune to have Schuyler Smith working at the AJC to assist in organizing the AJC Biennial Conference. Schuyler's communication skills coupled with his public relations background facilitated the outreach to a younger demographic and resulted in their participation. Included in the special feature section on the Biennial Conference is an article by Schuyler highlighting the outcomes of the "idea boards", a successful project he conceived to engage community feedback.

As the AJC representative on the Nova Scotia Partners for Human Rights committee, this year we organized the December 10th, International Human Rights Day, event at Millwood High School in Sackville to celebrate and acknowledge local activists from across the province. I was heartened to meet at this event Citadel High School student Ilya Mosiychuk, who participated in the performance "The World We Live In". Ilya



and his family were one of the newcomer families who arrived in Halifax this summer.

Immigration continues to grow our Atlantic Jewish communities and Halifax has experienced a notable growth in the level of participation and commitment of newcomers to broaden community programs. Newcomers Miry Tavger Mikhaelov and David Daniels hosted a roundtable to discuss pertinent issues and concerns for newcomers settling in our region during the biennial conference and information regarding the outcomes of this discussion is included in the Biennial Conference section: Discussions and Debate.

In February, a month long exhibit and sale of Tom Forrestall: 35 Days in Israel, original watercolour paintings will be at the Nova Scotia Archives, 6061 University Avenue in Halifax and open to the public during their regular hours of operation. These paintings are also on our website in a gallery, Tom Forrestall: 35 Days in Israel: theajc.ns.ca/gallery-tom-forrestall-35-days-in-israel/ and updated information on special "meet the artist" sessions will also be included on our website or please call the AJC office 422-7491 x221.

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*Nicole Miller & Edna LeVine
at the CRRF Symposium in Halifax*

Discussions and Debate Highlight AJC Conference

by Joel Jacobson

Challenges facing newcomers, young Jews in Atlantic Canada, fundraisers and donors, and Jews concerned with international economic and media treatment of Israel were discussed at the 18th Biennial Conference of Atlantic Jewish Council in late November.

In discussion groups and keynote speeches, participants heard positive and negative responses to issues that will face the executive of AJC as it moves forward under new volunteer leadership.

Michael Argand took the presidency after serving two years as 1st vice-president under Shulamith Medjuck. Former president Howard Conter assumed the 1st vice president role and Howard Budovitch will sit as 2nd vice president. Nana Shtienberg stepped in as treasurer with Marilyn Kaufman, Fredericton, the only executive member from outside Halifax, taking over as secretary.

Sessions were held Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with enthusiastic participation from various demographics and sectors.

With 70 immigrant families settled in Halifax and another dozen or so in Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John, discussion centered on integration into the general Jewish community.

With realization that the newcomers have experienced a different culture in Russia and Israel than what is offered in Atlantic Canada, such as less reliance on synagogue membership and attendance, the discussion centered on children being connected to the local

communities through Hebrew schools. A concern of parents was the youngest in the community losing their ability to learn and speak Hebrew as English is becoming their first language. Teaching oral Hebrew in the schools might be a positive step.

Finding jobs to match the abilities of the newcomers has been a constant challenge and was raised as an issue for keeping newcomers in Atlantic communities.

Youth in the region, those under 40, are faced with finding Jewish programming and connections suitable to their ages and interests. A discussion group of 15 young people stressed that a coordinator of activities, either funded or volunteer, would be beneficial to keep this group active. A stronger representation of younger people through a committee of the AJC was also recommended. Several in the group suggested holding events, geared to younger people, on Jewish culture, making the home a stronger part of the Jewish community such as sharing Shabbat dinners with other young families, and doing activities outside a synagogue setting.



Joel Lion, Israel's consul general to Quebec and Atlantic Provinces, speaks at the AJC conference.

Talk of making campaigns and fundraising relevant and meaningful to the Jewish community centered on ensuring people knew how the dollars they give are spent, regionally, nationally and in Israel. Many Atlantic Canadians don't realize part of the funds they donate support the AJC in its work in the region, a necessity if the AJC is to survive as the important entity it must be to support small communities.

The international image of Israel was discussed at a couple of sessions and in a keynote address by Joel Lion, consul general for Israel to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces.

With more than 40 people listening and participating, Jordan Kerbel called the effort of boycott, divestment and sanctions on Israel and its economy has been a failure. During the time of BDS (as the effort has

continued on page 6



Mark Rosen and Victor Goldberg, Halifax, Joel Lion, Israel's Consul General for Quebec and Atlantic Provinces, and Marc Gold, chair, Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA, were among a group discussing how to make campaigns and fundraising relevant to the Atlantic Jewish community.



Younger members of the communities discussed how to be engaged in AJC and local activities in a round table facilitated by Schuyler Smith and Seth Bloom.



Newcomers and community members discussed issues regarding immigration at the AJC conference round table facilitated by Miry Tavger and David Daniels.

continued from page 5

been acronymized), the Israeli economy is thriving and tourism has peaked each year in the last three," said the Toronto-based Deputy Director, Communications and Advocacy Training, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"BDS is an attempt to destroy Israel and it's important we don't give it respect," he said. "The written aims of those who support BDS talk only of breaking Israel down. There is no mention of peace in any of its aims."

"It is our job, all of us, to get our message out that Israel is a major economic contributor the world. I'll work with you," he stressed, "to help with talk shows, op-ed pieces etc. so the world knows who we are and what Israel stands for."

He said those who attack with boycotts and sanctions go to the "low-hanging fruit", the shoe stores and wineries in Canada, for example that sell Israeli products and have their demonstrations there. But you never see them boycotting cell phones, medical stents, computers, because they know these are items of necessity, items THEY use every day that Israel develops and produces for world-wide consumption.

Lion noted that while professors on Quebec campuses call for boycotts and sanctions, officials at these same schools have signed agreements with their counterparts in Israel for mutual discussion and trading of academic and research information.

"At the end of the day, students make noise and put motions to the Quebec General Assembly to cut ties with Israel. On the public relations side, we must get the positive message out as to what Israel's contribution to society is. Unfortunately, on this emotional subject, we see one bad thing being raised, not the 10 good ones – and there is a lot of good out there."

In a later address, Lion stressed Israel has gone from nothing to everything in 65 years. "We must celebrate that. We must say 'Look where we are. Look what we have given the world.'"

Joanna Wexler, who brought a youthful enthusiasm to her role as chair of the conference, expressed pleasure at its positive impact.

"I saw hope in our discussions," she told the audience as she wrapped up the event. "We have a chance to do something larger than we had before (the conference). We should dream it and dream it big. We should move forward, starting now."

Other discussions and presentations were made on March of the Living, JNF, spirituality during a rabbi's session, the role of CIJA, and Camp Kadimah.

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Gorber, Newman and Zilbert Honoured with AJC Awards

by Joel Jacobson

Three Atlantic Canadians received Community Service awards at the 18th AJC Biennial Convention in Halifax in November.

Kathy Zilbert and Lloyd Newman, Halifax, and Harry Gorber, Moncton, were recognized for their long service to their local, national and Israeli communities.

"Energy personified" was how AJC president Shulamith Medjuck described Zilbert as she presented the award. "She has given of herself to so many organizations, from being president of Beth Israel Synagogue Sisterhood, the president of AJC, national chair of Partnership 2000, and chair of the UIA Women's Campaign in the area. She has the ability to be compassionate, yet has the drive to see a job is well done."

In an interview, Zilbert said her work with Partnership 2000 was one of the highlights. "It started in the Atlantic region for me, and ended up nationally. It has always been so grass roots. You knew with whom you're working in Israel as we developed a cadre of volunteers there. You knew the projects you were doing, why you were working on them, and with whom and for whom you were doing this. It was

a way for a small community like Atlantic Canada to become part of the bigger picture."

Gorber, who was unable to attend because of a death in his family, has been a constant at Tiferes Israel Synagogue in Moncton. He's at shul every day, either for minyan, checking on the building, arranging for the shul's upkeep, or even responding to a police call if the alarm has been tripped. He usually opens the doors for Shabbat services, is a smiling face to greet newcomers at shul, has been a member of the board, Gabbai, head of Chevra Kadisha and maintainer of cemetery grounds. He's also active in the wider community, working with the less fortunate to make their life easier.

Newman is a past president of Shaar Shalom Synagogue and past chair of UIA in the Atlantic region as well as president of Symphony Nova Scotia in its formative years, and president of Neptune Theatre.

He said his role as national secretary for UIA which took him to Israel to certify projects gave him an opportunity to see Israel in a different way than a tourist."It was

tough to make hard decisions on budgets because you wanted to do it all but we only collected so much money and had to limit what could be done."

He was also heavily involved in canvasser training across Canada, using motivational methods to teach people how to garner money. "Many campaigns in some very small communities were very successful," he recalled.

Newman said he is the only person to be president of both Symphony NS and Neptune Theatre. He remembered taking over as president of Symphony NS when its earlier incarnation, Atlantic Symphony, had just gone bankrupt.

"I was asked by the province to chair two public meetings about getting symphony back in the public consciousness. At the first meeting, there were only two of us with any arts experience. I became president and the other fellow looked after getting funds from governments and other philanthropies."

He laughed when he reflected on the significance of the award. "Does it mean you're closer to dying (to be honoured for long-time service)? At 78, I think I'm at the top of my game."



Kathy Zilbert, right, received an AJC Community Service Award from Shulamith Medjuck.



Lloyd Newman received an AJC Community Service award from AJC president Shulamith Medjuck.

Past and Current Presidents Speak Out

by Joel Jacobson

As Shulamith Medjuck leaves the presidency of the Atlantic Jewish Council, she says the organization has a better reputation I the wider community than it ever has.

In an interview following the annual general meeting, at which her two-year-term ended, Shulamith said that when, at Kristallnacht ceremonies, a Canadian Brigadier General praised the AJC for what it is doing, "that convinced me that the general community can see the good we are accomplishing." See page 10 for the BG complete speech.

She noted communities outside Halifax "seem comfortable we bring events to their communities, but we don't have the staff or the funds to do all that we must do. I can't think of any region in Canada that faces a bigger challenge as we try to work with four widespread provinces. It's not cheap to get anywhere in Atlantic Canada and, even though we provide programs and, at times, people, it never seems to be enough."

She looked forward to incoming-president Michael Argand's leadership.

"We need younger people in our organization. Through CIJA, we have to figure out how we can build better advocacy in a more coordinated fashion. We have to make our immigrant families, who come from a very different culture,

feel included and get them to attend programs."

Addressing the 18th biennial AJC conference after the closing luncheon and speakers, Michael admitted new faces are needed in AJC positions "I hope to stimulate development, to enhance the bonds in and between Atlantic Jewish communities and to Israel, and to promote joint programs (between the Halifax synagogues and the AJC) which is a positive step in strengthening the Halifax community."

He told the audience it all begins with each individual. "We need involvement from all of you. We need your leadership and energy to create programs. We need the enthusiasm of our young people and our newcomers who sometimes feel

disenfranchised."

Michael concluded, "I promise you that in two years, you will feel part of this community. To the young people, I say there must be give and take. You must volunteer, and by so doing, we can recapture the 25 to 45 age group to a sense of Jewish involvement."



Shulamith Medjuck receives an award of recognition on her two years as AJC president from Linda Kislowicz, CEO, Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA, and JFC-UIA chair Marc Gold.



Gypsophelia, a Halifax-based band playing jazz and indie music, entertained at the Salute to Jewish Communities in Atlantic Canada reception at the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax during the AJC Biennial Convention.



Newly elected AJC President, Michael Argand, left, chats with AJC Cape Breton representative Barrie Carnat.

Moving Forward Together

by Schuyler H Smith

November 23rd marked the 18th biennial convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council. It was my job to support the AJC in planning and executing the event, and it was a pleasure to work with Edna, Jon and Joanna. My experience in the Atlantic Jewish community has been unique. I'm not from a family that is as strongly engaged anymore, and most of my friends are more culturally observant than religiously Jewish. I was coming at this opportunity from an angle not strongly represented on the AJC. It was exciting to be involved, and I was pleased to be able to lead some interesting talks on how to move towards the future of our community.

Many of you got a chance to see me talk about the idea boards posted on the wall of the Shaar Shalom gym. I set them up in a similar fashion to Facebook; there were walls that anyone could stick ideas on with Post-Its, and if you had the same idea (or liked an idea already up) you could give it a "like" by placing a star sticker on the post-it. These idea boards were an anonymous way to share your ideas, gather input and find areas of improvement. I'm happy to say that as you read this, some of those

ideas have already been implemented.

Edna and I organized a Christmas lunch for seniors at Spencer house, hosted by the AJC, as they did not have enough volunteers to offer their usual programming for the holiday. At the time of writing this, there has been significant support for this program. We are doing work outside the Jewish Community as Jews, and with the overwhelming response to this Christmas lunch I think it is safe to say we will keep doing more.

Two of the most popular suggestions on the idea boards were art related, calling for an art show for local Jewish artists, and to renew the musicals we used to do. I think an art show is a great idea. It isn't cost prohibitive, it can travel, and we have a Jewish Museum in Saint John, and many walls around Atlantic Canada to display the art. This could even become a permanent fixture of our community. Our artists help define our community, and we have a wealth of talented artistic people.

In addition to visual artists our community also has a taste for the theatrics. Bringing back the annual musical was a popular idea on the wall. We used to do musicals as a community. When I was younger I had fond memories of singing, acting and dancing in these musicals with Shirley Burnstein teaching the music, and directing by Nancy Marshall. We have many talented theatre and music professionals in the community who can step up to fill these shoes, and a wealth of families to act and sing.



Joanna Wexler, centre, Biennial chair, with Edna LeVine and Schuyler Smith.

We were very lucky to have a great maritime rising star sing and play at our Biennial this year. We should all give a big thank you to emerging singer/songwriter Adam Washburn of Saint John who was our local Jewish talent for the Biennial. You can find Adam at: [facebook.com/AdamWashburnsmusic](https://www.facebook.com/AdamWashburnsmusic). He was a great compliment to the klezmer/Jazz band Gypsophilia, who has always had a place performing at our events.

I feel that the Biennial gives us a place to start moving forward from. We're at a point in our community where we're going to have to do more work to keep the level of service we have enjoyed in the past. We have clear goals to aim for. I'm hoping that the next two years will be a time of growth, action and togetherness. As a people, we didn't wander the desert for forty years alone, we did it together.



Adam Washburn

The top ideas on the board were:

- Let's Do a Musical again! ★★★★★
- More events outside Halifax ★★★★★
- Art Exhibits by Jewish Artists (then have them talk) ★★★★
- Do community service outside the Jewish community, as Jews ★★★

Dignity Day: In Remembrance of Kristallnacht

by Brigadier-General Christopher C. Thurrott, O.M.M., M.S.M., C.D.
Commander, Land Force Atlantic Area

Editor's note: Brigadier General Thurrott was the keynote speaker at our Dignity Day Service in Halifax on November 8th 2012 and delivered the following speech at the Cenotaph in Grand Parade Square.

For those of us in uniform, the month of November is most closely associated with the end of the First World War, commemorated on November 11th. It was a war so vast in its scope, arbitrary in its slaughter and truly pointless in its causes, that those few who survived its grinding barbarity, which claimed the lives of six million civilians and 10 million military personnel, to say nothing of another 20 million wounded, were convinced that it could never happen again. They were wrong.

A little over 26 years later, the Second World War ended. With a low estimate of 40 million deaths and high estimate of 72 million deaths, civilian casualties actually made up sixty percent of the total killed – the inverse of the First World War.

As those of us gathered here today know all too well, over six million of those civilian casualties were European Jews who were killed deliberately and methodically by the Nazis in a program that, combining anti-Semitism and cruelty with bureaucratic control of human life, we refer to as the Holocaust.

The Holocaust is in some ways more readily recalled than other tragic events. It took place at the dawn of a new technological age and grim photos of Himmler's Einsatzgruppen at work in the Ukraine and of skeletal inmates in the death camps are plentiful as are videos such as the one showing British Army bulldozers moving ten thousand corpses

into a mass grave at Bergen-Belsen.

The Holocaust, and indeed the war, occurred in real places, and left Names like Auschwitz, Sobibor, Ravensbruck, Mathausen, and Treblinka indelibly etched in history. The state of Israel came into



existence because of it – a nation state that is a living monument to human will.

But how does one build a monument to mark the indifference of a civilized nation? How do we point to the failure of good people to act in defence of their fellow man? We are able to mark the end of horror, but is the beginning of these events any less important?

Good evening Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen, friends and families, and other distinguished and respected guests.

My name is Brigadier General Christopher Thurrott, and I am the Commander of Land Force Atlantic Area, and the Army in Atlantic Canada.

This is a week that marks bleak anniversaries for the democracies of the West in general, and the Jewish people in particular.

On November 4th, 1921 Hitler's brown-shirted henchmen, the Sturmabteilung, assaulted members of the opposition after Hitler had spoken.

On November 5th, 1937 at a meeting of his top advisors, Hitler outlined the need for Lebensraum, or 'living space' and what would happen to the indigenous peoples who lived there.

On November 8th, 1923 Adolf Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch took place in Munich. It was crushed, and he was half-heartedly sent to prison where he codified his plans for war and for the Jewish people in his tome of hate, Mein Kampf.

On November 8th, 1937 the breathtakingly racist and extraordinarily ignorant exhibition, "The Eternal Jew" first went on display – in Munich once more.

On November 9th, 1937 however, an event of signal import took place – an event that marked the line of demarcation between smouldering anti-Semitic intent and the advent of a genocidal reality. Two days previously a young Polish Jew named Herschel Grynszpan had walked into the German embassy carrying a pistol. Angry over the treatment of Jews in general, and about the Nazi decision to expel all Polish Jews from Germany in particular, he shot German diplomat Ernst von Rath three times.

Rath died on the 9th sparking a massive pogrom in Germany that destroyed 200 synagogues, 7,000 Jewish businesses and many Jewish cemeteries. Several Jews

were beaten to death and at least 30,000 were taken to concentration camps.

Even more chilling was that specific guidance for the conduct of the riot was issued by the security apparatus of the Nazi state, which indicated that Jewish property could be destroyed, but not looted and also outlined the means for protecting non-Jewish property and foreigners.

The next morning, the streets of Germany were covered with the shattered glass of myriad storefronts and the name Kristallnacht, or 'Night of the Broken Glass', entered the already-crowded lexicon of Nazi infamy. Kristallnacht was when the war against European Jewry truly began in earnest and 74 years later, it still serves as a profound example of what happens when the good do nothing.

Throughout this period of build-up to World War II, with behaviour ostensibly rooted in the horror of the First World War, leaders and citizens alike worked very hard to avoid another conflict ignoring repeated events, such as Kristallnacht, that heralded darker things to come. As Churchill said after Chamberlain signed the Munich Peace Agreement barely a month earlier, there was a choice between dishonour and war. Dishonour was chosen, and the war happened anyway. When war broke out on September 1st, 1939, the poet W.H. Auden fittingly eulogized the 1930's as "that low, dishonest decade."

Many people, on both sides of the conflict claimed that it was not until the end of the Second World War that the Nazis' Jewish agenda was discovered, but the sad truth was that all the evidence was at hand. Kristallnacht was widely reported on by foreign correspondents living in Germany.

Today, we draw on the lessons of the past to help guide our actions. Although the nation state is sacrosanct in its sovereignty, that sovereignty cannot outweigh the greater need of humanity. Indeed, intervention tragically must be undertaken where there is a need for a greater moral good; when the cruel mechanisms of hate have supplanted the rule of law, and where the innocent have no protection from either the mob or their own state. Crimes against humanity know no borders and the Holocaust was truly pan-national in scope with the Jewish population of 18 different countries affected. Two thirds of those countries lost over 50% of their Jewish populations. Germany, Poland and the former Czechoslovakia lost over 90%.

Even now, there can often be a reluctance to intervene militarily. Canada is not a country whose history has been marked by great suffering or privation within its own borders, and this can make us reluctant to dispatch our military. Peace has been very good to us. We reflexively look for a peaceful solution, and that is something we should be proud of as Canadians.

at Westerbork in mid-April 1945. It was a minor camp when compared with the vast horror of Auschwitz, but terrible none the less. Your soldiers have seen these horrors more recently in the former Yugoslavia, in Rwanda, and of course Afghanistan. Hopefully we have made a difference

Moreover, the Canadian Forces have had Jewish Canadians in its ranks through every war in our country's history. From the Seven Years War to the War of 1812, Jewish veterans were fighting in Canada before it was a nation. Following Confederation, Jewish Canadians fought on the African veldt and the Western Front. When Canada declared war in 1939, fully ten percent of Canada's Jewish population volunteered for service. Lieutenant Barney Danson of Toronto, who landed at Normandy on D-Day with the 3rd Infantry Division, eventually became our Minister of Defence in 1976. Today, in your Army, Jewish Canadians number strongly and proudly.

Canada had roughly 160,000 Jews before the Second World War, but between 1946 and 1960, about 46,000 Jewish immigrants were admitted into Canada. Many of them landed not far from here at Pier 21 – the gateway to our nation for so many years. The Atlantic Jewish Council is an example of how, together, we can continue to build and improve our communities and country as a whole. For over 35 years the Council has preserved, and I hope will continue to preserve, the values and religion of the Jewish people in Atlantic Canada.

We in uniform sincerely appreciate the efforts of organizations such as the Atlantic Jewish Council who work to build relationships with their communities and with the Canadian Forces so that we may enjoy a positive future, and use our collective experiences to help avoid the tragedies of the past.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to have been invited to share this evening with you today.

To honour and commemorate our ancestors, servicemen and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in preserving our futures. Let us not forget them.

Your military is beholden to the civilian authority. When we are asked to represent you abroad we tread forcefully, but carefully still. As it was in the Second World War, your soldiers are often the only Canadians to see the suffering of others first hand. In April of 1945 troops of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division liberated the main concentration camp established in the Netherlands

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Report from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

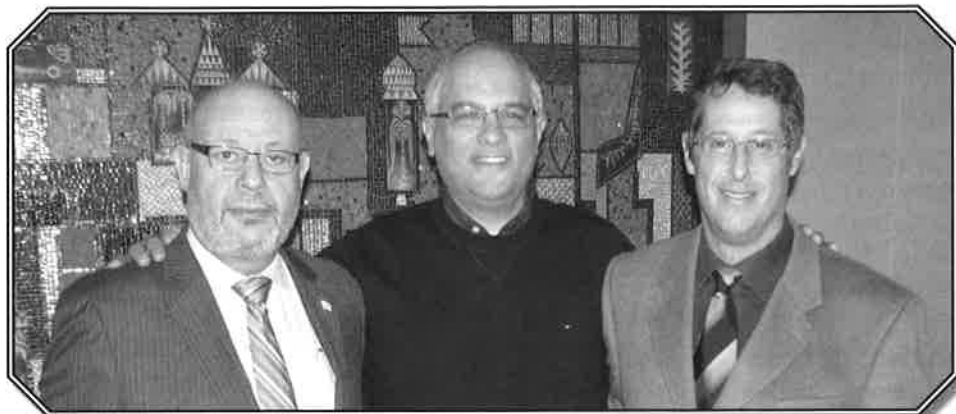
by Mark David - Consultant, Advocacy (AJC)

Rather than rhyme off a list of events and issues from 2012, I would prefer to use this opportunity to write about the Centre and how it operates, especially in the context of Atlantic Canada.

Working in partnership with the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Centre is the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA. The Centre seeks to identify issues important to the Jewish community, (whether of national or local significance), and assists in communicating with government, media, community, business, and academic leaders to build understanding and close relationships. It is managed by a Board of Directors representing communities from across Canada, including a student representative. The Chair of the Centre is David Koschitzky, and the CEO is Shimon Fogel.

For working purposes, the Centre is divided into a variety of teams which interact constantly through management and administration oversight - such as the Communications, Community Relations, Campus, Government Relations, Research, Local Partner Services and Security teams. The flow of information and the determination of strategy and tactics is definitely a two-way street in which the local angle is always considered. As the local Centre representative, I am able to contact any member of any team at any time (except on Shabbat/holiday, where designated alternatives are available) to alert them of an issue, or to obtain assistance.

So what does all this mean? It means that there is an extremely professional, knowledgeable and dedicated team of people that is active on the Canadian Israel and Jewish advocacy file at all times. It is important to remember that done properly, advocacy is a process - often a slow and delicate one. A lot of valuable advocacy work is done in quiet, face to



Mark David, centre, with from left to right, Consul General of the State of Israel Joel Lion, and Jordan Kerbel, Deputy Director, Communication and Advocacy Training, CIJA.

face meetings that by their very nature, are private and confidential. Therefore, you might not see an opinion piece, a press release or a media interview on a particular issue.

For example, in coordination with the Centre and the AJC, in 2012, I had a variety of private interactions with people in media, in government, and in interfaith communities to raise awareness of our community's perspective on various issues. These interactions have brought tangible and positive results, though the process and the results often cannot be disclosed to the community at large. I have also submitted numerous letters and opinion pieces - some of which have been published.

In summary, the Centre never loses focus of the big goal - to firmly and professionally advocate in the most effective manner possible with Canadian influencers and decision makers for better understanding and treatment of Israel and Jewish issues. Please go to <http://cija.ca/> to learn more about the Centre.

In closing, I want to extend a sincere thank you to Jon Goldberg, the Executive Director of the AJC. Despite having about a million non-advocacy matters come across his desk every week (I have worked at the AJC, and that million figure may actually be low), Jon is always actively and passionately involved in advocacy matters on behalf of all the Jewish communities in Atlantic Canada.



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Muslim Jewish Sympathizer Overcomes Catcalling Audience in Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

Kasim Hafeez was prepared for the reaction he received at a Halifax university last week.

At the start of a two-week, cross Canada speaking tour, the 28-year-old admissions advisor at a university in Britain spoke to about 150 people at an open event at Saint Mary's University, hosted by The Atlantic Jewish Council and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

A British Muslim of Pakistani origin, Hafeez grew up surrounded by anti-semitic and anti-Israel views but his thinking has taken a total u-turn and he now has respect and admiration for what Israel represents and considers himself a Zionist.

Late in the Halifax session, and through a tumultuous question period, some audience members catcalled and disrupted Hafeez's talk. In an interview earlier that day, Hafeez told CJN "I see anger and hatred (when I speak publicly) because I'm talking pro-Israel. These radicals see

it as not good for them or their community. Sadly, I expect this, and all I can do is have my argument ready to be backed up and hope they see common sense."

Mark David, Atlantic Canada representative, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, was particularly upset at the reaction of the few radicals.

"I was extremely disappointed that Kasim's moving message of peace and tolerance was marred by an unruly anti-Israel segment of the audience.

A public lecture held on a Canadian university campus should facilitate the free and open expression of ideas, rather than censorship by mob rule."

However, as he told his story, Hafeez did get his message through to the majority. His father, from whom he is now estranged, often praised Hitler's extermination of the Jews and influenced young Hafeez to drift towards radical Islamist groups. He was further radicalized at university, harboring an intense hatred for Israel and Jews. He attended many anti-Israel rallies calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

The starting point of his re-thinking occurred when he read Alan Dershowitz's book, *The Case for Israel*.

"It was my first exposure to anything remotely supportive of Israel. I bought the book thinking Israel had no case. But there were certain facts I'd never encountered such as that there was a Jewish presence in the Holy Land forever. I had never heard that. The book debunked many myths I had believed to be truths."

He studied more material, did more unbiased research, and, by 2007, wanted to see Israel for himself. He arrived at Ben Gurion Airport, and "being in the wrong demographic, a Muslim male from Europe, I was detained for eight hours. I realized



Kasim Hafeez, left, with Mark David, Nadia Bobek, Shulamith Medjuck and Peggy Walt.

the security person was doing his job and I appreciated that. He was keeping everyone safe."

He also saw an Israel he did not expect, he says. "I saw a modern state. I went to the Western Wall, unsure what to do, whether to pray or what, and I put my forehead on the Wall. I had a Eureka moment. Here I was, in the capital of the Jewish state, with synagogues, mosques and churches, people of all religions, and I realized there were six million who will never get to this point. But it was a free state, with Arabs free to move about, with no hatred, even none toward me as I identified myself as a Muslim."

Since then, he knew he had to speak out. He became active in organizations that support Israel, even though people then, and now, wonder if he has ulterior motives, which he stresses he doesn't.

"I want to tell people they will gain nothing from hatred. Hatred for Israel won't bring peace closer. You need to find a middle ground, create dialogue that's better than boycotts and hostility."

Hafeez currently runs www.theisraelcampaign.org, where he maintains a blog. He is a fellow at The Lawfare Project, on the advisory board of StandWithUs UK, and Co-Director of the British Israel Coalition Public Affairs Committee.



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Campus News

by Sarah Snider, Director of Campus Services

Hillel of Atlantic Canada has had a really excellent semester, with activities ranging from Shabbat dinners to Brews and Jews, from Moosehead games to organic gardens. Hillel started the semester on a high note, representing itself at Orientation Week activities and holding a kickoff barbeque/kegger at the Bayit. Our brand new Hillel Halifax t-shirts featuring the word "Dalhousie" in Hebrew were debuted and sold at the barbeque, and are still available for purchase. The King's Jewish Connection ran a wonderful Rosh Hashana dinner and break-fast, and those students looking for a High Holiday meal placement were connected to community members through Hillel and the AJC. Hillel concluded the fall holiday season with Hookah in the Sukkah, held in the Sukkah that students erected in the back of the Bayit.

Monthly and new weekly events at Hillel this semester have been a big hit! Every month, the students gather together to help cook for and celebrate Shabbat together, drawing around 40 people to our welcoming meals. On Tuesday afternoons, students can drop by Coburg Coffee to have a chat and a hot beverage with me; conversational topics can range from Israel, Jewish life on campus, and family to schoolwork, travel, and anything else on the students' minds. Tuesday evenings hold Parsha and Pancakes, a weekly



Torah study group with a delicious snack. Every Thursday, students can drop by the Cawood, Dalhousie's campus bar, to grab a beer and an opportunity to meet and hang out with other Jewish students at Brews and Jews.

There have been many exciting opportunities for socializing and learning at Hillel. Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University representatives visited Halifax and ate a smoked meat dinner with the students to teach them about study abroad prospects. Students took a trip to watch the Halifax Moosheads win a hockey game, and gathered together to enjoy a screening of 'The Prince of Egypt.' Breakfast for dinner was served at a Young Judaea reunion featuring Camp Kadimah's Jared Goldlust as a special guest speaker. Israel on Campus ran a Bedouin Tent party to introduce students to fun aspects of Israeli



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culture, and Jordan Kerbel, a media expert for the Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs, ran a media training workshop related to Israel advocacy. This past Shabbat dinner, the salad featured microgreens and sprouts from Hillel's organic garden started by the students this semester.

For Hanukkah, students at King's fried up many pounds of potatoes for their

Hanukkah party and lit a menorah in the King's College Chapel, followed by an intense game of driedel. Tani Adelman, an Israeli student at Dalhousie, was featured in Dalhousie's international holiday greeting card video saying "Chag Sameach" (Happy Holidays). Students attended the community Hanukkah party held at Beth Israel as well as Chabad's menorah

lighting downtown. Outside of Halifax, Hillel mailed students in New Brunswick supplies for their respective Hanukkah parties and celebrations in order to spread the light.

We look forward to having a new semester as successful and eventful as this past one starting in January! Happy Holidays and New Year from Hillel!

The Atlantic Jewish Foundation - SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2013

All applications must be received by April 30th, 2013

- Scholarships will be awarded on merit and on the availability of funds.
- Priority will be given to first time applicants.
- Submitting a scholarship application does not confirm automatic receipt of a scholarship.

Scholarships & Bursaries Available

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

Passover of 1943 found Noa and Sarah assisting in the preparation of a Seder for hundreds of young Jewish servicemen stationed in Halifax before shipping out to Europe. At the end of WWII, Noa was one of a group of interpreters who met the ships which brought Holocaust survivors from Europe to the shores of Halifax. Speaking in Yiddish, he helped them transfer to the trains which took them to family members waiting their arrival in upper Canada.

Noa Heinish was one of the founders of Shaar Shalom Congregation and served as its first president. Together with Sarah they lent their support to every arm of the congregation. Sarah Heinish was an active member of Women's League, Hadassah, Neptune Theatre, the Soroptomists and the Nova Scotia Institute for the Blind. Both Noa and Sarah gave generously of their time and resources in the support of Israel Bond drives, United Jewish Appeal, Camp Kadimah and other groups and were leaders in the Canadian Jewish Congress. For many years they operated a successful clothing business on Gottingen Street in downtown Halifax which closed in 1972.

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel.

A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish Community to study in Israel.

Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation Trust -

One \$1000 scholarship per year for study in Israel

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

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

Miasnik - \$2000 each

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Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

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Jayson Greenblatt Bursary - \$500

For further information and applications please contact the Atlantic Jewish Foundation c/o:

Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca (902) 422-7491 x222

Waving the Jewish Camp Banner with Pride

by Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah

Picture the scene: It is that thrilling time at Jewish summer camp when Maccabiah (colour war) is announced in the chadar ochel (dining hall) and the camp divides into four teams. Everyone, from the youngest camper to the oldest staff member, will take on a different role to support their team in the spirited competition. For one shy camper on the Yellow Team, her moment to shine awaits as a staff member, whom she looks up to, asks her to help create the Yellow Team's banner.

The young girl's eyes light up and for the next few days she is all smiles as she pursues her project, hand in hand with her favourite counsellor. The result is a masterful piece of work, magnificent artistically, as well as educationally. The banner encapsulates traditional Jewish values, themes of modern Israel, and powerful messages for Jewish youth in North America. But the most important value that this counsellor and this banner spark is the strong sense of belonging that this youngster feels as she engages in a mission that she knows is important to her team. Jewish expression, camaraderie, and a sense of purpose combine in a way that this young girl will always remember. This is why Jewish summer camp is the most effective vehicle to build Jewish identity.

Increasingly North American Jewish communities are recognizing the educational value of Jewish summer camp. It is well documented that a Jewish immersive environment is replete with experiential education and can have a tremendous impact on instilling Jewish identity in our youth. Nonetheless, while Jewish institutions continuously ask "How can we become more like a Jewish summer camp?" the answer is not simple. To identify and articulate the interplay of components that make Jewish summer camp a fertile breeding ground for Jewish identity is a subtle and complex inquiry.

One critical aspect of the summer camp experience that is often overlooked and underappreciated is the pervasive influence of the camp counsellor. For several summer

weeks, Jewish camp staff are charged with the opportunity and responsibility to assume an almost parental role with our youth; they must care for campers just as any good parent looks after his or her own child. However, from the perspective of the camper, camp counsellors are seen less as parents and more as older siblings. This anomalous paradigm creates a powerful learning opportunity.

The camp counsellor fulfills the role of "holistic educator," which Spertus Institute Professor Barry Chazan sets as both the defining characteristic of informal Jewish education and the key ingredient to the success of Jewish summer camps. The campers' new found older "sister" or "brother" becomes their role model as they aspire to be like their counsellors in every which way.

We understand that if the goal is to foster Jewish values and commitment, we must be able to entrust this purpose to our camp staff as primary educators. Our goal is not simply a fun summer for Jewish kids: our goal is a Jewish summer for all campers. We recognize that the power of doogma ishit (leadership by example) is central to the day-by-day, hour-by-hour, informal educational experience that is camp.

At a summer camp like Kadimah, where Jewish values and practice are woven into the daily routine and programs, the selection, training, and supervision of Jewish camp counsellor-turned-role-model is critical. We direct our energy to staff selection. While selecting staff from a



very large pool of candidates necessarily encompasses pressures to accept alumni, we nonetheless pay particular attention to discerning which applicants will be exemplary role models to our campers. Strong moral fibre and the enthusiastic espousal of Jewish values are pre-requisite to being on staff at Camp Kadimah.

When a well-liked, well-respected counsellor belts out the Birkat Hamazon after a meal or leads Havdallah on Saturday evening, the campers enthusiastically follow his/her lead and join in the experience. Camps need staff who can be that doogma, that role model. There can be no divide between having fun and living Jewishly.

To foster this kind of staff performance, for example, we create a camp environment free from outside distractions; Camp Kadimah remains the one place where a camp counsellor can "unplug," not check his/her cellphone every minute and not keep current with what's new on the web. In fact, Kadimah staff are prohibited from doing so. With distractions removed, we direct our counsellors to hone in on what is important: their campers' needs and their own commitment to being a positive example at all times.

Campers, who experience a happy fun environment in which their admired role models celebrate Judaism and community, not only participate but also come to desire more. Just as summer camp allows the youngsters to experiment with independence as they sleep away from home and manage new social situations, so campers also experiment with Jewish living, growing and exploring as individuals in a supportive and safe mini-Jewish community.

At Camp Kadimah there are special moments where this feeling is wonderfully palpable. Sometimes it appears when several campers stand to lead the entire assembled camp in a beautifully spirited L'cha Dodi, sung in unison during a

Friday sunset. Sometimes the Jewish soul is visible as a more introverted camper comes out of his shell to dance his heart out, happily among friends, in a crowded and lively Oneg Shabbat.

So when a Jewish role model turns to a camper and asks, "Will you be part of something special and work with me on this banner?" the setting is perfect for na'aseh v'nishma (I will do and then I will understand). Kids thrive in a positive Jewish experience, as summer after

summer they come to appreciate why it's so great to be who they are.

Summer camp perfectly sets up the scenario for creative Jewish exploration, community involvement, and warm memories. Isn't this the essence of the Jewish identity? Within this simple Yellow Team experience lies the unique educational power of the Jewish summer camp.

References:

- 1 Barry Chazan, "The Philosophy of Informal Jewish Education" (2003), *The Encyclopedia of Informal Education (Infed)*, www.infed.org/informaleducation/informal_jewish_education.htm.
- 2 Na'aseh v'nishma is taken from Shemot 24:7. It was the response of the Jewish people to Moses, declaring their acceptance of the Torah and the Laws they had just received at Mount Sinai.

This article was first published in Think Magazine.



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CAMP KADIMAH SINCE 1963

Community leader Ruth Goldbloom passes away

by Joel Jacobson

A woman of boundless energy, indomitable spirit and a passion for causes Jewish and secular, is probably seeking more opportunities near the right hand of God today - or at least hitting Him up for some sort of "donation" to make life better for those who need help.

With a phenomenal gift for gab and an even greater gift for reaching into people's wallets to extract worthy donations, Ruth Goldbloom will always be remembered as a woman who refused to say no, refused to give up and went the extra mile to see a project completed. She was nationally-known as a philanthropist, volunteer, fund-raiser, and all-round go-getter.

Ruthie, as she was known to her legion of friends, died August 29 at age 88 after a short battle with cancer, the only battle she ever lost.

A member of the Order of Canada and Order of Nova Scotia, Goldbloom's greatest legacy was the development of a dingy warehouse on the Halifax waterfront into a Canadian museum, Pier 21, through which a million new Canadians arrived between 1923 and 1971.

Starting in 1990 when she began a campaign to refurbish the site, Goldbloom raised \$4.5 million by banging on board room doors across Canada until the people in charge donated money. Her rolodex included company and university presidents, the highest ranking politicians of every stripe, and people from all walks of life.

At a funeral service attended by more than 1,500 people from all walks of life, her three children eulogized a mother they loved and from whom they learned many life lessons. They spoke about a community worker who diligently and unselfishly made life better for thousands of people and listed among her friends, artists, teachers, nurses, doctors, humanitarian aid workers, social activists, tailors, grocers, clergy, war veterans and



Ruth Goldbloom, z"l, welcomed a group of newcomers with a tour of Pier 21.

new Canadians.

"She reminded us as citizens that we are all responsible for one another," said Ari Isenberg, spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax, where Ruth and her husband, Richard, former head of paediatrics at Halifax's IWK Health Centre (Children's Hospital), were members for more than 40 years. "We were all viewed through the same lens, despite, and maybe because of, our differences." When reflecting on his own father's arrival through Pier 21 decades before, Isenberg said, Pier 21 was the "House that Ruth built. It was Ruth's fourth child, eighth grandchild and second husband."

Ruth always found

time in her busy schedule for the Jewish community. She was one of the founders of the Atlantic Jewish Council, the first female chair of the UJA campaign,

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chairperson of the seventh Biennial AJC Convention, co-chaired the UJA women's campaign in Halifax.

Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director, said, "Ruth's motto was that no one should be denied an opportunity to contribute to the UJA campaign. Every card must be canvassed, and everyone in our community must be reached in order that they may feel part of the Jewish people."

Ruth's son, Alan Goldbloom, said his mother, who remained youthful and enthusiastic about life until her passing, always said, "My goal is to die young, as late as possible."

He talked about his parent's marriage of 66 years. "My parents set an example for me. When I became a father, I hoped I would be as good a parent as they were."

Daughter Barbara reflected how, in their home, the only voices ever raised were in laughter. "They never yelled at us or at one another," she said. "We had a life of superlatives. Everything was always the best, the greatest. Things were always 'perfect', according to my mother. I

thought I was her only daughter, but, in the past few months, as she was nearing her end, people called and I heard so many say she was like a mother to them."

David Goldbloom drew a laugh when he recalled how his mother, always outspoken and with an opinion, and a major Liberal supporter, wondered, "How can Canadian Jews vote Conservative?"

Stephen Goldbloom, one of seven grandchildren, spoke on behalf of all of them. "We felt we won the grandparent lottery when, as we'd walk down the street with her, she was always stopped and praised by strangers. She was always the eternal optimist."

Born Ruth Miriam Schwartz in 1923 in New Waterford, N.S. to immigrant parents from Russia, Goldbloom met future husband Richard when she studied at McGill University. They moved to Halifax from Montreal in 1967. She became involved in Jewish and community causes receiving seven honorary doctorates and countless awards from Jewish and community organizations. She was the first



Ruth Goldbloom, z'l

female chair of Halifax United Way, and was the first Jewish chair of the board of Mount St. Vincent University, a Catholic women's university at that time.

Before he recited the Jewish memorial prayer, Isenberg told the audience, "When I saw Ruth for the last time a couple of weeks ago, I asked, 'What would you like me to pray for, for you?'"

"Ruth told me, 'I have everything I could want and am so grateful for it. Pray for the success of my projects, equity in the world and fulfillment for my family.'"



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AROUND OUR REGION: HALIFAX



Nana Shteinberg, Julia Tsyrlin and Genny Erlich enjoy the Chabad Chanukah party in Grand Parade.



Hebrew school children perform at the Halifax community Chanukah party. Photo by Isaac Moscovich



Karen Conter, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at ceremony in Halifax, pictured with Halifax MP Megan Leslie.



Edna LeVine, AJC representative, Partners for Human Rights, hosted their annual December 10th International Human Rights Day event and Ilya Mosiychuk, Citadel High School student and newcomer to Halifax, performed during the event.



Kathy Zilbert, Halifax, and Marcia Koven, Saint John, received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal at a ceremony in Ottawa.



Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch, hosted the Chanukah candle lighting in Grand Parade Square with Leonard Preyra, MLA Halifax Citadel - Sable Island, Lieutenant Governor Brigadier-General the Honourable J.J. Grant and Mayor Mike Savage.



Some of the volunteers served Christmas lunch and entertained seniors at Spencer House in Halifax, from l to r, Judith Bates, Nancy Blumenthal, Naomi Judah, Adam Conter, Myrna Yazer, Jerry Blumenthal and Schuyler Smith.



Philip Riteman, Holocaust survivor, speaks to students at the NSCC Akerley Campus during Holocaust Education Week.



Mark Shvartzman partnered with the Beth Israel Synagogue to organize Sunday Sports, from l to r, Rabinovich family, Naam & Maly with children Shon, Kim & Ben; Julia Shvartzman; Brenner family, Evgeny & Svetlana and their son Igal; Yosi Vaida and his son Yaniv; Lisa Baida and her children Lee and Eitan; Sergey Erlich and his children Amit, Lior, Carmel, Maya & Aviv.



Marc Gold, Chairman, Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA, shares a laugh with Linda Kislowicz, CEO, Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA and Joel Lion, Consul General of the State of Israel at the AJC Biennial Saturday night entertainment.



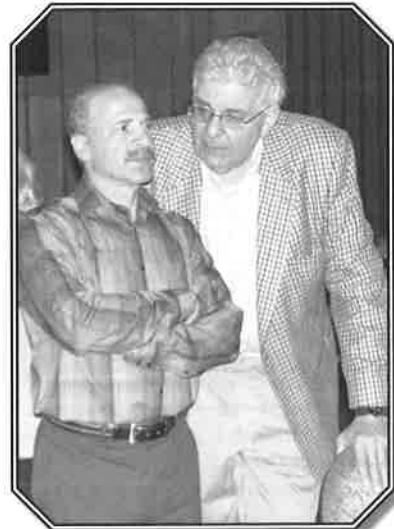
Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah, back left, chats with Jenna Conter and Sherry Pink.



Susan Hirshberg, left, and Rosalie Simeone, presents the findings of the roundtable discussion during the Biennial conference.



Front to back, l to r Dorothy Riteman, Shimon Wilansky, Nana Shteinberg and Elena Hazankin, and in back Sergey Erlich and Ian Shteinberg, enjoy the festivities at the Biennial.



Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director, with Mark Rosen, left.



Consul General Joel Lion responds to concerns from Erika Bernikier after his Sunday morning session: Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS).



Kathy Zilbert, Atlantic Jewish Foundation chair, provides answers to questions during the AJC Biennial general meeting.

Report from the Small and Enthusiastic PEI Jewish Community

by Rosalie Simeone, AJC community representative

Shalom to all our friends around the region. On PEI we continue to be a small diverse group. We have no synagogue, but we do have a goodly number of Jewish events and celebrations.

In the summer, we had several events, including a picnic for the Camp Kadimah campers visiting PEI, a visit by Consul General Joel Lion, and our annual PEIJC picnic.

Our community led High Holy Day services for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur were well attended, and excellently led in prayer and song by Leo



Chanukah party

Mednick and David Solomon. The shofar was blown loudly and strongly by Ernie Schleichkorn who schlepped in from Summerside to do the honours. We even had some guests from Israel, and from Toronto. Sukkot celebrations were held at the home of Don and Rosalie Simeone and I am including a report by one of our younger members.

During our Annual General Meeting on November 8th 2012, Rosalie Simeone was elected the new/again AJC Rep.

Our annual Chanukah party was held at Andrew and Karin Melzer's warm, inviting farm house in New London PEI. We had

about 30 attending, great latkes, some serious dreidle spinning, and even a game of Chanukah Mad Libs.

Upcoming events include: A sleigh Ride for Tu B'Shvat, Purim celebrations, and Pesach celebrations, as well as our annual Yom Hashoah memorial. We are also in the planning stages of an event in cooperation with the AJC/UIA around Yom Ha'atzmaut.

For more information about the PEI Jewish Community, and to see photos of our events, please visit www.peijc.org



First row, r to l, Rosalie Simeone and Marilyn Kaufman, 2nd row, Ruth Chippin and Rabbi David Ellis at the AJC Biennial general meeting in Halifax.



Sukkot celebration

The Sukkot Party at Rosalie and Don's

by Phoebe Schneider, Age 10

This was the first time my family and I attended the annual Sukkot party in PEI, and it was a lot of fun.

We were invited to come "shake, shake, shake the lulav" at Rosalie Simeone's house and to "participate in some challenges". Much more happened than that!

Soon after we arrived we coloured in some decorations for the sukkah. Everyone was chatting, and everyone was colouring too. No one got left behind! We had a game of Sukkot basketball (the ball was a yellow American

football - an etrog!) and after that we had a timed word-search. Then it was time for the main part of the Sukkot celebration: gathering in the sukkah, saying the blessing and shaking the lulav. Leo Mednick said the blessing and passed out the challah bread. The adults took a sip of wine and the children had some juice. Everyone who wanted to shake the lulav did.

Then the food came out!

There was a large selection of dishes. Delicious kugel, home-made hummus and plain pasta for the younger kids were only

a few of the amazing items served. Dessert included brownies, fruit, cookies, cake and various teas and coffees. Most people ate standing up, striking up conversations with people they'd never met or catching up with people they hadn't seen for a while. The fact that the gathering was outside was definitely a plus, too!

Overall, I think that this year's Sukkot party was a great success. Everyone was friendly and I know that my family met many interesting new faces (including a lovely dog!). We hope that we can enjoy more celebrations like this one in the days to come!

Fredericton Community News

by Marilyn Kaufman

Following the High Holy days the Fredericton Jewish community hosted Moslem Zionist, Kasim Hafeez in mid October. Kasim, a British born Pakistani, lunched with some members of the Jewish community and in the evening addressed local clergy and the Jewish community at the Synagogue. The message he delivered to those present was his personal story.

How does a young boy, indoctrinated into fundamental Islam, having a father who idolized Hitler, being taught to hate Jews and work toward the destruction of Israel, become an ardent Zionist and supporter of Israel?

At the age of seventeen, Kasim was already considering attending a Jihadi training camp in Pakistan, but, for an accidental sighting of a book in a bookstore....Alan Dershowitz's, "A Case for Israel". He read the book as a way to gain insight into "the minds of his enemies" in order to counter pro Israel support. Instead he was intrigued by the sensible arguments put forth countering anti-Israeli sentiment. He went on to read works by Sir James Gilbert. This led to a trip to Israel, a journey of discovery, about Jews and about Israel as a country. A journey which contradicted all he had been brought up to believe.



Rhan and Michelle Gimmelshtein
at Fredericton Chanukah party at the
local library.

Although Kasim was detained at the Ben Gurion airport for several hours, he said he was "treated with the utmost respect". Once released from airport security, he found he was able to move freely around the country, unlike being stopped at checkpoints while in Saudi Arabia, because of his skin colour. He saw, not an apartheid state, but a country where Israeli Arabs lived as free citizens among the Jewish population, even having a voice in the Knesset. His epiphany came as he stood before the Western Wall, where he was able to openly pray. Freely without harassment.

As they say, the rest is history. Kasim has since become a strong supporter of Israel. He has taken his message to several university campuses in the UK and Canada. His coined phrase coming out of his many talks is, "Life is a lot happier when you don't hate so much".

The question/answer period was followed by refreshments and continued informal

conversations with Kasim. Jasmine Kranat, a political science student at St. Thomas University, thanked Kasim for his informative presentation, emphasizing the important impact his message carried to the public.

The evening presentation was well received by those who attended. The

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Shawn Lazerav and Jacob Kranat having fun
at the Chanukah party!

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organizing committee of Marilyn Kaufman (event chair), Mitchell Budovitch (publicity) and Marc and Ayten Kranat (hospitality) was pleased with their response to Kasim and his message.

I would like to thank CIJA (Canadian Israel and Jewish Affairs), the AJC, David Kashitzky and Mark David for providing assistance with sponsoring this event in our community.

November 11th, some members of our community attended the local Remembrance Day service at the Cenitaph where Rabbi Goldman was a participant in the day's program.

Also in November, Ruth Chippin, Marilyn Kaufman and Rabbi Goldman attended the AJC Biennial Conference in Halifax. Marilyn was elected to serve on the AJC Management Committee. As well, plans are being made by the office of the Israeli Consul General in Montreal, to visit Fredericton in the New Year. Sara Snider, AJC Director of Student Campus Services, visited Fredericton shortly after the Biennial, to meet with a small group of Jewish university students, one of whom hosted a Chanukah gathering.

The Immigration Committee met a couple of times and is planning for exploratory visits in the spring for future immigrants to Fredericton.

December 5th, the Fredericton Public Library and Sisterhood once again partnered to host a Chanukah celebration

at the library for the Fredericton community. Librarian, Loralie Boyle had a number of activities for the children to do following the showing of the film, Shalom Sesame, The Mystery of the Missing Menorah. A thoroughly enjoyable film for young and old, the DVD was donated to the library for their educational resource collection by the Sisterhood. Specially decorated cookies were provided by Marilyn Kaufman and Eileen Duguay. The annual Chanukah celebration for the Jewish community was held in the Synagogue on Dec. 11th. A number of Jewish families attended the event where menorahs were lit and children and adults were entertained with a singing duo. Refreshments followed. Eileen Duguay and Rose Chippin prepared and delivered Chanukah baskets for the seniors. Sisterhood President, Shelley Stephens, would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted in making the events successful.

Shul President, Louis Budovitch, would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Tu B'shvat coming up next month.

Condolences to Stuart Freeman, Cathy Freeman and their families on the passing of their

mother, Lillian Freeman. Condolences to Sarah Lang, Joe Lang and Rhoda Fransblow, Natasha and Rachel Fransblow on the passing of husband, father and grandfather, Harry Lang. Condolences to Bella Rose and Sandra Rose, on the passing

Rhona Levine Ruben Receives Prestigious Award



Rhona Levine Ruben, formerly of Fredericton and now living in Toronto received the International Alliance for Women (TIAW) World of Difference 100 Award in Washington, DC. In October.

Levine Ruben, president of RLR & Associates and distinguished member of the advisory board of the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO), was praised for her efforts to empower women business leaders.

Dr. Marsha Firestone, President and Founder of the WPO said "The WPO is proud to congratulate Rhona on her TIAW World of Difference 100 Award. From single-handedly bringing the WPO to Canada, to serving as the WPO's Director of Canadian Corporate Sponsorship, Rhona has generously donated her time to provide Canada's top female entrepreneurs the peer support they need to take their businesses to the next level."

The TIAW World of Difference Award recognizes 100 trailblazing women who, through their efforts in the private, public and academic sectors, have helped advance the economic empowerment of women locally, regionally or worldwide.



Jasmine Kranat thanks guest speaker Kasim Hafeez.



The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger by Carolyn Gammon and Israel Unger. In March 2013 after decades of silence Dr. Israel Unger's "unwritten diary" will be published.

At the beginning of the Nazi period, 25,000 Jewish people lived in Tarnow, Poland. By the end of the Second World War, nine remained. Like Anne Frank, Israel Unger and his family hid for two years in an attic crawl space. Against all odds, they emerged alive. Now, after decades of silence, here is Israel's "unwritten diary."

Nine people lived behind that false wall above the Dagnan factory in Tarnow. Their stove was the chimney that went up through the attic; their windows were cracks in the wall. Survival depended on the food the adults leaving the hideout at night were able to forage. Even at the end of the war, however, Jewish people emerging from hiding were not safe. After the infamous postwar Kielce pogrom, Israel's parents

sent him and his brother as "orphans" to France in a program called Rescue Children, a Europe-wide attempt to find Jewish children orphaned by the Holocaust. When the family was finally reunited, they lived a precarious existence between France—as people sans pays—and England until the immigration papers for Canada came through in 1951.

<http://www.wlu.ca/press/Catalog/gammon-unger.shtml>

News from Saint John

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator and Gary Davis, President

Chanukah celebration

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum invited the Jewish community and the general public to attend the menorah lighting ceremony on the evening of Saturday, December 8th. Almost 100 people came out on a chilly and rainy evening to hear the blessings read by Mark Koven and to watch an entertaining and educational video which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in. The program was followed by hot apple cider and Chanukah cookies made by the ladies of the Sisterhood Shaarei Zedek.

The Museum is now closed for the winter season after having had quite a successful summer and fall with many hundreds of cruise ship visitors. Many thanks to our many volunteers for helping out during the busiest months of September and

October : Dr. Joseph Arditti, Cathy Cohen, Erminie Cohen, Gary Davis, I.J. Davis, Lloyd Goldsmith, Norman Hamburg, Norman Holtzman, Marcia Koven, Crystal Koven, Philip Lee, Ron and Sandra Levine, Elizabeth McGahan, John and Dorothy McKim, and Anne Pettifer.



Crowd at Chanukah lighting

Women's History Exhibit for 2013

Over the next few months we will be working on new exhibits for the 2013 season on the history of the Jewish women of Saint John and on survivors of the Holocaust who came to New Brunswick.

We anticipate great interest in both of these projects.

The women's exhibit will tell the story of 18 decades of Jewish women's history and contributions in Saint John – immigration, religious and domestic roles,



Wedding celebration – Sighet, Romania

Jewish organizations, family businesses, professions, community and public service.

A series of display panels will be researched, written and illustrated with archival photographs and documents to explain the varied roles fulfilled by the Jewish women in Saint John and

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Gary Davis and Mark Koven

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to highlight the accomplishments of 18 of the most prominent women in the community. The exhibit will also uncover the stories of the women whose activities are sometimes forgotten. Documents,

photographs and artefacts from the Museum's archival collections would be placed in as many as six or seven display cases for viewing.

A professionally produced video will be created to accompany the exhibit. This would include photographs, excerpts from audio interviews, home movies and other material linked together with a new narrative. The video will also be used for educational programming in the Museum when requested by groups or visitors.

Many women in the Jewish community were skilled in the making of quilts, afghans, hats, clothing and decorative items for their homes and for the synagogue. Examples of women's creative handwork (e.g. tablecloths, needlepoint, knitting, sewing, embroidery, painting and drawing) will be gathered on loan from community members and from the permanent collection for display on a variety of appropriate stands, racks and easels or in cases. This work will be accompanied by photographs and/or video of some of the women who made these items. Some of these creative skills came through the generations although many of these skills have now been lost by many of the current generations.

We have a list of several Jewish women who lived in Saint John and who have made significant contributions to the Jewish community or to society in general, as well as women about whom interesting stories can be told. Who would you nominate for our 2013 exhibit? What would you want us to tell about them? Do you have photos, documents, handiwork or other artefacts that were significant in their lives? How did they influence your life? We prefer donations but are willing to

accept some items on loan for the exhibit for a 12 month period. We cannot promise to exhibit everything, but we will produce educational wall panels and audiovisual displays that will use a lot of material. You can help us financially as well. The display panels cost almost \$300 each to design, write and produce. They become part of the Museum's permanent collection. If you sponsor a panel your name will be noted on that panel as well as elsewhere. Larger donations are also welcomed to help cover the cost of a video and slide show.

Holocaust Memorial Exhibit

Work has started on a Holocaust Memorial Exhibit for the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum. The exhibit will focus on connections of Saint Johnners and other New Brunswickers to victims and survivors of what was once called "The Jewish Catastrophe." The exhibit will include documents received by Jewish families in Saint John from relatives in Europe before and after the Second World War, photographs of family members, audio interviews with people whose families escaped before it was too late, and background information about the Holocaust. We are producing a video to accompany the documents, photos and published material that will be in the exhibit. The exhibit will serve both as a memorial to people who perished and a celebration of those who got away.

It must have been quite a shock, as well as a relief, when in 1945 Joseph Wiesel, co-owner of Wiesel Bros. Ltd. in Saint John, received a telegram from Malmo, Sweden dated July 13. It simply said "LIBERATED CONCENTRATION CAMP HERE FOR RECOVERY LETTER FOLLOWS SEND LETTER MONEY." It was signed "Michael Fried Karljohansskolan Limhamn Sweden Samuel Ciporas." This was the beginning of a three-year correspondence during which Joe Wiesel and his siblings sent financial and material help to Michael and tried to overcome immigration restrictions to bring him to Canada. About 100 of these documents still exist, along with some from Michael's family from before 1939 and many postwar letters and some photos from other relatives of the Wiesel family. Two cousins did eventually come to Saint John, but Michael got married and settled

THE CENTRE FOR ISRAEL & JEWISH AFFAIRS

*The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs is the **advocacy arm** of the Jewish Federations of Canada. Together with AJC, we work with governments, media, and local communities to enhance the quality of Jewish life and enhance support for Israel in Atlantic Canada.*

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in Sweden. The documents are being organized with the cooperation of people at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John.

Rose and Albert Featherman were both survivors. They met at a displaced person's camp after the war. Their families were murdered in camps or in other atrocities. The photo shown here survived the war. It was taken at a pre-war wedding celebration in a town near Sighet, Romania. In the photo are Rose Wiesel and relatives and friends, including Abraham Ovics, another survivor who got to Canada and lives in Edmonton.

The stories of these and about 10 others who came to New Brunswick before or after the War, some of whom were able to evade the concentration camps but who spent time in Canadian internment camps, will become part of the exhibit along with educational information about the Holocaust and what led up to it. We

are contacting people to collect as much information as possible. If you know of people connected to Saint John in this way we would be very appreciative of information you can send.

We are also producing a video of footage taken by a teacher from Fredericton who went with a group from across Canada to Poland, Lithuania and Belarus to look at Holocaust sites and remnants of Jewish culture. Another project is a narrated slide show of hundreds of photos taken by members of a church group from Saint John who went to Auschwitz and Krakow in 2012. We also hope to assemble interviews with members of the Jewish Community who went on similar trips.

We also hope to include excerpts of the experiences of Dr. Israel Unger, whose book *The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger*, co-authored with Carolyn Gammon, tells a remarkable story of survival and escape.

The exhibit will be made possible by

donations from supporters. We will also be applying for grants. Any way you can help will be welcomed.

For more information please contact us by email, through the postal service, by telephone or on the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum Facebook page.

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shalomupdate](http://theajc.ns.ca/shalomupdate)**

Condolences to the family of Paula Mendelsohn of Montreal who resided in Saint John, New Brunswick when she married Leonard Kaplansky in 1956 and lived in Saint John until the family permanently moved to Montreal in 1979. Paula was particularly active in Hadassah Wizo, as Chapter President in Saint John and later as National Vice-President and National President. She was a lifelong supporter of Israel and served on the Board of JNF. She worked for the Canadian Zionist Federation as well as for the Jerusalem Foundation. She is survived by her two children Margo (Kaplansky) Smith, and Jonathan Kaplansky as well as grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

News from Moncton

by Nancy Cohen, AJC community representative

The Moncton Community took part in Remembrance Day services in both Moncton and Dieppe on November 11. Francis Weil led a prayer and laid a wreath at the service in Moncton, and John Sichel did the same in Dieppe.

On November 14 Steven McDonald the Associate Director of Communications, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) visited Moncton. This was the day "Operation Pillar of Defense" began so Steve's original speech was put aside and he spoke instead about the unfolding situation in Israel. The audience, which consisted of both Jews and non Jews, appreciated the

background information and insight that Steve brought to us that night.

Our gala Hanukkah dinner was once again a success with a large crowd in attendance. It was just as a community Hanukkah party should be, with excited kids chasing each other around, lots of lively conversation, delicious food and some singing led by one of the young Israelis living in Moncton. Sisterhood did a great deal of work preparing this dinner and special mention should go to Joan Mayer who took the lead in cooking all the food.

Public menorah lightings took place at Moncton City Hall and another at the Moncton Hospital, both coordinated by Ivan



Menorah candle lighting

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Having fun at the Chanukah dinner!

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Cohen. The mayor attended the lighting at City Hall. It is always a pleasure to see non-Jewish families who come out to introduce their children to another culture.

Our community recently lost two long time members: we were saddened by the loss in November of Charles Gorber husband of Esther, father and father-in-law of Bruce and Rosemarie Gorber and the late Jay Gorber. This was followed in December by the loss of Harry Lampert, husband of Florence, father and father-in-law of Irwin and Audrey Lampert and Beverly and Stephen Bratt. Sincere condolences to the Gorber and Lampert families.

Mazel tov to Harry (Tut) Gorber on

receiving the AJC Community Service award for Moncton at the 2012 AJC Biennial Convention. Harry was not able to make it to the convention to accept his award, so it was presented to him at the Hanukkah dinner.

We now have have a Facebook page. To view it go to Facebook and search for Moncton Jewish Community.



Children enjoy the Chanukah party!



Harry Gorber receives the AJC Community Service Award from Nancy Cohen.

St. John's Jewish Community Havura

by Nancy Bennett and Ruth Noel

This past summer was glorious and it continued through the autumn into December. Little rain for the past seven months has meant dry earth and low water reservoirs. We had one little snow followed by warm weather and finally, in mid-December, a snow that turned the town white. Except for Hurricane Leslie which left its mark on our Province, the weather was kind to us.

The High Holidays brought new people to our group, and, as in past years, we celebrated the holidays with services and community dinners. Elizabeth Loder did a lovely job of organizing and leading most of the services and Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski



Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue speakers Dr. Mahmoud Haddara, Trina Rosenzweig, Sr. Elizabeth Davis, and moderator Dr. Syed Mansoor Pirzada.

organized the community meals with her usual skill and efficiency. Members participated by leading services, reading from the Torah, and doing D'var Torahs. The Bahar-Koubi's hosted the Sukkot

service and a community brunch in their beautifully built sukkah. The day of the brunch was warm and we ate our food outdoors. Kari Brown brought an elementary school class to visit the sukkah. They listened to explanations of the history and significance of the holiday as well as ate some snacks. Chava Finkler, Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Inbal Bahar and Shimon Wilansky spoke with the students about the holiday.

The Bendzsas hosted a lively Simchat Torah service in their home. We danced outside with the Torah, but as it was raining, didn't

stay out as long as usual.

When we learned there had been acts of desecration of the mosque in Prince Edward Island, we wrote to them: "We

sincerely hope that you get the support you need to bring an end to these hostile acts. One day, perhaps the person or persons who have attacked you will come to understand that here in Canada, we can be a beacon to the world to help end religious misunderstanding and hostility."

On October 19th, we held a special Shabbat service to commemorate a Havura founder, Arnold Bennett's, first yahrzeit. The Havura welcomed visitors from the Religious Social Action Coalition and the MUN Philosophy Department to a special Shabbat service. Over forty people attended and stayed a long time after the service and meal to reminisce.

In November, the Jewish Community Havura participated in the annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue. Over 200 people came to hear presentations on, "Religious Beliefs in a Modern World". Nancy Bennett our representative to the organizing committee, participated in choosing the topic and organizing this successful evening. Trina Rosenzweig, a Graduate Student in Philosophy at MUN, represented the Jewish perspective, along with Sister Elizabeth Davis and Dr. Mahmoud Haddara. Trina was the youngest member of the panel and her talk was reflective, informative and thoughtful.

The audience had many questions after the presentations which showed how interested they were. Havura member Joy Hecht designed a beautiful poster depicting a synagogue, church and mosque which we printed and posted throughout the university. We look forward to continued participation in this annual event.

November brought the annual latke making morning at Nancy Bennett's home and lots of fun and laughter ensued as we grated, washed and fried the potatoes. Why does it take so long for the smell to leave one's hair and hands? Delicious snacks were gobbled up by the group as we worked throughout the morning.

In mid-November we had our Annual General Meeting and Jonathan Richler was elected president - our first male president - along with a strong board. Nancy Bennett was thanked for her service for the last two years and she has agreed to stay on the Board as Immediate Past President. With her experience and history of our organization, her attendance will be much appreciated.

The Atlantic Jewish Council held its Bi-Annual Convention and Shimon Wilansky represented the Jewish Community Havura at this event in Halifax. From his report, it was a successful convention with



Candle lighting magic at the Jewish Community Havura's Hanukkah Party.

interesting speakers and discussions. Mazel tov to all those who spent untold hours planning and organizing this conference.

The Chanukah party was held Sunday, Dec. 9th, at City Hall and it was a success and inspiration. Some members invited friends to the party, to introduce them to the holiday and share in this celebration. About a hundred and forty adults and children participated. We all witnessed the magic as the candles were lit on the many Chanukias in a nearly darkened room. We listened as Shimon Wilansky told the story of Chanukah. We lifted our glasses as Gil Shalev said the kiddish before drinking the wine or grape juice and held home-baked challah as Chava Finkler said the blessing over it. Noam and Daphnia

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Koubi entertained us with their violins and Reanna, Rachael and Rebecca Miron lead us in the dreidel song. Inbal Bahar kept the children entertained. Between her magic and the klezmer band not one child started to cry out of boredom the whole evening.

The food was exceptional with, of course, our latkes and various hot and cold dishes and scrumptious desserts. Everyone had plenty to eat and came back for seconds and even thirds. No diets were followed that evening.

Then the music began. The klezmer band, led by Alison Corbett, played both klezmer and Israeli music and the numbers dancing surpassed previous years. The young children were enthralled with the sounds and stood in front of the players bouncing up and down. The adults started dancing and the children joined moving in circles and chains around the room. Each year, the band plays better and better and each year more people join us in the dancing. Finally, throughout the evening the dreidel game was being played and Chanukah gelt was given out. Many of our guests joined the dancing. We certainly built bridges that evening.

Such an event could not happen without commitment. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, the chief organizer sent out the emails, organized the meal, helped set up of the room, and kept us on track. Nancy Bennett and Shari Ritter, just back from trips to the mainland, brought

back decorations, dreidels and candles so the room had a Chanukah festive look which added to the atmosphere. An amazing team, led by Robert Sweeny and Joy Hecht set up and cleaned up and helped during the evening. Elizabeth-Anne also organized a silent auction and we raised over \$200 for a local food bank.

Throughout the fall, as in many centres across the Atlantic Provinces, some of our members have spoken to various groups and schools. This is always a pleasure and helps build bridges within the wider community.

Jonathan Richler is the Havura representative to the Religious Social Action Coalition. He reports the group's belief that our province's society at large aspires to be a catalyst for social justice and equality for all human beings. RSAC's focus is on achieving productive and dignified lives for all with a decent standard of living, education, economic and social equity and quality of life. It is committed to working towards poverty elimination/reduction and all of its manifestations in our society.



Latke-making crew members Elizabeth Siegel, Ruth Noel, Trina Rosenzweig, Karen Lippold, Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski, Jonathan Richler, Steve Wolinetz, and Gil Shalev.

In 2013, he reports, RSAC will continue to work to convince the government to adopt a "Fairness Prism" for assessing the impact of all legislation, policies and programs on income gap, levels of poverty and social equity. They are also arranging for research and implementation of the "Living Wage" Strategy for at least two communities in NL.

We wish you a healthy 2013 and if you are coming to St. John's, please contact us through our web site at www.havura.org, email us at info@havura.org, or call us at 834-7866. We would like to meet you and welcome you to our community.

Report from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama, Congregation Beth El

Unfortunately, our fall season began in great sadness. Our great friend and devoted member of Beth El, June Mercer z'l, was hospitalized with a terminal illness, which weighed heavily upon her family, friends and community. June, a Jew by choice, came regularly to synagogue, enhancing every service and celebration with her positive attitude and great enthusiasm. Always the first to greet anyone new, she

had learned to read Hebrew and sing the prayers, thereby setting the bar very high for all of us. We dragged through September, awaiting the inevitable, while she tried to cheer us up every time we visited. Her funeral was held on Sunday, September 30th. The Taharah was done by the Women's Chevrah Kadishah including Dr. Barbara Grandy, Bonnie Leyton, Havura member Ruth Noel and our visiting former teacher,

Moriah Gabsi. Dr. Michael Paul and Ernie Mauskopf led the moving and well-attended service at Carnell's. Our deep condolences to Dr. David Mercer, her husband of 45 years, son Geoff, daughter Roxanne, and three grandchildren, Jack, William and Abigail. May her memory be for a blessing.

On Sunday, September 9th we held the unveiling of the stone for former member



June Mercer, z'l

Norma Cohen. In attendance were her son, Boyd Cohen, and nephew, Michael Kolonel. We also held our yearly memorial service that morning, as we have an old cemetery with many gravestones that are no longer visited, as relatives have lost touch or have become too old to travel themselves. We not only have a traditional service, but try to tell the stories of these fathers, mothers, children and servicemen to our newer members in order to keep their memories alive. Following the service, we had a brunch at the synagogue. Fortunately, we had many happier events as well. Congratulations to Boyd Cohen who received a "Seniors of Distinction" award from the Government of Newfoundland. We also had the opportunity to wish Mrs. Betty Barban a happy and healthy 99th birthday. She is still a very smart lady with an enviable memory.

On September 16th we celebrated the first night of Rosh Hashanah with a Kosher dinner for the community and guests.



Students from the Brother Murphy Centre visiting the synagogue.

This was followed by full high holiday services which were very well attended. This year everyone took part in the services, either in English or in Hebrew and it was a great success. It was wonderful to see Moriah Gabsi, our former Areva who was visiting from Israel and Randy Mauskopf from

Toronto and to welcome Oleg Kheyfets of Kansas. As usual, we were able to break the Yom Kippur fast together in the Social Hall. Thanks to Bonnie Leyton for her beet borscht and Dr. Richard Rivkin for his giant, homemade Challahs.

The Sukkah was built by Fred Borden, but decorated by Dr. Messod Salama. Due to the damage by tropical storm/hurricane Leslie, we had plenty of schach for the roof.

September ended with the Shloshim service for June Mercer which was held at the synagogue. We miss her terribly.

As usual we have had visits from and made visits to schools. On November 8th we welcomed author and teacher Trudy Morgan-Cole and her religious studies students from the Brother T.I. Murphy Centre. As usual, they were an attentive and interested group, and it was a pleasure to teach them. At the end of November I visited Paradise Elementary to teach a little about Chanukah and Judaism to one



Grade 3 pupils at Paradise Elementary learning about Chanukah and playing dreidel

hundred Grade 3 pupils. I always find it quite amazing how easy it is to teach the letters of the dreidel to these young children and how quickly they become involved in the traditional Chanukah game, as you can see in the accompanying picture.

On December 9th we held our annual Chanukah party. Thanks to Trina Rosenzweig for her great help in decorating the synagogue and to her, Rebeccah Sidel and Bonnie Leyton for helping to make the delicious, fresh latkes. Needless to say, the latkes disappeared quickly that evening. Besides the supper and brief service, we had a Chanukah bingo game and traditional dreidel "gambling". It was especially nice to have a full table of university students, most of whom come from Thornhill, near where I grew up.

Sincere thanks go to those who gave us monetary donations this fall and to Karin Abramson of Toronto, who is donating old Seforim.



Chanukah party

Hanukkah Brought to a Close by the Cape Breton Jewish Community

Reprinted with the permission of the Cape Breton Post

As the final candle of the nine-branched candelabrum of the menorah was illuminated on Saturday, Cape Breton's Jewish community gathered at the Temple Sons of Israel synagogue for a community celebration to bring the eighth and final day of Hanukkah to a close.

While those days are referred to as the festival of lights, traditional Jewish delights like latkes and blintzes, put Saturday's focus very much on the food.

"There are some key stuff being made like the blintzes and the latkes, but people are bringing in different salads and desserts for us," said Alan Nathanson while giving a kitchen tour prior to the feast. "It's a real community effort."

Of the many traditional Jewish foods on the menu was an estimated 350 latkes which are considered a once a year treat because of their heavy oil content.

"The question is should you do an overall taste or a taste per batch," joked David Ein

who was enjoying his role as unofficial latke taste tester prior to the meal. "I think if you want to do it properly you should do a taste per batch."

Ingredients for the vast number of dishes varied, but oil was a common for most as a tribute to the oil that burned for eight days instead of the expected one for Maccabee and his soldiers after their victory over the much larger Syrian army in 165 BC.

Many volunteers put the meal together including Sheila Kent who could be found performing the final grilling of blintzes, a cream filled crepe, just minutes before serving time.

A second level of the kitchen had Shana Strong and others in the midst of rolling smoked salmon and other final preparations.

"It was traditionally the females in the community that would do everything in the kitchen and have things set up," said Strong. "My mom was very involved and

so I kind of took over for her. Coming back as one of the younger ones it just seemed appropriate to help out as much as I could in the kitchen."

In charge of music were Kent and Evy Dubinsky-Carnat who performed traditional Hanukkah songs during the evening.

Kent said Hanukkah is special because it has "multiple layers of meaning," but Carnat pointed out that it is not a major Jewish holiday.

"It's in the forefront because it happens to come around Christmas," said Carnat.

"People say 'oh your kids are so lucky they get gifts for eight days.' This is not the way it used to be. It evolved like Christmas gifts evolved."

When she was growing up a silver dollar known as gelt was a common gift.

"When you are in a minority and you go to school after Christmas and everybody is asking 'what did you get for Christmas?'



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Sheila Kent grills blintzes.

You are the little Jewish girl who got a silver dollar."

As a result Carnat thinks it was her generation that began the evolution of Hanukkah gift giving.

"When my kids were young we did give a gift everyday. Even then one night would be a pair of socks, another would be a

sweater. And so you would get one nice gift for them in the eight days."

Today she said the traditional has evolved to the point where iPods and other major items are part of the eight days of giving.

Though the gift giving may have evolved, Carnat said the story of Hanukkah has not been lost.

"It talks about religious freedom of being able to be who you are because there are countries where some people can't practice their religion. They have to do it in secrecy."

Having recently moved home to Cape Breton, Hanukkah is also about gathering with an ever shrinking local Jewish population for traditional food, music and games as was the case on Saturday.

"My parents kids, they grew up, they went away to school and they didn't come home. I came back for a little while and had my kids one in Halifax and two here. My boys have a strong connection here because we have our place in Englishtown, but most haven't come back."

Jack Yazer has seen many Hanukkah celebrations big and small throughout his 99 years and cherished Saturday's as much as others before it.


"This is the end of Hanukkah and we are celebrating," he said. "For me to be here and almost 100 I've enjoyed quite a few of these holidays. I'm not planning to be here for next year. I figure 100 is enough, but the fellow above he decides that."

Whitney Pier Native Named as Dalhousie University's Alumnus of the Year





A Sydney-born native continues to receive accolades for his work in neurology. Dr. David Dodick, who grew up in Whitney Pier, was named Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association's alumnus of the year during the university's fall convocation in October, for his work in neurology at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona and for his extensive publications and research. Allan Purdy, MD, Neurologist and Colleague

remarked, "David has accomplished a lot in his life, and continues a remarkable career. As a young man in Nova Scotia he played high level hockey, and in his career he has used this passion to "play" in the bigger worlds of medicine and science. Simply put, David is the "Wayne Gretzky" of the headache world, and increasingly is also in the world of sports related to head injury and concussion". Dodick has authored and co-authored more than 275 peer-reviewed publications and had co-authored seven books.



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Never Miss A Real Good Thing

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

"Never miss a real good thing Till he says good-bye" Crystal Gayle

Back in Halifax. On the new Maritime bus line. Different from the old Acadian Lines, but it gets you there. Call me if you need help.

Yesterday was Glace Bay. You've heard my and others' stories from there before.

But within two hours-I saw all of Glace Bay history collapsed into a microcosm.

You always went there. Your mom hauled you in for school. She and Dad went there too. So did everyone in town.

For, what-60? 70?-years, you never thought about it. And then-all the signs in the window. "Closing Out." "All Items-50% Off and More."

And so the end of a real good thing-David Ein's store.

Of course, his mom and dad ran it for many years. Then one day David took over.

His mahogany desk upstairs was not just Control Central for the store. It was for dozens of other activities as well-the shul, the caregivers for his folks, his personal business.

But no matter how busy he was, David always made time to talk and catch up on everyone.

He fooled us once before. He closed down four or five years ago, only to come back again in a down-sized version a few months later.

But now again, the old songs come to mind. "Is It Really Over?" "This Could Be the Last Time" "Is That-All There Is?" Etc.

Well, I think it is now. But it's not really over. A clever guy like David will have some new project within a year. Stay tuned.

Oh, yes, another real good thing. The Glace Bay shul is no more. Officially sold. Again a number of people never missed the real good thing-they started to schrei when they heard the news. But as everyone on the

inside knew, they did what they had to.

But, the story's not done.

I walked down to Fanny Cohen's house. Everything Glace Bay is there. She starts her stories.

They usually start back in the 20s, with memories of her family. This time, we went a generation back, to the Old World.

She told me a story she heard from her mother, in Brest Litovsk. This, of course, is the famous city where Germany and Russia made a treaty ending WWI. It is now in Belarus.

Several languages converged there. Her mother knew them all. She went by a store c. 1890 and helped two people arrange a sale. But she got to know the Jewish party involved-and arranged for her son a shidduch!

Finally, I left Fanny's to go to the Schachter sisters' home, just around the corner.

Looks are deceiving. Their home looks like

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just another in Glace Bay. Nothing special. Then you go in and talk to Judy and Sandra, and the whole conversation is about the Jewish world. Glace Bay, then and now. Pictures from Israel. Documentation of a relative persecuted in Latvia during the war. A full JNF pushke. All sorts of stories from Jewish history.

Again, an unforgettable little Jewish world

on a quiet lane in Glace Bay.

So, yes, some things are gone. The buildings have had their day—Ein's and the shul.

But the true essence of our community—our lives, our families here and there, our ties to the larger Jewish world via Yiddish and Hebrew—I found these alive as ever yesterday in the Bay.

They're fighters, they don't give up.

They've read their Yogi Berra—it's not over till it's over.

We'll see more real good things from them this coming year.

For those elsewhere—back to Maritime Bus again and "On the Road Again. . ." See you soon—let's hope for simchahs.

Your faithfulness through the night

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

According to the Midrash, Adam wrote Psalm 92: "MIZMOR SHIR LEYOM HASHABBAT" on the eve of the first Sabbath ever celebrated in the world. In this wonderful Psalm, a praise for the creation of the Holy day of Shabbat, we find the declaration: "so we may exclaim Your loving-kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness through the night".

Rabbi Yehudah Oppenheimer of Young Israel Forest Hills writes the following: Our Sages comment that the Jewish year

can be divided into two parts: "in the morning your kindness", which roughly corresponds to spring and summer, and "your faith at night", corresponding to autumn and winter. The period of "to tell in the morning your kindness" is a time of unconcealed joy, when the weather is



warm and the world is beautiful. As we have said, this is a time that all of the major Holidays fit. However, in the winter time, there are no Holidays in the Torah – just the two enacted by the Rabbis, Chanukah and Purim. It is a time, it would seem, that we have to live by faith alone, without the externals of the Holidays to help us.

Perhaps the message is that whether we are in the "morning glory" good times, or in times of darkness, as long we have our faithful beloved Shabbos Queen, we will be taken care of. Having Shabbos as the centre of our lives is the vital key.

The S'fas Emes, taking this one step further, writes that the role of Shabbos in time is parallel to that of the Temple in space. In modern Jewish life, Shabbos is the center of religious experience. Though a Jew is called upon to actively engage in physical life and the general society, his or her internal religious life revolves around Shabbos - Shabbos anchors us to Hashem in a world in which it is easy to forget Him. Similarly, when the Temple stood, Jewish life had a second central point: the Temple. A Jew knew that no matter what the rest of the world was like, the Temple was a place where Heaven touched Earth - a physical, living, breathing place where God could be found. The Greek desecration was a source of great religious shame to the Jewish people, and the desecrated Temple was a powerful public symbol of the rise of Greek Hellenism over Jewish monotheism. In turn, the



Youth enjoy lighting the candles at the Chanukah party.

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"Chanukah"/inauguration that followed symbolized the validity and vitality of the Jewish way of life.

Purim, too, in a very hidden way, revolves around Shabbat and the Temple. When Haman approaches the King to convince him to allow the annihilation of the Jewish People, he says (according to the Talmud) that the Jews avoid doing the King's service by saying 'it is the Sabbath today' or 'Passover today' - we cannot do

the King's work. A different passage in the Talmud attributes the King's caution in granting Esther "all she wished for" to the fear that she may ask for the re-building of the Temple in Jerusalem.

In the dark and cold days of the winter, we can remember always that we have the light of the Shabbos candles, and that Hashem is watching over us even in the cold dark days and nights that are coming.

A GEZOONT VINTER TO ALL



Chanukah celebrations were enjoyed by all

The Victory of the Dreidel

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax NS

I called this article 'The Victory of the dreidel' because of an interesting fact about Chanukah.

The Chanukah story, in a nutshell, contains two parts.

First - The miraculous military victory of a few priests who never held a sword in their lives, against the mightiest undefeated army of ancient Greece.

For this we add special praises to the Chanukah services (Hallel and Al Ha'Nisim).

The second part is the single cruse of oil that miraculously lasted for eight days. This is why we light the Menorah for eight days and eat latkes and doughnuts that are fried in hot oil.

The two facts above are well known. So where does the dreidel come in?

One of the decrees of Antiochus, the King of Greece, commanded was to prohibit the Jewish study of Torah and Yiddishkeit. Nothing is dearer to a Jewish mother more than her children's education, so the kids hid in caves at the outskirts of Jerusalem to secretly continue their Jewish education. After all, they could deal with Antiochus, but no one wants to deal with an angry Jewish mother who expects her child to study! In any case, when the Greek soldiers located their whereabouts and suspected the children's true motives, the children hid their books and immediately took out a popular

Greek game; it was a gambling game using a spinning top, otherwise known as the dreidel.

So, if we have the Menorah as a symbol of the reconstructed Jewish services in the Beth Mikdash, how come we don't have any symbol to praise the military victory of the few priests against the mighty Greeks?!

Unfortunately, we are a nation well-experienced in war. I myself, as a young soldier, was involved in the 2006 Lebanese War as well as in a few combat operations in Gaza that protected Israel, our homeland.

In wars there are no winners! Although necessary for survival, wars are never a priority for Jews. Therefore, not even one of the Chanukah symbols is about the miraculous military victory because we don't celebrate wars!

What do we celebrate? What are the symbols we're proud of and maintain until today, over twenty centuries later? The olive oil and the Menorah! Both symbolize wisdom and spirituality. As Heinrich Heine said, "Jewish wisdom is 'the portable homeland of the Jews'."

The Greeks had it all. They ruled over



most of the world, they were rich, they were admired, and they developed their empire. Today, not much remains. The Jews held the secret of how to be the real winners. The "secret" ingredient was, and still is, EDUCATION.

As the symbol of the younger generation's connection to Judaism, the true victory belongs to the funny toy, to the dreidel. Endangering their lives, 'wasting' time with Jewish studies rather than using their time for more 'beneficial activities', such as training for battle, the Maccabees maintained their schools. Their children filled the numerous classrooms (or caves) to pour over their books and learn.

Today, over twenty centuries later, the Greek chapter is but a piece of history, while Judaism is a living heritage!

For the prosperity of our Jewish community, here in Halifax, I hope we will be able to establish a Jewish preschool this coming September. Thanks to the hard work of more than a few caring people who invested much time, effort and money. I would like to encourage anyone who agrees that this is the most important thing for the future of our community, to pick up the phone or send an email in order to offer advice, support, and help or just to say a good word to Neli Shpoker, Adam Conter or myself.

Letter to the Editor of the Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Canada

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

Halifax has been home for a few years and it is with an overwhelming sense of comfort and safety that I walk around the city wearing my small knitted yarmulkah (Jewish skullcap) on my head. I feel privileged to be part of the multicultural, ethnically diverse, and pluralistic society that exists in Halifax - one that Halifax cultivates with pride.

Today, though, having just learned of the appearance of swastikas at the anti-war rally in downtown Halifax a few weeks ago, I am shaken to my core. I ask myself: Is it possible that Haligonians walked by choosing to turn a blind eye? Is it possible that Haligonians who cherish the freedoms of multiculturalism in our society remained indifferent upon seeing

the swastikas displayed in downtown Halifax?

I invoke the words of Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: "It is awkward, troublesome to be involved in another person's pain and despair. Yet, for the person who is indifferent, his or her neighbour are of no consequence. And, therefore, their lives are meaningless. Their anguish is of no interest. Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response. Indifference is not a beginning,



it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor".

The Reverend Martin Neimoller: "In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade-unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade-unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up."

We need to defend and protect our neighbours. Let us strive to be better than we were on that cold day in November when swastikas were flown, unchallenged, in Downtown Halifax.

The Chanukah flame that glows perpetually

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

The festival of Chanukah, we all know, commemorates an extraordinary victory of the Maccabees, a relatively small and dedicated force of fighters, against one of the great powers of ancient times.

When Antiochus the 5th ascended the throne and was determined to impose his values on the Jewish people. He forbade the practice of Judaism, Jews who were caught practicing Judaism were tortured to death. A small group of Jews, led by the elderly priest Matityahu and his sons, rose in revolt. They fought a brilliant campaign, and within three years they had recaptured Jerusalem and restored

Jewish autonomy.

It was, as we say in the Chanukah prayers, a victory of 'the weak against the strong, and the few against the many.' The Temple was rededicated; Chanukah means "rededication." This was a remarkable event and an extraordinary triumph.

Yet, the Talmud gives us a very different perspective on the Chanukah festival. "What is Chanukah?" The Talmud asks (Talmud, Shabbat 21b.), the answer given is this:



"When the Greeks entered the Sanctuary, they contaminated all its oil. Then, when the royal Hasmonean family overpowered and was victorious over them, they searched and found only a single cruse of pure oil that was sealed with the seal of the High Priest, enough to light the menorah (candelabra) for one day, a miracle occurred and it lasted for eight days.

According to the Talmud, the festival of Chanukah is less about the military victory of a small band of Jews against one of the mightiest armies that ever existed, and more about the miracle of the oil. The Talmud focuses exclusively

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on the story with the oil, hence, when we are commanded to commemorate Chanukah we light candles each night, no celebration, no festivities and no wine in stark contrast to Purim.

This is strange, the miracle of the oil, it would seem, was of minor significance relative to the military victory. Besides the fact that this was a miracle that occurred behind the closed doors of the Temple, it was an event concerning a religious symbol without any consequences on life, death and liberty.

Chasidic teaching explains as follows:

During the Chanukah era The Hellenists weren't out to kill the Jews (as in the Purim story), they were out to kill Judaism. They forbade the practice of our religion, a Jew who agreed to abandon their faith was welcome in the Hellenist society. As long as a Jew would follow the Hellenistic regime and gave up Shabbat, Circumcision and the study of Torah, our bodies were not in danger, but our soul was. Therefore, when the Maccabbes defeated the enemy, the holiday instituted involves not the body, (festivities and celebration) but rather the soul, the mitzvah of Chanukah is entirely spiritual in nature, we light candles which

represents the light of Torah and Mitzvah. Today too, as we kindle our candelabra let these Chanukah lights remind us that we must vanquish the Hellenist voice within that constantly endeavours to prevent us from performing the Mitzvot and growing in our Judaism.

As we gaze at the flames atop of our Menorah let us hear its consistent message: The Jewish faith, the flame of Torah, the flame of Mitzvot, will never be extinguished.

Based on the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson OBM.

Shofar

by Rabbi Y.I. Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

People often ask me, "What do you really do in Kosher - is it all just about meat?" Well, I don't even do meat. That said I'd like to share with you an adventure and actually fascinating encounter that I've experienced recently.

Limestone, ME is a little town all the way at the northernmost section of the great state of Maine; in a part of the world where the moose definitely outnumber the men. Limestone, ME is also the home for the famous Loring Air Force Base, where B-52 bombers were once an active part of the military defense system, and is now a zone of economic opportunity. In the midst of this sprawling air force base, there is a wonderful company called, Graphic Utilities, makes a most interesting product that requires kosher supervision. Now why on earth does this product need supervision, and in fact, what is this product? This is where Kosher gets really interesting....

You see, if you walk into a bakery or any average, in-store bakery chain in the United States (and possibly other parts of the world, as well) to order a birthday cake, they may ask you if you'd like to have a picture of the birthday boy or girl imprinted on the cake.

How do they do this? Well for starters, they use a computer and an inkjet printer.

There is a special line of inkjet printers that are food-grade, and they use a special line of ink that is food-grade as well. Now this cake is often produced or imprinted at a bakery facility that is under kosher supervision. In order to ensure that this project can be done just about anywhere, the manufacturers of these special inks for the inkjet printer ensure that the inks are kosher. Graphic Utilities that has the technical know-how to produce durable, edible inks using various food coloring pigments among other agents to keep this ink together and maintain its stability whether the cake is at an 85-degree outdoor party or sitting on a 40-degree refrigerator shelf. These inks are produced from a variety of edible liquids and contain a pigment very similar to that which you find in food coloring.

Currently being developed is a new line of inks which is totally natural in origin, unlike other food coloring, which usually has some sort of synthetic component. But here is a fascinating point. You see when you develop colors for an inkjet printer, there are many colors: red, yellow, blue/cyan, and black. Believe it or not, the black in this case was not hard to



develop, yellow was very easy to develop; turmeric and saffron are two common stable sources. Even the red is easy, comes from beet juice. But the blue has been the most challenging to develop, and that is why these colors are not yet available for general use.

Blue color comes from blueberries. Blueberries have anthocyanin, and that is what makes the blueberries so blue, and gives it a high antioxidant count. But when anthocyanin hits the paper - or in this case, the sugar film - the pH alters from blue to deep reddish purple; and the color is no longer what you desire. So there is going to be some amount of adjustment and of course a learning curve needed to develop these organic, fully natural inks.

Be that as it may, this is just one of many fascinating and totally unexpected situations involving a kosher-supervised product in an area that people give very little thought to. And this is the story of a very adept kosher company up in moose country developing a product, so that you can literally take your cake home with you and eat it too.

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Newfoundlanders Visiting Jewish Poland

by Michael Paul

Poland is a country for which I have had longstanding disquieting feelings. On the one hand it is the country of origin of my maternal grandparents, but on the other, it is the site of the greatest of killings of the Jewish people. For many years Poland was synonymous with the death of a proud and industrious people who once counted for 10% of the population of the entire country. It was therefore with mixed emotions that I finally decided to venture there. As it turned out, Poland, which had a very rich thousand year Jewish history, enough to fill many volumes, is now a country of Jewish cemeteries and memorial plaques, which on the whole are largely ignored by the indigenous Poles. They are mainly visited and read by tourists.

I was joined on this voyage into the past by a small group of Christian Newfoundlanders who wanted to learn more about Poland and its Jewish history.

Our trip began in Krakow, the ancient Royal capital city, with its medieval established Jagellonian University. Within 2 hours of our landing we were gathered with many others at the unspeakable death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau. There are not enough words in any language to describe the horrors which occurred in places such as these. In spite of the thousands of people there, we heard very few people speaking, other than for the guides, as most of us were too choked with bitter tears and emotions to say much. The most moving place in the camp was at a pond next to one of the destroyed crematoria where it is estimated that the ashes of 500,000 of the victims were dumped by the murderers. Wroclaw told us that there are stories that the neighbouring Poles performed unspeakable desecration of the place by

swimming in and diving into the ponds after the war to find gold and other valuables from the corpses.

Krakow itself has only a remnant of Jews remaining. Most Jews present in Krakow are foreigners who are there for business.



Janus Korczak memorial in Warsaw Cemetery.

There are 3 functioning shuls, but the famous Rem" A (Rabbi Moshe Isserles) shul is closed for renovations and so services are in the Kupa shul a block away. The nearby Jewish museum has stark photographs of the remnants of Galician Jewry as they appear in the small towns—mainly cemeteries which are no longer tended to.

We travelled to Tarnow, about 75km due east of Krakow. This town which was about 40% Jewish pre-war is virtually Judenrein. There are the ubiquitous memorial plaques. There is present the stark remnant of the Main (copper-domed) Shul, whose only fragment standing is the semi-burned bimah. This was the city of the Sanzer Rebbe and yeshiva, and the birth place of the famous Yiddish historian and founder of the Poale Zion movement, Yitzchak (Ignace) Schipper. Now, all is gone. Rzeszow, the city of my maternal grandparents, a further 60km eastwards was also the home of the founder of Esperanto—Dr Zamenhoff. The 2 former

shuls huddled side by side, are still standing, but one is now the city archives building and the other contains quaint shops. All Jewish recognition except for the usual plaque is gone. Across the street was the Jewish cemetery. All that remains of this holy site is a park with benches, and of course a plaque. To the north of Krakow we visited the small town of Wodzislaw, where the ruins of the ancient shul remain, behind a poorly tended fence. Wroclaw showed us a small shop where one can still see the indentation from a mezuzah, the only remaining sign of a once vital Jewish community. Now there are only plaques. Further north we entered Kielce, the infamous place where in July 1946, 44 Jews were murdered by Poles fearful that they wanted to reclaim their homes. There is a plaque where Pope John Paul II prayed and asked for forgiveness for these murders. The local government has

commemorated the area with a Menorah partially buried, but also reaching upwards to the sky. Close by there is a memorial to Jan Karski, a Christian escapee from Auschwitz who tried to tell Churchill and Roosevelt about the murder of the Jews, but who was largely ignored until it was too late. Continuing along the route to Warsaw, we entered Radom, another city of great Jewish learning, now emptied of Jews, where we "borrowed" the keys (for a sizeable tip) from a private Polish home for the over 200 year old Jewish cemetery. Many of the stones remain easily legible, and there is a small chapel for groups to meet and recite the Kaddish.

To the west of Warsaw is the city of Lodz (pronounced "Woodge"). This was the site of the infamous ghetto and the Judenrat headed by the controversial and often vilified leader Mordechai Rumkowski, who eventually perished in Auschwitz. All that remains of the old community is the small shul, which is situated in the

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interior courtyard of a very poor section of a working class neighbourhood with crumbling apartment buildings and bins of overflowing garbage. The story is told that shortly after the Germans entered Lodz, a German officer, who harboured some compassion towards the Jews, bought the Synagogue building. Now that it was owned by a German, it was guarded and not destroyed. It was returned to the remnant of the Jewish community after the war. It has since been abandoned, but remains unscathed in this crowded courtyard, almost un-noticed by its neighbours, who look curiously at visiting tourists. There are about 200 Jews in Lodz currently, and there is a Jewish Community Centre with a small shul which also serves as a Bais hamedrash. The old Jewish cemetery is amazingly large and was virtually untouched by the Nazis. The mausoleum of the Poznanski family dominates the area. They were great industrialists in the late 1800's and early 1900's who employed, at their peak, over 30,000 workers in the textile industry.



Tarnow Synagogue remnant

They were great benefactors to Jewish and non-Jewish causes. We visited the train station from which well over 100,000 Jews departed to the death camps. Of course, the usual plaques were present.

Warsaw itself is so filled with history that it would take serious tourists of Jewish history well over a month just to skim the important aspects of what to see and study. We visited the ghetto and its numerous

walls that kept changing as the size of the ghetto increased and then decreased after transports to the death camps, Mila 18 (the headquarters of the Warsaw uprising), the old Noyek shul, which is currently the headquarters of the JCC, the cemetery with the stones of the many famous personalities including that of Marek Edelman, one of the commanders of the 1943 Ghetto uprising who managed to survive General Jurgen Stroop's attempt to annihilate the fighters.

Our final stop was at the site of the new museum being constructed with the generous donation from mainly North American Jewry. This building is slated to open during the autumn of 2013. It will encompass the 1000 year history of the Jews in Poland culminating in the events of the Shoah. It will also serve as a centerpiece for educating students of all ages and backgrounds. It may just be worthwhile to return to Poland to visit this museum. All of us agreed that this visit was an amazing window to the past glory of Polish Jewry, and the sad realization that it is now all gone.



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The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem invites you to

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to receive national recognition at the
2013 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony
Monday, April 8, 2013, in Ottawa.

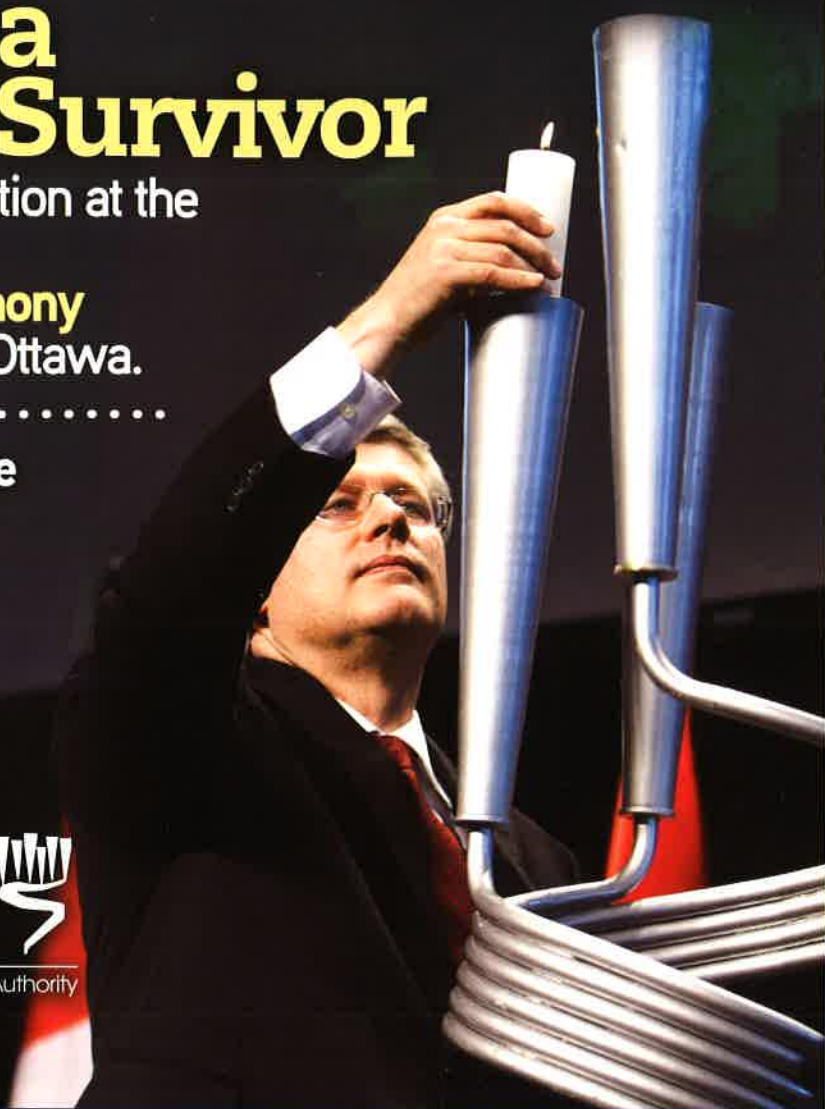
Holocaust Survivors are the heroes of our generation.
Having endured unimaginable horrors in the Holocaust, they rebuilt their lives in Canada, contributing to its growth, with strength, courage, and dignity.

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2012 National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

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For more information, email klara@yadvashem.ca or call 416-785-1333

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem (www.yadvashem.ca)

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem is one of the largest and most prominent societies among Yad Vashem's 28 representative bodies worldwide. The Society supports Yad Vashem's initiatives and implements its important vision across Canada. Through its educational and commemorative activities, the Society carries out Yad Vashem's mission of ensuring that the Holocaust and its lessons are forever engraved in the memory of humankind.

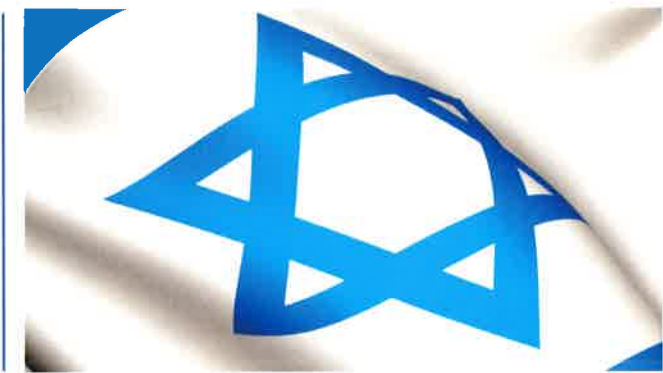
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The National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

With the enactment of the Holocaust Memorial Day Act S.C. 2003, C.24, and the establishment of a National Holocaust Remembrance Day by the Parliament of Canada, the Government of Canada signaled once more its longstanding commitment to ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are enshrined in the hearts and minds of Canadians.

Since that time, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem has had the privilege of leading a Zachor (Remembrance) coalition, a group of organizations committed to Holocaust commemoration and education, in coordinating a National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony on behalf of the Government of Canada.



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