

SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם

Spring 2013 Vol. 38 No.1

Sivan 5773

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 65TH



- SPECIAL FEATURES:
- CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 65TH
- YOM HASHOAH ATLANTIC CANADA
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





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ON THE COVER

- First Row** 1. Lt. Gov. NS, BG the Hon. J.J. Grant
2. NS Premier, Darrell Dexter
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5. Rear Admiral David Gardam
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Consul General Joel Lion
- Third Row** 7. Dancing the Hora
8. Daphna Tzur sings
9. Crowd singing

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Igor Naymark
*Igor and his family joined
the Jewish community in
Halifax four years ago and
he often volunteers both his
musical and artistic talents at
community events.*

שלום!

President: Michael Argand

The Atlantic Jewish Council

SPRING 2013

SIVAN 5773

VOL 38 NO. 1

Mailed under Canada Post:

Publications Mail Sales Agreement

No. 40052452

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Halcraft Printers Inc.

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This publication is printed by

Halcraft
Printers Inc.®

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

Email: sales@halprint.com

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 has been approximately four months since my last message to you. In my previous communication I outlined three goals --- to improve our community ties, to continue and strengthen our Holocaust educational programming and to strengthen our support of Israel. I want to add an additional challenge to our community -Tikkum Olam. I hope that you will join me in working towards these goals.

A number of very successful events have occurred in a very short time. As reported in the winter edition of Shalom, volunteers in our Halifax community helped out on Christmas day at Spencer House. Thank you Edna and her many volunteers. Edna has just informed me that her next community project will involve the community garden on the former QEH school site. Sounds like a great idea and I am looking forward to getting my hands dirty. Please join me.

We had a very well attended Purim Carnival that was organized by Maya Moscovich from our office with a tremendous amount of hard work from Derek Ross and Jennifer Wolfson and their committee. The plays performed by the various Hebrew School classes were well received, along with the games, food and entertainment. Purim plays and carnivals are a part of our tradition, and it warms my heart to see the children, parents and grand-parents enjoying themselves as volunteers and participants. This type of event requires a lot of community help and I am proud to say that our community worked together to accomplish a successful and fun event.

Professor Izzy Unger from Fredericton spoke at our Yom HaShoah memorial with over 200 people in attendance, including the public at large. I have attended many Yom HaShoah events, and this year's event was once again a moving experience. Professor Unger's experience as a public speaker made his presentation particularly riveting. Dr. Unger spoke of his personal experience as a child of the Holocaust, growing up in Tarnow, Poland. His memoir, *The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger*, is available through the AJC Office. Our teenage attendees of the Asper Foundation Washington trip gave a dramatic presentation reflecting teenage resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto. Zane Brown, Jacob Suissa, Lev Rayson, Peter Svidler,

Jonah MacDonald, Roy Maianski and Ben Kovacs have internalized our history and our community must continue to support, both financially and spiritually, the passing on of our heritage to the younger generation.

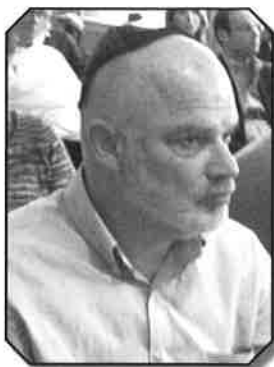
I attended the Reading of the Names in front of the Spring Garden Library and Premier Dexter read names as well, as he has in years past. I observed that he was very emotional as he did so and I expressed our appreciation of his continuing support.

Three events were held for Yom Ha'atzmaut for the 65th Anniversary of the State of Israel. Fredericton hosted an event with about 60 people. We had an Israeli singer that was lovely and encouraged the dancing. Marilyn Kaufman, thank-you for organizing! The baking was delicious! Thank you to the Kranats for their generous home hospitality offered to Consul General Lion, to me and my wife and to Perry Romberg, who all attended the Fredericton party.

Consul General Lion is visiting as many areas of Atlantic Canada as he can. As I am writing this now, he is visiting Newfoundland and he has hopes of visiting Cape Breton this summer. I want to express my appreciation of the Consul General's interest in Atlantic Canada, and look forward to seeing him again this summer.

In Halifax we had a bar-b-que and sing-a-long with over 200 attendees. Birthday cake made its appearance! Thank you to Maya and all the community volunteers once again for organizing the party, thank-you to Rabbi Maccabi for speaking, Olga Kulakevich for performing and a great big thank-you to the children who entertained us.

A second, more formal event was held in Halifax for dignitaries, hosted by Consul General of the State of Israel, Joel Lion. Community volunteers Myra Freeman and Sherry Pink helped organize an incredible affair--Thank-you. As President, as



I stood in the reception line with Consul General Lion, I was overwhelmed by the response the State of Israel received from the Halifax and Nova Scotia community. Premier Dexter, His Honour Brigadier General The Honourable J.J. Grant, two former Lieutenant Governors, Rear Admiral Gardam, Mayor Savage, the Chief of the RCMP, the Chief of HRM Police, Brigadier General Christopher Thurrott, members of both Parliament and the Legislature and Consuls from Chile, Poland, Finland, Switzerland, the United States, United Mexican States, Iceland, Brazil, Austria, Italy and many more were there to celebrate the founding of the State of Israel. One Consul approached me and complimented both the organization of the event and was astonished by the demonstration of support reflected by those in attendance. I believe that this can be attributed to the contribution that our Jewish community has given to the city, the Province, the Region and the Country. Speakers talked about their personal ties to Israel, about the contributions made by the Jewish community such as Ruth Goldbloom's z"l incredible accomplishment of Pier 21, the Spatz Theatre, the Ralph M. Medjuck Building for Architecture, and the Goldberg Computer Science Building which are merely the concrete examples of some of the gifts that have been made to our Atlantic community. But many of us work in many different ways to make our community a better place and it is the daily contributions that we make that make a difference.

On a personal note, I recently attended the retirement dinner of Tom Traves, President of Dalhousie University. The dinner was a warm, heartfelt tribute to Tom and all that he has given over 18 years, to the University, the city, the Province and our future generations. Tom's efforts are just one more example of the significant contributions our Jewish community has made.

I hope that next time I am writing to you I will be able to report on new committees and endeavors that are being considered to address the needs of our newcomers and young leadership. The AJC is working to provide these cultural programs and as always, we need your support.

From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

It is early in May here in Halifax, the warm sun is shining on Spring Garden Road. Welcome to our spring issue of Shalom magazine. The past few months, have seen a number of activities take place in our region. Most of these will be included in various articles from our communities and from our staff.

There is a dark cloud looming over the Canadian Jewish Community. For many years, we have been governed by the theory of the National Collective Responsibility (NCR). By this, I mean that the major Jewish Communities in Canada, Toronto and Montreal paid almost 90% of the funding for UIA - Federation of Canada. This percentage along with other smaller percentages was historically agreed upon by all the communities. We in Atlantic Canada also paid from our campaign to the national operations. Because of local problems, Toronto and then Montreal have announced major cuts to their national contributions for the coming year. The programs that will be cut are going to be decided in the next few months. Such things as campus operations, campaign services and other programs are on the table. It is most important that our lay leadership lobby for many of these services to be continued in our region. The next National meeting is in June, in Montreal, followed by the 2014 budget which will be presented in early December in Toronto. I will report further to our readers on this matter later in the year.

I want to congratulate all of the volunteers and their committees who made this year's Yom HaShoah programs so meaningful in their communities. Holocaust education is one of our most important functions, and every year through speakers

and programs we are able to reach out to thousands of our fellow citizens in Atlantic Canada.

This year we celebrated Israel's 65th anniversary in the Maritimes and I want to personally thank Consul General Joel Lion, who represents Atlantic Canada and Quebec for the State of Israel. Working with him and his staff, we were able to have excellent events in Halifax and Fredericton. A special thanks to Marilyn Kaufman and the volunteers in Fredericton. In Halifax, working with the incomparable Myra Freeman and the amazing Sherry Pink, along with the many volunteers we were able to, not only honour Israel, but bring honour and recognition to our own Jewish community.

Mr. Lion also visited St. John's, NL and met with members of their community. I look forward to hosting him in Atlantic



Canada in the summer, when he and his wife will be vacationing.

The MS St. Louis exhibit, a project that was funded by the federal government's Community Historical Recognition Program, I am pleased to say, is on the road. Presently the exhibit is in Yarmouth and will be traveling to PEI and Saint John, NB later in the year. This exhibit was a joint effort between the Atlantic Jewish Council, the Canadian Maritime Heritage Foundation and Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Our exhibit was launched at Pier 21 in Halifax and it will be on view in most of the major communities in Atlantic Canada within the next 2 years. Don't miss it when it opens near you!

On a personal note, next month our family will be celebrating the 70th Anniversary of my godparents and Aunt and Uncle, Miriam, the former Miriam Gold of Glace Bay, and Leonard Goldberg. The anniversary couple will be joined by their children, grandchildren, a great-grandson and other family and friends at a simcha here in Halifax. They have always been there for me and I wish them continued health and happiness together.

In closing, I want to thank our staff here at the AJC for their support and effort on behalf of Atlantic Jewry. Working with Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement and Mark David, CIJA Atlantic staff, on a daily basis only makes me appreciate their ability and their determination. Thanks to Svetlana Ratchinski, Maya Moscovich, Rabbi Ellis and Sarah Snider for your good work. I look forward to seeing many of our readers on visitor's day at Camp Kadimah on July 21st.

Best Wishes to all our readers and their families for a happy and healthy summer.



Daphna Tzur, left, performed Israeli songs at the reception with consul General Lion. Pictured with Judith Goldberg is Jon, the MC for the event.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

by Dorota Glowacka, Professor of Humanities, University of King's College

*Editor's note: Once again this year the AJC and the University of King's College sponsored an International Holocaust Remembrance Day program that included speakers Philip Riteman (Holocaust survivor), and Dorota Glowacka, The program also featured poetry by Janet Kravetz and musical performances by Magdalena Jennings (vocal), Viktoria Brunets and Yuliya Medvedchuk (violinists). Below is an excerpt from Dorota's talk and her most recent book, *Disappearing Traces*, is available for purchase from the AJC.*

As a Holocaust scholar, I read a lot of books about the Holocaust and they continue to inspire and shape my passion for the subject matter. But -- I also read them as a woman, yes, I read them as a woman, and this is why my question to you today: Does gender matter when we remember the Holocaust? That is, did Jewish men and women - in the ghettos, killing fields, camps, hiding places and the resistance - experience the horrors differently because they were men and women?

Before the war, men and women, for the most part, were expected to fulfill different social roles, where the majority of women were home-makers and caregivers while men were bread winners. It is not surprising that, although during the Holocaust they were brutalized regardless of who they were and where they were from, they experienced their victimization through a different lens, tried to cope with

it differently, and those who survived later attached different meanings to the fact of their survival. In that case, did their gender affect the ways in which the victims remembered the atrocities, how commemorated their murdered loved ones, and how they tried to cope with the past? Does our gender determine the uses we make of the past?

The Nazi ideology of racial purity targeted women as the bearers of the Jewish race, of lives "unworthy of living"; a number of anti-Jewish decrees and discriminatory measures were related to the issues of reproduction, maternity, and sexuality. As a result, Jewish women endured the combined violence of racism and sexism. In the death camps, women had a far lesser chance of survival since pregnant women and mothers with small children were sent immediately to the gas chambers upon arrival in the camps.

While, after the war, it was acceptable to describe other forms of violence, sometimes also extremely degrading (such as shaving of all hair, nakedness, excremental assault), very few female survivors ever admitted that they were sexually assaulted (though they sometimes described sexual violence that happened to someone else, someone they knew). We are now beginning to learn that rape occurred much more often than we previously thought (the new work on the killing squads in the East, for instance, shows that many Germans did not observe the prohibition on having sex with Jewish

women). Women's stories often had to wait: the stories that pertained to sexuality, sexual violence and the breaking of social taboos could not be told until feminist frameworks and support networks began to emerge

within which these stories could be told, shared and dealt with.

The Nazi program of extermination was designed to dehumanize the victims; to take away what made them individual human beings, what made them men and women. Yet, we prefer to keep silent about the fact that sexual violence was an essential part of that dehumanization; this is why I chose to talk to you about it. There are always parts of our pasts that will remain untold, some that we choose not to remember so that we can move forward with our lives. Which parts do we choose to remember and which do we condemn to oblivion, to the untold and why? We remember what we see, yes, but we only see what we know, what we have been taught to see, and these "frames of remembrance" have been constructed to safely contain the past. But maybe because it opens up new ways of seeing - making the images resonate in our own bodies, - art has the ability to challenge the ways in which we construct the meaning of what we have remembered. This includes finding new ways to tell the untold, the unspeakable stories of the victims' lives, in the fullness of their experiences as men and women.



Dorota Glowacka, right, signed copies of her book, *Disappearing Traces*, during the International Holocaust Remembrance Day reception, with from left, Molly Rechnitzer, Michael and Lillian Falk.



Magdalena Jennings, left, performed 4 songs a capella composed by Ilse Webber, a victim of the Holocaust, pictured with Edna LeVine Philip Riteman and Dorota Glowacka.

From the Desk of Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

The objective realism of a photograph visually communicates an observable past. Images of life/death in the concentration camps during the Holocaust have a disquieting effect on the viewer because of the somber factual style. Dorota Glowacka projected photographs from the Holocaust, with women as a focal point, as part of her presentation during a joint AJC and University of King's College International Holocaust Remembrance Day program. Glowacka is keenly interested in understanding and interpreting these images and she explained the burden and sorrow of women prisoners and their fateful relationship with the photographer. Dorota Glowacka has made a name for herself as a Holocaust scholar and has published books on the subject, her most recent, *Disappearing Traces*, is available for purchase from the AJC. An excerpt of her talk is on page 4 of this magazine.

Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman continued this winter and spring to fulfill speaking requests to educate students and the general public about the Holocaust. I travelled to St. John's for the community's Yom HaShoah program with Riteman as the keynote speaker to an audience of over 1,500. Please refer to page 17 for the article on this heartfelt program. Yom

HaShoah programs were organized in all of our communities with local Holocaust survivors Francis Weil and Israel Unger delivering keynote talks. Unger spoke in both Halifax and Moncton, simultaneously launching his memoirs, *The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger*, co-written with Carolyn Gammon. This spring and summer Unger will travel to communities in the Maritimes to launch his book and copies are available for purchase from the AJC. Detailed information on all of our communities' Yom HaShoah programs are in the Around Our Region section of this magazine.

This winter during my Holocaust education presentation to the school principals in the Tri-County Regional School Board I was fortunate to connect with Nova Scotia teacher Darren Cummings, whose passion for teaching included educating students about the Holocaust. This winter and spring, with the support of the regional school principals, he worked tirelessly to transport the Simon Wiesenthal Center's exhibit, *The Courage to Remember*, (owned by the AJC) to schools in the three counties. Darren's unwavering commitment to Holocaust education included community showings and talks in some of the most rural areas of Nova Scotia.

In February we organized a month long art show, Tom Forrestall: 35 Days in Israel, joined by Communities Culture and Heritage minister Leonard Preyra, at the Nova Scotia Public Archives. Community volunteers were instrumental to ensure success: Karen Conter supervised the installation, Lynn Rotin assisted with the opening reception and Schuyler Smith offered his knowledge and expertise in areas of



Edna LeVine, right, with Ann Divine, Manager Race Relations, Equity and Inclusion, NS Human Rights Commission at Israel's 65th celebration.

promotion and design. Tom Forrestall's genuinely affable nature attracted many community groups to book a private talk for his exhibit and our local Hebrew School enthusiastically participated in this learning experience. On page 12 of this magazine Schuyler Smith provides a personal reflection about this exhibit.

In May I will be attending the annual conference for the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies in Halifax. Renewing the Vision for Human Rights is this year's theme with a focus on expanding public awareness and inclusiveness in our community.

This summer and fall we will welcome about a dozen new families in Halifax. Fredericton will also become home to several new families as immigration continues to help sustain our Maritime Jewish communities.

Common Roots Urban Farm is a project of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness and this summer the AJC will partner with Spencer House, a local seniors centre, to offer community members an opportunity to support this innovative local community development project.

Holocaust Education Week programs (October 28th to November 9th) are in the planning phase. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht and the significance of this anniversary will be duly observed in Atlantic Canada.



Edna LeVine with the Ritemans and the organizing committee in St. John's.

Halifax Celebrates Israel's 65th

by Joel Jacobson

The joy of a huge birthday party filled the air in Halifax as more than 200 invited guests gathered to celebrate Israel's 65th anniversary of independence on Yom Haatzmaut.

Long-time observers claimed the April 21 event at the Lord Nelson Hotel brought together the largest number in memory of non-Jewish dignitaries at a Jewish event in Halifax. Included were the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, the Honourable J.J. Grant, politicians from all levels of government, members of the judiciary, and high ranking members of the military and law enforcement.

Hosted by the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Consul General of Israel to Atlantic Canada, Joel Lion, the gala reception included a selection of Israeli wines, and musical entertainment by Toronto-based, Israeli-born singer Daphna Tsur, who presented a 30-minute program of well-known Israeli songs and melodies that had many in the crowd dancing enthusiastically.

In brief remarks, Mr. Grant recalled his days in the military serving "on a peacekeeping force in the beautiful country of Israel."

Premier Darrell Dexter talked of his impressions after two visits to Israel, the last during a trade mission in 2011. Halifax mayor Michael Savage spoke

of two trips he made through CJC auspices during his time as the Liberal Member of Parliament from Dartmouth, N.S.

Canada's most senior military officer in the Atlantic area, Rear-Admiral David Gardam, brought greetings on behalf of the Canadian forces, recalling the cooperation between Canada and Israel as HMCS Toronto and the Israeli navy were on manoeuvres.

Prior to speaking, Consul General Lion showed a brief black and white film of Israel's history and then discussed the on-going economic cooperation between Canada and Israel, with specific mention of Nova Scotia.

Atlantic Jewish Council president Michael Argand of Halifax thanked Mr. Lion and presented him with a Tom



Premier Darrell Dexter, centre, with Israeli Consul General Joel Lion, left, and AJC president Michael Argand enjoy the celebrations at Israel's 65th reception.

Forrestall print of Camp Kadimah. Mr. Lion visited the camp last summer.

Halifax rabbinical clergy participated as Rabbi Ari Eisenberg of Shaar Shalom Synagogue led the audience in the prayer for the state of Israel, followed by Rabbi Amram Macabbi of Beth Israel Synagogue who blew the Shofar.



Rear Admiral Gardam addresses the audiences at Israel's 65th.



HRM Mayor Michael Savage personally reflects on his connection with Israel.

Photo by Igor Naymark

Photo by Igor Naymark

Photo by Igor Naymark



Premier Darrell Dexter addressess the audience at Israel's 65th.



Enjoying the celebrations, l to r: The Honourable Myra Freeman, Shimon Walt, Consul General Joel Lion and his wife Rivka.



Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Shirlee Medjuck, Lynda Suissa and Ralph Medjuck enjoy the festivities at Israel's 65th.



Victor and Judith Goldberg chat with Premier Darrell Dexter during the celebrations.

Photo by Peggy Walt



Jon Goldberg, AJC executive director and MC for the celebratory program.



Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant right, Mrs. Joan Grant, centre, and Miry Tauger, left, pose for a picture after the reception.

Fredericton Celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut

by Marilyn Kaufman

On Monday, April 22nd, the Fredericton Jewish community played host to the Israeli Consul General, His Excellency, Mr. Joel Lion, at a Yom Ha'atzmaut reception held at the Sgoolai Israel Synagogue in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's sixty - fifth anniversary of Independence.

Fine dining home hospitality was provided by Ayten and Marc Kranat where Mr. Lion had the opportunity meet with Fredericton and Halifax members of the Atlantic Jewish Council prior to the Synagogue reception.

Joining the sixty attendees for the festivities, were dignitaries, The Hon. Daniel Soucy, Minister of Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour, his Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Charles Ayles, and Members of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly, Mr. Brian Macdonald, Ms. Pam Lynch and Mr. Carl Urquhart.

Marilyn Kaufman, organizer of the event and the evening's MC, led the singing of O Canada, followed by Daphna Tzur leading us in Hatikvah.

Marilyn then gave a bilingual introduction of dignitaries and other special guests, which also included AJC President, Mr.

Michael Argand and his wife Joanne, U.I.A. Federations, Mr. Perry Romberg and Saint John AJC Representative, Dr. Joe Arditti and his wife Renee.

Michael Argand brought warm greetings from the Atlantic Jewish Council and later in the program introduced our guest speaker, Israeli Consul General, Mr Joel Lion.

In a letter read by Marilyn Kaufman, Member of Parliament, Hon. Keith Ashfield sent best wishes to the community citing that the continued strong bond of friendship shared by Canada and Israel, is due to their shared "founding on the universal values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law." He pointed out that "Canada was one of the 33 countries that voted in favour of the United Nations resolution, which called for a Jewish State, and Canada was one of the first countries to formally recognize the State of Israel."

Provincial Minister, Daniel Soucy, made the toast to the Queen and then brought greetings from the Province of New Brunswick. He gave a brief historical perspective of the Jewish communities in NB and their valued contributions to society. He likened the diverse backgrounds of New Brunswick Jewish immigrants to the background fabric pieces of a quilt



His Excellency Mr. Joel Lion toasts the State of Israel on her 65th anniversary of independence, L'chaim!

- both diverse, saying, "Diversity makes the world interesting".

His Excellency, Mr. Joel Lion, dynamic and charismatic, was well received by those who attended. In his remarks, interlaced at times with humour, he commented on "the miracle of Israel," the history of the Jewish people...how our roots are deep in the land and how we should be proud of her self determination and her achievements. "Any country in the world should love to be a friend of this nation." He even took a moment to point out to Minister Soucy that the cell phone technology used so rampantly today, has its roots in Israel.

One hundred and fifty - three years ago, Theodore Herzl gave voice to a dream of a Jewish state. "Everyone wanted to share



MLA Brian Macdonald, Michael Argand (AJC President), MLA Carl Urquhart, MC -Marilyn Kaufman, His Excellency, Mr. Joel Lion, Hon. Daniel Soucy, MLA Ms. Pam Lynch, Ayten and Marc Kranat (Dinner Hosts/AJC board member-at-large).



Fredericton, out-of-towners and dignitaries do the Hora.



*Marilyn Kaufman (Chair), Eileen Duguay
and Ayten Kranat -
The dream team to put it all together.*

in the ties of the realization of realizing this dream - building for the best for all of humanity." He then proposed a toast to the State of Israel.

Matthew Chippin thanked His Excellency and presented him with a glass framed pewter map of New Brunswick.

The festivities continued with a warm welcome for Daphna Tzur who engaged her audience in lively singing and dancing. We would love to have her back! This was followed by refreshments, tea and coffee,

fresh fruit and baked goods baked by Marilyn Kaufman, Larry Finkleman and Shawn Fenerty. The kosher wine, birthday cake and kosher smarties were furnished by Jon Goldberg, Executive Director of the AJC.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to my husband, Seymour Kaufman, Ayten and Marc Kranat, Eileen Duguay, Larry Finkleman, Shawn Fenerty, Ziv Iancu, Jon Goldberg, Perry Romberg, and Gordon and Seth Chippin from The Victory Meat Market Ltd. for your assistance in making this event a resounding success. Thank you to all those who helped with the clean up, especially Sydelle Grobe and Shelley Stephens who stayed very late.

Last of all, I want to say how gratifying it was to see all the members of the Jewish community who came out in support of this event, including the out of towners, the Ardittis and the Chaffers. We may be only 0.02 per cent of the world population, but our ties with one another are strong and we make our presence felt.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 65TH



Fredericton home hospitality at the Kranats.



*Matthew Chippin thanked His Excellency,
Mr. Joel Lion.*

TAU EPSILON PHI FRATERNITY



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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA**

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In 1932, Tau Epsilon Fraternity (TEP), a national American Jewish fraternity, established Tau Iota chapter at Dalhousie University. It was founded primarily because the Dalhousie Jewish students were excluded from joining the other University fraternities.

From that time forward, over the next fifty years, TEP provided a unique social and cultural venue for its members.

When Tau Iota became inactive, a Trust Agreement was formulated between Tau Iota chapter and TEP National Office which made provision for the establishment of scholarships at Dalhousie University. It was unanimously felt these scholarships would be in keeping with the spirit and ideals of Tau Epsilon Phi. These scholarships will be \$500.00 per student. However, they can only be awarded to legacies - children, grandchildren, great grandchildren of former members (alumni) of Tau Iota chapter.

For further information please contact:

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Generating a Lot of Heat, But Not Very Much Light

by Mark David – The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs – Advocacy Consultant
(Atlantic Canada)

Despite my many years of being involved in pro-Israel advocacy, I never cease to be amazed by the constant focus that much of the world seems to place on "all things Israel".

Sadly, the focus is not on the simple fact that Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East. Nor is it on the prodigious positive achievements by Israeli scientists, researchers, physicians, inventors, entrepreneurs and artists. (One current example is especially interesting. Just last month, in a medical first "in the field", an IDF medic used dry AB blood plasma to save the life of a Palestinian driver injured in a car accident in the Jordan Valley.)

Instead, it remains in vogue among certain groups of people to criticize Israel at every turn. The United Nations and some of its members, organizations and agencies

provide a constant stream of vitriol. Non-Governmental Organizations are no better. Human Rights Watch and nine other NGOs have nominated an Egyptian "activist" for a prestigious human rights award even though she has very publicly communicated through social media the most outrageous anti-Israel comments. Then there are those generally on the far left of the political spectrum who make specious allegations



about Israel's human rights and societal record, and, as a result, actively pursue the imposition of boycott, divestment and sanctions ("BDS") against Israel. When I think of all the people behind this activity, I think of the famous phrase uttered by the Captain Renault character in Casablanca, "Major Strasser has been shot. Round up the usual suspects."

All of this anti-Israel activity can be very disheartening. Indeed, it is nothing to be taken lightly. Much of it represents a new and twisted form of antisemitism, since the criticisms very often are based upon double standards not applied to any other country in the world, and essentially consist of nothing more than crass attempts to demonize and de-legitimize the world's only Jewish state.

Fortunately, the news is not all bleak. As was noted recently by David Koschitzky, Chair of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, the infamous "Israeli Apartheid Week" is basically a non-event for students on Canadian campuses. Further, the University of Regina Students' Union ended its involvement in the BDS movement and the University of Manitoba Students' Union also voted to prohibit Students Against Israeli Apartheid from receiving funds or using its facilities. BDS activity in the broader community in Canada and the United States has proved to be nothing more than the "usual suspects" earnestly preaching to each other.

Despite these rays of positive light, we need to remain vigilant and diligent in continuing to stand up for Israel. Enemies of Israel always seem to generate lots of heat in finding new ways to attack Israel. Thankfully, they almost never generate any light.

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Israeli Journalist Speaks Out on Syria, Middle East

by Joel Jacobson

Jonathan Spyer confirmed what others before him have been saying: If the United States and the west don't show strength against Iran's alleged development of nuclear arms, then Israel will have to act alone to stop the threat.

Speaking to an audience at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax, the senior fellow at the Global Research in International Affairs Centre, Herzliya, Israel, and Jerusalem Post columnist, said, "If the US doesn't rise to the occasion, and it appears it won't as (President) Obama wants to do more with his domestic policy than his foreign policy, Israel might have to accept a nuclear Iran or act unilaterally. Talk (by the West) can only go so far. Without a credible threat from the West, Israel has to step up or Iran will move forward."

Spyer was concluding a week-long speaking tour that covered Toronto, Hamilton, Fredericton, NB, and Halifax. The engagement was sponsored by The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs with the Maritime portion assisted by Atlantic Jewish Council.

While in Halifax for one busy day, Spyer also met with media, and addressed students of Dalhousie University's political science and Centre For Foreign Policy Studies programs, and the Dalhousie Law School.

At Beth Israel, Spyer noted Arab Spring, the tumultuous overthrow of despotic regimes in Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Egypt, has presented advantages to Israel.

"The Sunni-Shia on-going conflict in Iran and the civil war in Syria have kept these nations busy internally. And while Iran has the wealth to finance its own military and other programs, countries where Sunni Islamists have taken control are broke financially. The Sunnis are weak and disorganized, with massive problems of illiteracy and feminist uprisings so have internal struggles. That's a benefit to Israel."



Israeli journalist and Middle East expert, Jonathan Spyer, spoke at Beth Israel Synagogue in Halifax during a Maritime tour.

He stressed Israel is a close neighbor to the failures of Arab states and their unwillingness to move forward. Israel can defend itself against these enemies because "we have a wonderful economy and a strong military that is capable of overcoming the threat of the Sunni Islamists.

He gave an overview of the Syrian civil war to the Dalhousie political science and foreign policy students.

He said Syrian president Bashar al-Assad told the Wall Street Journal in early 2011 that Syria would not be affected by Arab Spring because he was not elected and

didn't represent the people. After he failed to crush demonstrations that started in March 2011, and then spread, he offered some concessions that didn't work. A month later, he was trying to forcefully allay confrontations but they escalated into armed revolt that still exists two years later.

The result of the fighting has been a military stalemate but a disaster in human terms, with the loss of almost 100,000 lives and 1.2 million Syrians fleeing to other Middle East countries.

"The regime of Assad has lasted longer than anyone thought it would," Spyer said. "He has suffered no losses of core people around him and his security forces have remained in place even though many lesser officials and rank-and-file people have left him. Meanwhile, the rebels have been dogged by an inability to unify into a single structure, without a defined leader."

Spyer has been in northern Syria several times during the conflict and has seen the suffering of the Syrian people. "Conditions are dreadful. Even if the (Assad) regime falls, don't assume things will go back to normal. The various Sunni elements will struggle to decide who will be the new boss. It will lead to new conflicts."



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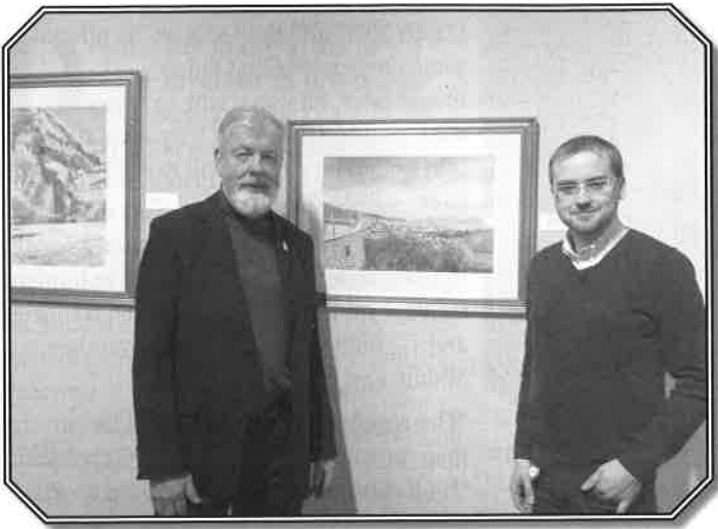
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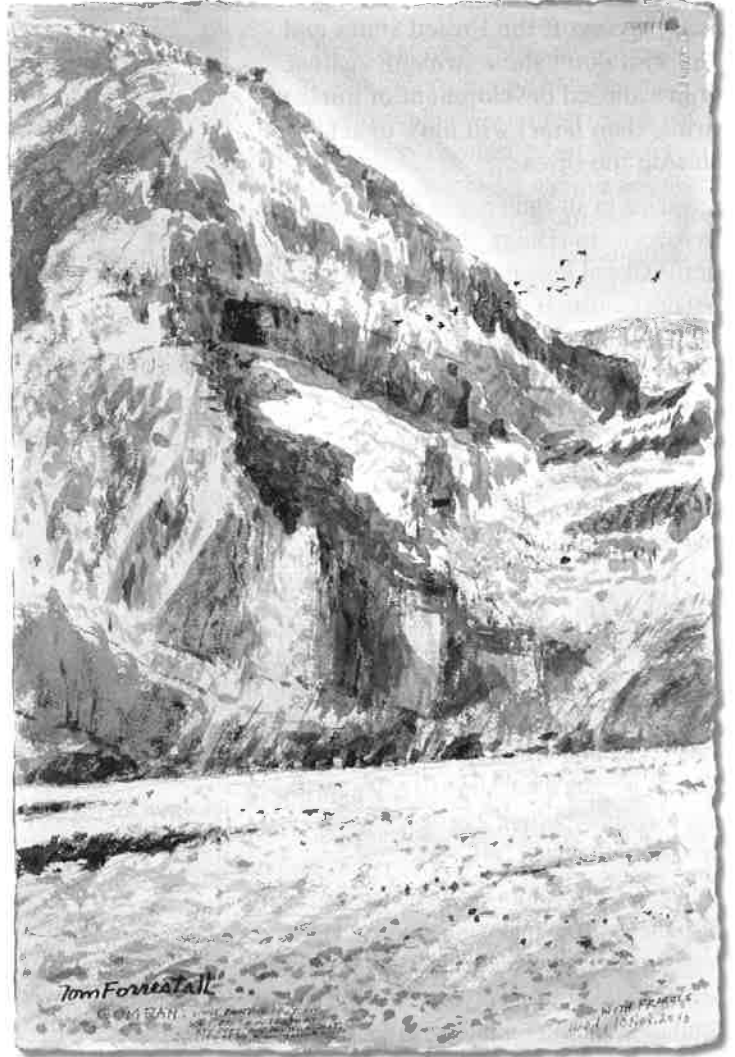
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AJC Hosts Art Show in Halifax: Tom Forrestall, 35 Days in Israel

by Schuyler Smith



Tom Forrestall (left) and Schuyler Smith (right) pose in front of my favourite piece, *The Nimrod Look-Off*, Rosh Pina.



"When painting I dipped my wet brush in earth at my feet, and painted with it...
It was the right colour."

This February I met one of my idols. I grew up with his paintings all around me. At home we had a painting of a flock of Canadian Geese migrating, on a canvas that was 'V' shaped, coming off the wall, like an open book. At my Zayde's home, immediately upon entering is a large canvas shaped like an '8' with a boy climbing a tree, over a weathered oil drum at the bottom. When staying at his house I would sleep underneath a painting of the same young boy, looking out of a window with binoculars on a clover shaped canvas. These high-realism images, painted on three-dimensional and whimsical shaped canvas taught me a lesson I carry with me to this day. I can thank Tom Forrestall for that.

In the fall of 2010, Tom Forrestall joined a delegation from the Atlantic Jewish Council on a trip to Israel. He was accompanied by his son, the same boy from the paintings, who made a video of their exploits. Forrestall was tasked with painting the sights, the people, and the... um, cats, of Israel to bring back the wonder and beauty of the Promised Land. He did so in a series



Jon Goldberg, centre, welcomes people to the opening reception, pictured with Tom Forrestall, left.



Reverend Bill and Gerry Styles, left, enjoy the show with Schuyler Smith and co-host Leonard Preyra, MLA, Halifax Citadel - Sable Island.



At the opening reception, Yulia and Alex Sultan-Shah and Claudia & Frank Kravetz.

of watercolours that contain some very interesting stories, and in some cases they contain the very earth of Israel, used to colour some of the browns and tans of the land.

The AJC had a chance to show off the paintings recently in a month long exhibit at the Chase Gallery in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. There was a large turn-out for the 'vernissage' with dignitaries, and community members from every area and walk of life. The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design students stood out well in their flamboyant art-school charm.

I was happy to meet Mr. Forrestall, who quickly corrected me by making me call him Tom. It was nice to share stories. We talked about the importance of realism

and abstract in painting. He shared a story about my grandfather, and signed a show-book of the exhibit for me to send to him. Most strikingly, he showed me his notebook. In the book were pages upon pages of sketches, in perfect

perspective of rooms, people, and places.

A real glimpse into his imagination and process. Tom is a remarkable artist.

The show was not without the customary controversy that is often dredged up unnecessarily by media outlets desperate for that little bit of conflict that makes news titillating. The contention this time was that the paintings show no signs of the struggle over occupied land contained in the paintings, thereby 'art-washing' the occupied Palestinian land into a peaceful Israel. I miss the days of Olga Milosevich (former arts reporter for CBC) who could show art was interesting and culturally relevant without reaching for conflict that is unnecessary. In the end, I do believe that the controversy stirred up by the CBC was ultimately in our favour, driving up

ART SHOW IN HALIFAX



David Shannon, CEO NS Human Rights Commission chats with Michael Argand, AJC president.

visits to the Chase Gallery; this was the most visited show they have had to date.

You may be wondering what that lesson I learned from Tom was as a child, and what it has to do with the show. Well... it's simply this: In everything, there must be something wrong for it to be noticed. For Tom's work it was the shape that was wrong, no perfect rectangles like every other painting I had ever seen. A little bit of the unusual makes something require a deeper look. That burnt out letter in the neon sign makes you take a second look. The extra loud commercials make you focus on the advertisement during your show. The death at the start of a good mystery novel spurs you to seek the truth. And in this case, the controversy of CBC making a controversy made people pay attention, and visit the show.

The exhibit will continue on to Toronto next, but I would like to make a call to the community to keep the paintings in Atlantic Canada. So if you want an amazing piece of our heritage, as interpenetrated by the incomparable Tom Forrestall, please contact:

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

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Campus News

by Sarah Snider, Director of Campus Services

As we wind down the 2012-13 school year, I would like to reflect upon what a wonderful, eventful year it's been. From our weekly programs like Coffee Tuesdays, yoga, Brews and Jews, and Parsha and Pancakes to our monthly Shabbat dinners and one-off programs, we've had a great schedule filled with activities that appealed to a wide range of students. This semester, specifically, brought about some really fantastic events and long-term projects at Hillel Atlantic.

For one of our biggest events of the semester, Israel on Campus (IOC) partnered with models from Atlantic Fashion Week and DalDance to put on a fashion show fundraiser that raised over \$1000 for Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli organization that provides life saving heart surgeries for children from third world countries and underprivileged backgrounds. The event was a huge success, with media coverage from local Halifax newspapers helping to spread awareness.

IOC also held various programs to inform students about the situation in the Middle East and Israeli politics. Through the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, IOC hosted Jonathan Spyer, an expert on political upheavals in the Arab world, whose informative speech was very well received by all audience members, regardless of religious or political background.

Additionally, Israel on Campus put on a film screening of the documentary The Case for Israel and held an Israel advocacy training Shabbaton. The society, which exists on the campuses of Dalhousie University, King's College, and Saint Mary's University, looks forward to continuing its important work in the upcoming school year.

A different side of advocacy was accomplished through Hillel's Meet and Greet Interfaith Shabbat Dinner with the Muslim Students Association, attended by Jewish and Muslim students from the universities in the Halifax area. This dinner was sponsored by the Avi Schaefer Fund and planned out and prepared jointly by Hillel and the MSA. Held in the Dalhousie Multifaith Centre, the Friday night dinner was enjoyed by all who attended, and laid the groundwork for future events and partnerships with the MSA.

Hillel celebrated Jewish holidays in the classic Jewish way, with food-based



fun. For Tu B'Shvat, we held a Tu B'Shvat Seder where each of the Seven Species was presented by a different student who gave a little speech, bit of information, or poem about his or her food, which we then, of course, ate. Purim brought with it a Hamentashen baking event, where we baked enough of the delicious cookies to feed all the students at the Shabbat dinner right after Purim. The King's Jewish Connection, a branch of Hillel Atlantic, planned and held an excellent Passover Seder which was attended by students from all over Halifax.

To close the year off with a bang, Hillel and IOC partnered with each other to hold an end of the year barbeque bash. But that wasn't all: In order to leave a legacy for next year, students cleared out the backyard of the Bayit and built raised beds for the planting of new organic Hillel garden, Gan Egoz, or Walnut Garden. Students will be working on this garden throughout the summer, and its produce will be used for the Shabbat dinners of the fall semester.

Hillel Atlantic would like to wish you all a great summer!

The Atlantic Jewish Foundation

would like to thank all the families who joined the PJ Library Program.

The program is now full and registered families are enjoying their books and CDs.

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An Immigrant's Story: My Soon-To-Be-Published Book of Poetry and Images - A True Community Project

by Janet Kravetz

Who is Topaz Ruby? Well, it is my pen name in my soon-to-be-published book "Reaching Beyond Ourselves - Leading A Spiritual, Peaceful and Diverse World".

My day job is a policy analyst with the Government of Nova Scotia and this will be my first published book. It contains my poetry and images, some of which will be displayed in May at the Eye-Level Gallery. The book will also feature artwork by established and world-renowned Nova Scotia artists.

This book, described by an Emmy-nominated writer Cynthia Whitcomb as "a song for peace" is also an open love letter to Judaism, Israel, and to our world and environment in general.

As a Ukrainian-born woman who lived in Israel for 20 years and immigrated to Nova Scotia in 2009, I am often asked (in one way or another) what it means to be Jewish and Israeli. I hear at parties: "oh, you are a lawyer in Israel and Jewish, your mom must be proud!" Although I smile at

such remarks made by non-Jewish people, I often stop to think about the enormous gaps in what Judaism stands for and its common public perception.

Last summer, I attended a writing workshop in Nova Scotia. I wrote poetry that can be classified as Jewish Philosophy. I wrote about the Holocaust and about Judaism.

I was the only Jewish writer at the retreat, so I couldn't ask anyone questions that were arising from my writing - questions like how much should I write about the past of the Jewish People and how much should I dedicate to wishing a better future? How do I incorporate my cultures and languages into my work in a way that would present a proud and strong Jewish-Russian-Speaking-Israeli-Canadian-female identity, while enriching the Canadian multiculturalism?

"What does it mean to be a Jewish writer and person today?" I wondered. I try to answer that in my book. Writing about life in Israel and what Judaism means to

me, I showed my writing to Edna LeVine. Edna was very supportive, so I just kept writing. I started reading poetry at Holocaust memorial events and it wasn't long until I received



Janet Kravetz recites her poem, Odelia, at the International Holocaust Remembrance Day

acknowledgments and mentorship from top writers and academics. I felt like the entire community came together to help me with this initiative.

Rabbi Ari Sherbill expressed his support and interest in my manuscript through e-mails from Israel, while answering my specific questions on Jewish philosophy. Jutta Stawitz is advising me on all matters related to self-publishing and has been a great source of information. Alexander Sultan-Shah, a newcomer from Israel, volunteered to build a beautiful website for the book (www.rudepeacetalks.com). Professor Natan Nevo and Halifax Jewish community member Dawn Frail volunteered to read my manuscript and provide invaluable feedback. Finally, I am looking into ways to incorporate in my book the art of artists whose work I admire, Nevo and David Silverberg.

I feel that I am truly blessed to be part of such a great community (with an emphasis on unity). I would like to say a big thank you to all of you and to the AJC for its generous support!



Janet Kravetz, right, and her sister Ella, with Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman at the International Holocaust Remembrance Day reception.

Camp Kadimah

by Jared Goldlust, Director of Camp Kadimah

The temperature is finally heating up which, of course, means that camp cannot be too far away. This summer, Kadimah will be celebrating its 70th year of existence. And while a lot has changed in the world we live in since 1943, the core values of Camp have not. I would argue that Camp remains one of the few places where kids can just be kids and learn the values of appreciating and respecting other people, and improve their skills of direct communication. I find that today's youth (and many adults too) are obsessed and accustomed to only looking at a screen and not a face. TVs, computer screens, iPads, phones, video games... and the list goes on. Most children are much more comfortable in front of these devices than they are with people. While there is some great benefit to the tremendous

advancement and access to technology, I ask you: where are our kids learning how to speak to their peers? How do they learn independence without their parents or gadgets next to them? Why do they feel more comfortable speaking through text or 140 characters than through voice?

Camp is the one place that forces kids to "unplug" and be in an environment that is all about the people around them. At Kadimah, "screens" are simply not allowed in the cabin or in camp at all. Without their electronic crutch, campers naturally resort to "old school" tendencies, of speaking to their cabin mates, laughing with their staff



and sharing in a fun communal experience that is camp. Kids grow up socially at camp; they learn how to negotiate conflict, how to share a common space with their peers, how to be a leader and so much more. Camp is the mecca of socialization – where being with your friends and being nice to others is celebrated, not just encouraged.

So for this summer, and for the next 70 summers, let's not forget about the important skills and values that our youth are deprived of in this technology age. And remember that what they may be losing can always be found at a summer camp in Barss Corner, Nova Scotia.

Camp Kadimah welcomes you to join us at camp this summer for our Pre-Gibbie Day (July 14) for future campers aged 6-9 or on Visitors Day (July 21). For more information and to see highlights from the summer, go to www.campkadimah.com or email info@campkadimah.com!

Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) is observed on the 27th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar. This year, the sombre anniversary falls on April 8. In remembrance of the millions murdered, Henry Srebrnik penned this short poem.

"The Death and Life of the People and Land of Israel" by Henry Srebrnik

Millions were annihilated in Auschwitz; in Ashdod their descendants are reborn.

Belzec is a graveyard; but the sons of Isaac have rebuilt Beersheba.

Only the dead inhabit Chelmno; in Haifa Mount Carmel stands guard over the city.

While Majdanek is a nightmare, Metula breathes the air of a reborn nation.

Sobibor no longer exists; in Safed Jews can dream anew.

*From Treblinka to Tiberias is a straight line;
the ashes of the dead have fertilized the fields of the living.*

Henry Srebrnik, whose parents were Holocaust survivors from Czestochowa, Poland, is a professor of political science at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Yom HaShoah in NL: Philip Riteman

by Jonathan Richler

During the summer of 2012 our member, Shimon Wilansky, presented the Havura executive with a tremendous opportunity. Shimon had recently been in contact with Dr. Phillip Riteman and his wife, Dorothy, who reminisced about their 30-plus years in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was decided amongst the three that perhaps Phillip might return to St. John's on Yom Hashoah for 'one last talk,' his only condition that Shimon contact his old friend Mr. Harry Steele, for a modest accommodation.

Phillip's extensive influence to inspire goodwill was fully demonstrated when this simple request manifested in an open invitation of assistance from the VOCM Cares Foundation, a division of Steele Communications.

Phillip had travelled – and in later years - spoken all across our province. Memories of his stories and the ever-present twinkle in his eye run deep. Keeping this in mind the Havura's Holocaust Memorial Service Committee assembled and held lengthy meetings over the months to accommodate a much larger than normal attendance. Where the community normally holds an event to accommodate 300 people, we anticipated a crowd upwards of 1,000 and therefore secured the Ball Room at the Sheraton.



Philip Riteman

Calls went out to media, schools, religious institutions and officials and by February the confirmed guests included representatives of the Queen and every level of government. With the help of Edna LeVine contact was made with the Provincial Governments Department of Education's Centre for Distance, Learning, and Innovation. A full recording of the Service was arranged including an interview with Phillip, and the final product will be introduced into the Grade 10 and 12 History Curriculum for the province.

The local paper carried a feature article, and all television and radio stations provided ample air time for interviews and announcements. Reserve seats quickly filled to 65% capacity by the middle of March, with many schools and church groups booking blocks of 20 – 50 seats. Three days to the event a decision was made to provide audio/visual accommodations for the overflow room.

As it turned out this was a wise move. On the day of our Service we welcomed 1,500 people into the Ball Room and the outer chamber. The rooms quickly filled up and volunteers from the Havura, Beth-El Synagogue and



Jonathan Richler

the Duke of Edinburgh Society efficiently ushered guests to their seats.

As every Ball Room chair was in use, the Sheraton was therefore able to accommodate over 150 additional guests in the emptied storage rooms at the back. This year, a new precedent was set for the phrase 'standing room only,' and the air conditioning was severely tasked to keep everyone comfortable. As I stood on the podium in my role as moderator, it was fascinating to see so many attentive faces. It was also satisfying to note that so many present were teenagers.

The Service was honoured to have two grandchildren of Newfoundland soldiers who liberated the European Camps in attendance. Moreover, not one but two Survivors participated. Mr. Ernie Mauskopf sang El Mali Rachamim to our respectful, silent guests. Representatives of both community groups lit the 6 Memorial Candles; a representative of the Government, Mr. Sandy Collins, MHA, who also spoke on behalf of the province, lit the 7th.

Kaddish Hashoah, Psalm 23, the Shema and the blowing of the Shofar were led by Havura members. Ms. Maggie Burton played the Nigun on violin. Phillip arose and spoke for 30 minutes, successful in shaping the horrors of a lifetime into such a short amount of time. All who heard him

continued on page 18



Philip Riteman, centre, with his wife Dorothy and Sargent Stone.



candle lighting ceremony



Ruth Noel and Philip Riteman

continued from page 17

understood that Survivors of genocides live with their horrors on an hourly basis. For two hours following the Service, many who came transmitted that understanding to Phillip via a simple, long hug. It should also be mentioned that Flanker Press made his book, *Millions of Souls*, available after the Service and sold out in less than one hour.

A special thank you to Mr. John Steele and Ms. Kelly Reid from the VOCM Cares Foundation, the AJC, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and Dr. Wayne Gulliver for their

assistance in helping us meet the financial requirements for accommodations and logistics. Professional film editors, marketers and photographers donated their services in-kind to the Service. The Havura is grateful to Mr. Christopher Darlington, Mr. Eli Baker, and Mrs. Melanie Courage and Mr. Dennis Conway for their time.

The Jewish Community Havura thanks the members of the Committee: Nancy Bennett, Chava Finkler, Susanne Gulliver, Elena Hannah, Elizabeth-Anne Malichewski, Ruth Noel, Trina

Rosensweig, Gil Shalev, and Linda Wilansky. A special thank you to Claire Frankel-Salama, Barbara Grandy, David, Ayla and Sofia Rouah from the Beth-El Synagogue.

On behalf of my Co-chair, Mr. Shimon Wilansky and myself, we were pleased to share and commemorate this day with so many people. We take tremendous pride in the dedication our province demonstrates toward Holocaust education and we're excited that future generations will share in this years' Yom Hashoah as they pass through our school system.



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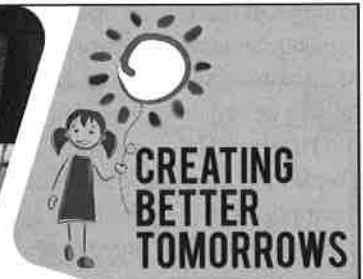
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Unger Talk Highlights Halifax Yom Hashoah

by Joel Jacobson

An overflow crowd at Saint Mary's University's Sobey's Building Scotiabank Theatre in Halifax solemnized Yom Hashoah April 8.

More than 200 people heard Holocaust survivor Israel Unger of Fredericton relate his story of fear and longing, of hunger and distress, and finally of salvation and a new beginning.

The audience was captivated by the sterling voice of Magdalena Jennings, a University of King's College student who sang four songs in German that had been written by Ilse Weber in the concentration camps, and later recovered. Janet Kravetz read her poem, Thank You Steven Spielberg.

The audience was captivated by six young men from the Asper Foundation Human Rights program who narrated stories of people from the Holocaust, Zane Brown, Benjamin Kovacs, Jonah MacDonald, Roy Maianski, Lev Rayson, Jacob Suissa and Peter Svidler.

Yet it was Unger's passionate address that



Israel Unger and program co-host Dr. David Gauthier, Vice President Academic and Research, Saint Mary's University.

was most captivating as he urged us to remember how fragile democracy is and how we must defend the core of human values.

Born in 1938, Unger was a five-year-old in Tarnow, Poland when the Germans started ghettoizing the 25,000 Jews (of a total town population of 56,000). Two years later, at seven, he was liberated, after living through two horrendous years that will forever be etched into his memory.

"I remember fear." He said. "We knew what the Nazis intended. The only thing we didn't know was when, where and how. I recall telling my father one day I knew I was going to die and saying the Shema with him many times in that day.

"I recall a Nazi soldier entering our home and preparing to shoot my father, only to have my brother (four years older than me) grapple with the soldier to try to prevent him shooting. That fifteen seconds or so saved my father's life as the soldier's superior officer arrived and said to stop, that the time for killing in that day was over, as they had specific time restrictions."

He related how he and his brother were lifted over a ghetto wall by their father, trying to escape, and were successfully on the other side when they heard shots killing others trying to escape. He told of living in an attic above a flour mill for most of that two-year period until the Russian Army arrived to rescue them.

He questioned what the number six million (Jews slaughtered in the Holocaust) really means. "I can relate to individuals going through traumatic situations but six million? It's such a huge number. What does it really mean?"

He fretted over individual and small groups of children being decimated by the Nazis, specifically a group of 26 from France who were used in medical experiments by the Germans in Hamburg and, 10 days prior to the end of the war, were killed by their captors.

After he read three of the names he said, "That took me maybe 15 seconds. The Nazis killed 1.5 million Jewish children. If I recited the names of all these children for eight hours a day, it would take 260 days to recite them all."

The annual Yom Hashoah candle lighting, to commemorate those lost in the Holocaust, was performed by Michael Argand, president of the Atlantic Jewish Council, David Gauthier, vice-president, academic and research at Saint Mary's University, Leonard Preyra (NDP), MLA for Halifax and Sable Island, Mark Rosen, co-president, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Steven Zatzman, president, Beth Israel Synagogue, the six young men representing the Asper Foundation, and Israel Unger and all survivors or survivor family members present. Rabbi Amram Maccabi of Beth Israel Synagogue recited the memorial prayer.



Marlene & Israel Unger, left, with Edna LeVine and Magdalena Jennings.



Michael Argand, AJC president, left with the Ungers and a full audience.

AROUND OUR REGION: HALIFAX

photo by Isaac Moscovich



Enjoying the Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities, l to r, Elena Lyubocky, Judith Goldberg, Svetlana Kogas, Svetlana Ratchinski and Genny Erlich.

photo by Isaac Moscovich



Olga Kulakevich entertains the crowd at the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

photo by Isaac Moscovich



The Hebrew School children perform during Yom Ha'atzmaut, with Bracha Korn at the piano.



Carnival games entertained children during the community purim celebration.



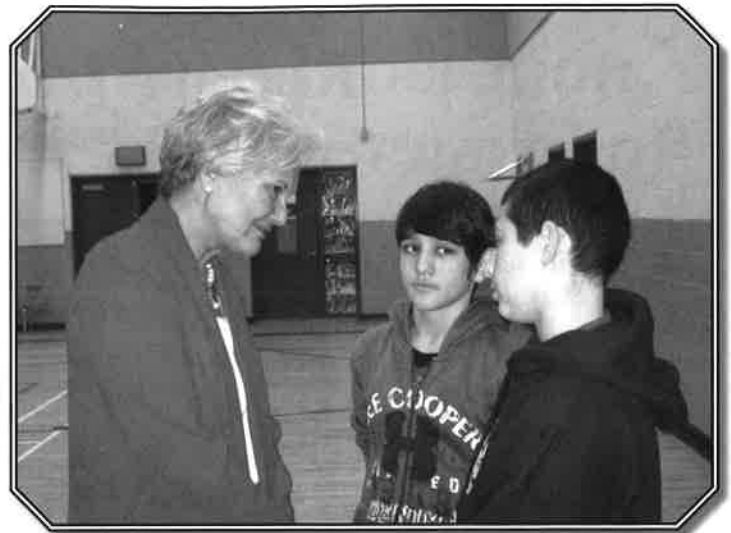
Hebrew School children enjoy a Passover seder.



Outdoor fun at the community Lag B'Omer picnic.



Violinists, Yuliya Medvedchuk, left, and Viktoria Brunets performed Song from *A Secret Garden* by Rolf Lovland and *Poem* by Zdenek Fibich as part of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day program at the University of King's College.



Citizenship Award Day at Park West School in Halifax. The Honourable Myra Freeman, and Grade 7 students Daniel Muchnick and Elias Vaida.



Howard Epstein, right, MLA Halifax Chebucto and Leonard Preyra, MLA Citadel-Sable Island, reading the names of Holocaust victims at the Yom HaShoah "Unto Every Person There is a Name" program.



Premier Darrell Dexter participated in our Yom HaShoah program, "Unto Every Person There is a Name", reading of names of the victims of the Holocaust, in front of the Spring Garden Road Public Library in Halifax.



Jacob Korn, centre, chats with Marcie Gilsig, right, and his wife Bracha at the Yom HaShoah reception.



Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program 2012 Halifax students, l to r: Jacob Suissa, Roy Maianski, Lev Rayson, Peter Svidler, Zane Brown, Jonah MacDonald, and Ben Kovacs.

They participated in the Yom HaShoah program at Saint Mary's University and received their **Memorandum of Personal Responsibility from the Asper Foundation** signifying their completion of the program stating that "...as a young adult...we trust that you will pass on the message of the Holocaust, the need for respect and the preservation of human rights for all peoples."

Report from the Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama, Congregation Beth El

As we count the Omer, we look forward not only to blintzes for Shavuot, but double digit temperatures and spring. We survived the winter, we survived Pesach, & now we hope for our well-deserved reward.

January was January, not much except for cold, snow and Tu B'shvat which we celebrated with an Oneg. Besides the required species, we served fruit from Israel (usually oranges, clementines or dates) which we buy as often as we can at Costco and the local supermarkets. At the end of January my husband and I left for a sabbatical term to Seville where we were delighted by the sight of thousands of orange trees with their heavy, bitter (think marmelade) fruit, a sight that was enjoyed by the Jews of Spain before they were expelled in 1492. In fact, the small city of Eciija, just outside of Seville, was the sight of the first pogrom against the Jews of Spain.



Statue of Maimonides, Cordoba, Spain

We were also pleased to meet the tiny Jewish community of Seville that maintains a fully functioning little synagogue in the old city at Bustos Tavera, 8 (see accompanying photo). Besides the regulars, most of whom were born in Morocco and the United States, we met many Jewish students attending the University of Seville in order to improve their Spanish, and several tourists from France, Israel and the U.S. We also had the privilege of listening to the Megillah during Purim in one of the oldest Jewish communities outside of Israel, one that is surrounded by the intense preparations for the Catholic Holy Week. The community was most welcoming and my husband was invited to daven and give several "Dvar Torah"s. If you visit southern Spain,

be sure to drop by on Friday evening or Saturday morning, and you will be most warmly received.

Meanwhile, back in St. John's, Ernie Mauskopf read the Megillah and a Seudat Purim was enjoyed by about fifteen members and friends.

By the time we returned, it was almost Pesach, and time to prepare the synagogue for our annual Community Seder. A huge thank you to Dan Downey who helped with the cooking, to Robin Anderson and Bonnie Leyton who helped with the setting up, and all those who cleaned up after the Kosher turkey dinner for 30 guests. The meal was delicious, the Tishbi wine flowed into the four cups and the Haggadah was read by all who wished to take part.

Shortly after Pesach we participated in the annual Holocaust Memorial service. This year Philip Riteman spoke to over 1,000 people at the Sheraton Hotel. Kudos to Jonathan Richler and his excellent PR team for spreading the word. Philip has spoken to thousands of students in Newfoundland and Labrador and it came as no surprise that so many people came out to hear him.

Now that Pesach is over, the school groups have been descending upon us in droves. We were pleased to welcome



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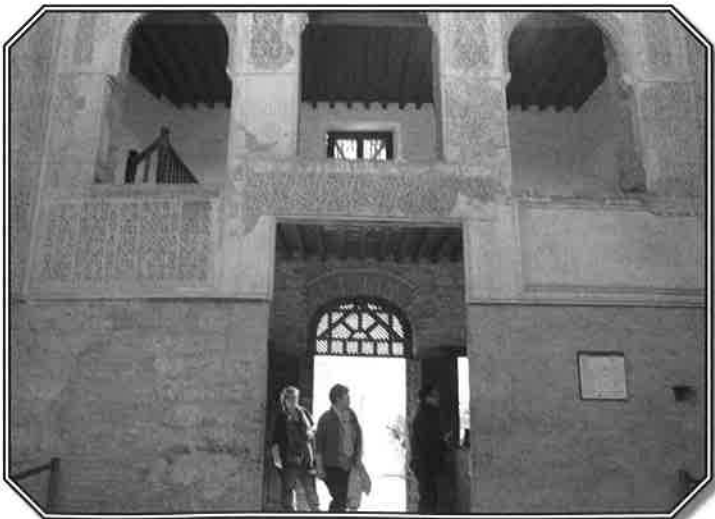


Students from St. Kevin's High School, Goulds, NL, visiting Beth El

17 students from Holy Trinity High School, 41 from St. Kevin's High School, 43 French Immersion pupils from Mary Queen of Peace and 68 English stream pupils from the same elementary school. All groups go home with a box of leftover matzah to remember us with and to help us get rid of it before next year's Pesach preparations. This week I will be visiting Prince of Wales Collegiate to speak to the students studying "Enseignement Religieux".

This Thursday, May 2nd, the Consul General of Israel, Rabbi Joel Lion, will be visiting St. John's for the first time. A town hall meeting is planned on Thursday, May 2nd at the social hall of Beth El synagogue and all are invited to take part. The meeting will be followed by a reception in his honour.

Finally, we bid farewell to Dustin Shulman, a Master's student at the Faculty of Medicine and wish him every success in the future. We look forward to welcoming the new students who will be arriving shortly to begin their residencies and other academic programmes. We also look forward to welcoming you and anyone you know who will be travelling to Newfoundland this summer. Friday night services begin at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.



Maimonides' synagogue, Cordoba, Spain

Visit of Joël Lion, Consul General of Israel for Eastern Canada to St. John's

*by Claire Frankel-Salama,
President, Beth El Synagogue*



On Thursday, May 2nd the Jewish communities of Newfoundland and Labrador were pleased to welcome His Excellency Joël Lion, Consul General to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces. After a grueling schedule of meetings with government officials, the President of Memorial University and the St. John's Board of Trade, Mr. Liön arrived at our house for a well-deserved break and a dinner including Newfoundland salt cod and local blueberries.

After supper, he continued on to his last engagement in which he gave an informative and entertaining lecture on the many challenges Israel is facing given the ever-changing events in the Middle East. The lecture/Town Hall was held at Beth El synagogue to an audience comprised of synagogue and Havura members as well as the general public. In particular, we were pleased to have in attendance M.H.A. George Murphy, M.H.A. Jim Bennett, M.P.P. Sandra Pupatello from Ontario, and Peter Young, Associate Priest at St. Thomas' Anglican Church. Mr. Liön was introduced by Jonathan Richler, President of the Havura, and was thanked by Dr. Messod Salama, who presented him with a book on the history of the Jews in this province.

We hope to welcome the Consul General soon again and to support him in his quest to establish further cultural, economic, educational and artistic links between Israel and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador

by Ruth Noel & Katherine Side

As we write this report in April, we anxiously await the warmer spring weather, and hopefully, we'll be able to put away winter clothes soon. Despite winter weather in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Jewish Community Havura undertook a full slate of events. We continued our regular Shabbat and Oneg Shabbat services in members' homes, and when we requested a minyon for Yahrtzeit, our members responded.

Children and adults alike celebrated Purim in style. We worked together to bake hamantaschen in advance of the holiday and on Erev Purim, we celebrated with a meal of falafel and salad. The costumes were great and the reading of the Magillah enthusiastic; and, after the service and Magillah reading, we ate dessert and the children played games. We enjoyed the Mishloah Manot baskets that Shimon and Linda Wilansky made for our young members. We're grateful to Inbal Bahar and Andrea Monro for organizing the children's games, to Elizabeth Loder for leading the service and to all our members who made Purim a success!

The Jewish Community Havura continues to be an active participant in the Religious Social Action Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador. This spring, the Coalition will soon be launching its new website, Twitter account and Facebook page, <http://rsac.ca/RSAC/> and we invite you to visit them and follow their activities. The website will outline the philosophy guiding two current projects: a Living Wage; and a Fairness Prism. Both of these are developed for the purposes of policy development in the province. The web-site will also contain faith-based perspectives on addressing and living with poverty and will be updated regularly. The Religious Social Action Coalition also welcomes a new Director from the Baptist church and will be considering future membership expansion.



Photo credit: Joy Hecht

Passover continues to be celebrated, on the first and second nights, in the homes of many of our members. In addition to this, Trina Rozenzweig organized a student Seder that was partially funded by the Atlantic Jewish Council. Nancy Bennett helped to place Passover orders, with cooperation from Belbin's Grocery, and John and Ruth Noel distributed orders to our members, and students were also provided with matzah. For the second year in a row, Lubavitch Outreach hosted two Seders in St. John's for those who wished to participate. Shimon Wilansky and Jonathan Richler provided Newfoundland hospitality, in the way of transportation, shopping and even cooking, and went out of their way to make our 'come from away' hosts feel welcomed.

In addition to all of this, we also found the time to host a very special Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) event, on the evening of April 07, 2013. We've written about it elsewhere in this issue, and note here that it included guest speaker, Phillip Riteman and was attended by over 1,200 people, including the Jewish communities in the province, church and community groups and school children. Phillip Riteman moved to Newfoundland in 1946, although he and his wife Dorothy Riteman now reside in Bedford, Nova Scotia.

Phillip and Dorothy Riteman and some of the members of the Jewish Community

Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John's, Newfoundland, Friday, April 05, 2013.

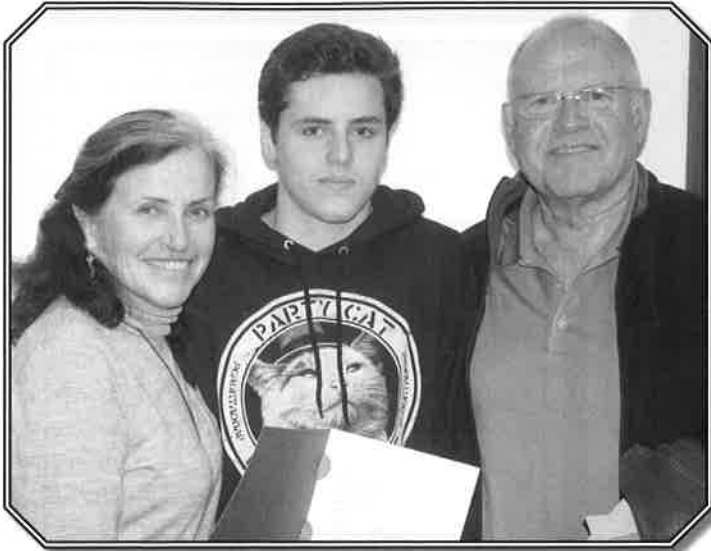
Members of the Jewish Community Havura met with Phillip and Dorothy Riteman over dinner, and they were also our guests at our Friday evening Shabbat service.

The Jewish Community Havura has, available for purchase, a limited edition of original music on the first CD released by the Marvin Finkelstein and the Whalers. To purchase a copy of Signal Hill Sunrise, please visit the Jewish Community Havura web site at: www.havura.org Alternatively, you can send a cheque, payable to the Jewish Community Havura, 48 Kenmount Road, P.O. Box 28167, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J8. The total cost is \$15 which includes shipping and handling charges. All proceeds will support the Jewish Community Havura of Newfoundland and Labrador. This CD makes a lovely gift for the Jewish holidays.

We're looking forward to new and exciting warm weather activities. If you plan on visiting Newfoundland, and in particular St. John's and the surrounding area this summer, please let us know you're here and we'll provide you with information about our upcoming events. We can be reached at our website (above), or by telephone at: (709) 834-7866. We hope you'll join us!

It Happened on PEI

by Rosalie Simeone



During the Yom HaShoah service Kass Palter was presented with his official recognition of his participation in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program. Kass is joined by his parents, Rachael Kassner and Joel Palter.

We have had an interesting winter on the Island. Our 1st annual Tu B'Shvat sleigh ride got cancelled 3 times. First it was too cold, then there was a blizzard with too much snow, then it got too warm and there was not enough snow. We finally had our Sleigh ride the week before Purim!

Purim was celebrated at the home of Leslee Sack. The children wore fine costumes, and the pot luck was delicious.



PEI Yom haShoah 2013 Remembrance table and Candle lighting
- Dr. Francis Weil, speaker, Kass Palter, Rosalie Simeone, Dominique LeCours

The PEI Jewish Community celebrated Pesach with our annual Seder on

Monday March 28th. There were approx. 60 people in attendance including about 8-10 children and youth. The seder was led by PEIJC President Leo Mednick.

Our annual Yom Hashoah events took place on Monday April 8th. Our guest this year was Dr. Francis Weil. He had a busy day, starting with a radio interview on CBC at 8:15 am. Francis then did 2 presentations at Charlottetown Rural High School, one in French and the other in English. Each

group of students was attentive, and there were many thoughtful questions.

After a lovely lunch at the home of Jane Naylor, followed by a bit of down time, we reconvened at the Confederation Centre Art Gallery, for the evening Yom HaShoah Memorial Service.

A very special addition to Yom Hashoah this year was the presentation of The Memorandum of Responsibility to Kass Palter. Kass participated in the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights programme in 2012 with the group from Halifax. His parents spoke about his involvement in the program and presented his certificate to him.

Francis' historical and personal presentation was well received by the 100 plus people in attendance, and we thank him very much for being our speaker this year.

Our PEI Yom Hashoah events were made possible by the AJC, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the PEI Jewish Community, Kwik Kopy and the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

We wish all our friends in the Atlantic Region a great, and continually warmer Spring.



Keynote speaker, Holocaust survivor Francis Weil, centre, with Rosalie Simeone, right, and Sandra Ireland, left.

Book Launch in Charlottetown

by Sandra Jones Ireland



Israel Unger signs books during the launch.

A new book in the Maritimes, *The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger* by Carolyn Gammon and Israel Unger was launched in Prince Edward Island to an eager audience on Saturday, April 20, 2013, with great enthusiasm at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. A gathering of 37 adults and children at the Confederation Centre of the Arts

Art Gallery listened intently as Dr. Unger read from his book and answered related questions about the 2+ years as he, along with his parents, brother and five other people hid in a Tarnow, Poland flour mill during the Nazi reign of terror during the Holocaust.

Carolyn Gammon, the co-author and researcher, augmented Dr. Unger's reading by explaining the lengthy and very often

complexities of the research involved with finding supporting information, and how that often led to more in-depth details of the various people who played a part the early life of Unger, and how he and his family came to establish a life in Canada after the war. Of the 25,000 Jews who lived in Tarnow prior to the war, only nine survived. This book tells Israel Unger's personal story and goes beyond the Holocaust to a life in Canada. The book has been published by Wilfred Laurier University Press, and currently available via most book sellers, plus the various book sellers on-line.



Carolyn Gammon and Israel Unger answer questions at the launch.

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News from Saint John

by Susan Isaacs-Lubin

Spring is slowly coming to the Maritimes, and our Snowbirds are slowly arriving home to Saint John. Our winter activities were minimal. We had a successful Hanukah dinner, for which we thank Sandy Levine and her volunteers for a wonderful job. We also had a public lighting of our large, outdoor Menorah which was very well attended.

Mazeltoy to Hanon and Alina Asor, one of our Israeli families on the birth of a son, Benjamin Jacob. A brith was held with many of the community present, and the Asors honoured Dan Elman by asking him to be Godfather to Ben.

We continue our efforts to bring new families to Saint John, and we welcome another new family – Avi and Mikki Pagi and their two children. We also have Elad and Keren Shalom and their two children living in Saint John since March. Elad came here with a job at Swift Radius. We wish both families much happiness and success.

Unfortunately, we have had one family, the Sheimans who have moved to Toronto. We hope they find happiness.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Joe Arditti, whose brother died in California. Joe was fortunate to visit and spend quality time with him prior to his death.

Mazeltoy to Jeff Holtzman and Nancy Byrne on the long awaited arrival of their son, Isaac Samuel. May they be blessed with much happiness. Mazeltoy also to Jeff's parents, Janet and Norman Holtzman.

The Holocaust Memorial program took place on April 15th, and we had approximately 180 people in attendance. Elad Shalom's three year old son, Daniel lit the final candle as a hope for our future. Daniel's picture and a lovely article appeared in the newspaper the following day.

We took advantage of the relative quiet during the winter to have the electrical

connections in the Synagogue upgraded, and to have carpets, chandeliers, etc. cleaned for the summer season. We thank Ron Levine, building chair, for his dedication and hard work to achieve all of this.

During the winter, a very valuable member of our Community, Marcia Koven, moved to Toronto to be closer to her family. Marcia contributed so much to the community and she will be missed. Mazeltoy to Marcia who received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in Ottawa. We wish Marcia a long and happy life in Toronto.

Mazeltoy to Sophie, daughter of Michael and Kate Wilcott, and granddaughter of Dan Elman who will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah in May.

Mazeltoy to Erminie Cohen, who has moved to a new waterfront condominium from her garden house.

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Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

The keynote speaker for the Yom Hashoah commemoration at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum was Bill Glied, a Holocaust survivor from Toronto. He grew up with his parents and sister in the small town of Subotica, Yugoslavia where his father operated a flour mill. Bill was a student in public school where he played soccer and chess. He enjoyed his classes until "one day my teacher came in. She said you four Jews, from now on you have to sit in the back of the class. Why? ...What did I do wrong?" He had done nothing wrong, his country had come under Hungarian control and the Nuremberg laws which severely limited Jewish life had come into effect. He clearly remembers his mother sewing the yellow star on to his jacket and the bullying which followed. In 1944, the Jews of Subotica and surrounding towns were rounded up and sent by cattle car to Auschwitz. They had been given one day's notice and the speaker asked the audience what they would take with them. There were many suggestions, but every person took photographs - images of family, friends and the town - even though these were of no use to them in the camps. He also remembers that the townspeople stood by as the Jews were marched to the railway station - as so many others stood by while the Holocaust took place.



Bill Glied speaking to students at Kennebecasis Valley High School

On arrival in Auschwitz, the Glied family was separated. Bill and his father were in one column and sent to the right to become slave labourers. They stayed in Auschwitz two weeks before being sent to Dachau where they worked alongside German tradesmen to build an underground munitions factory for Messerschmidt airplanes and for what is now known as BMW. They worked 12 hour days plus an hour's walking each way. They were fed 1/12th of a loaf of bread and a bowl of soup - only 900 calories a day. He wondered what the German men told their families when they went home each night.

Near the end of the war, Bill was with his father in a sick camp. His father died of typhoid fever 9 days before liberation. Bill Glied came to Canada as an orphan in 1947.

A poignant moment in his presentation came when he described the fate of his mother and sister: "My mom, my sister were in the women's column, my aunts, my grandparents, what happened to them that morning I don't know. I never saw them again, never hugged them, never said



Bill Glied speaking in the synagogue

goodbye, never said we'll see you again." He later learned that they were all sent to the gas chambers where "they died a most horrible death."

Bill Glied leads many groups of high school students on the March of the Living and speaks to many more in their schools. He ends his presentation by saying: "What can I do here today? I have a mantra that I keep repeating over and over again. When you go out of the school room and you reach

This poem was written by Kahlan Messer, a grade 11 student at St. Malachy's Memorial High School:

The Pain of the Past

*He sits, the chair suddenly feeling hard and cold, the air thick with silence.
She waits, perched at her grandfather's feet, for her question to be answered.
For when she hears a term she doesn't know, whom else would she look to but him?
He'll know. He always knows.
He knew. He knew far too well, as in his 65 years of life he had seen far too much.
His forehead creases as he rubs his eyebrows, using his thumb and pointing finger,
His eyes shut, only for a second, but the images come,
Those memories he had tried so hard to forget come crashing over him,
Drowning him in a seas of horror and despair.
He sees the eyes, like daggers, full of resentment and malice,
And is shaken out of his past.
He looks down, into the eyes of his beloved granddaughter,
They are big and bright and beautiful, filled with love and kindness.
Untouched by the horrors of hatred, intolerance and cruelty.
There she sits, eagerly, awaiting the answer to her question.
He takes a deep breath. His vision clouds, voice cracks and heart breaks,
As he opens his mouth, and begins to speak.*

the street kiss the ground that you stand on because here in Canada we live in the most unbelievable country that ever existed, where we have the right to vote, where we have the right to exercise our free will, where we can use our conscience. When you go home, kiss your mom and dad, because it's difficult to live without them. Hug your friends and



Rose Green, ca. 1930 and the later promotional poster for the upcoming music concert.

make a promise to yourself that you will do everyday one little good thing because if each Canadian will do one little good thing everyday there will be 35 million good things being done and maybe that will be the change we Jews call Tikkun olam, repairing of the world, that this world will be a little better place to live."

In addition to speaking to more than 180 people in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, Mr. Glied spoke to more than 800 students from St. MacLachy's Memorial High School, Simonds High School, Kennebecasis Valley High School, Hampton High School and Rothesay High School. Each of these students has learned valuable lessons about the Holocaust and personal values.

The commemoration in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue also included the lighting of memorial candles by Bill Glied, Bruce Washburn, Deena Harris-Peiser, Lorne Daltop, I.J. Davis, Mathew O'Hearon and Elad and Daniel Shalom and the presentation of the Beatrice Cummings Mayer Holocaust Prizes to Madison Fairweather, Kathleen Buckley, Marley Caddell, Katie Rossiter and Roslynn Williston, members of the Holocaust

Study Group. They were among 16 high school students who spent three months learning more about the Holocaust from guest speakers, documentaries, and readings. Each student also completed an individual project using art, poetry, essays or power point slides and all of which reflected many aspects of what they had learned.

2013 Exhibit - 18 Decades of Dedication: Jewish Women in Saint John, 1858 to 2012

The Introduction to the exhibit says: "From traditional nineteenth century roles as Jewish wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers and aunts, Jewish women diversified into partnerships in the family business, social activists, career women and community leaders. Many performed these roles in the background, while others took charge of a wide range of activities in the local Jewish community and beyond, making their home city and indeed Canada a better place to live. Many were mentors and role models for future generations from all backgrounds and fields. The panels in this exhibit focus on a sample of 18 Jewish women in Saint John covering 18 decades and showing the depth and diversity of their contributions."

A series of 16 exhibit panels have been researched and designed to tell the story of Jewish women in Saint John. Women, young and old, were involved in the many activities of organizations within the Jewish community including the Daughters of Israel, Sisterhood, Hadassah-Wizo, Young Judea and Girl Guides and Brownies. The ability to contribute to the betterment of the community also extended to many organizations in the city including the Local Council of Women, the Canadian Red Cross, the Women's Hospital Auxiliary and the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs.

These women were the backbone of the community: "Women in the Jewish community frequently organized social events and entertainments in their homes and in the Synagogue. Along with Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs, Purim and Chanukah parties, the annual YMHA Ball, and summertime dances in the Pamdenec Clubhouse, there were frequent house parties throughout the year, and Friday night family get-togethers in people's homes. Community lunches and special "Kiddushim" are still held to celebrate Chanukah and other special occasions, and of course the Passover Seder and Chanukah

meals are still important in Jewish family life."

The exhibit will also include organizational and personal memorabilia and examples of the beautiful handiwork done through the generations.

Dates to Note

The Museum will open for the summer season from Monday, May 27th to Friday, October 25th. Our regular hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday, with the addition of Sunday afternoons during July and August. During that time we hope to greet passengers from almost 70 cruise ships as well as other visitors from near and far. We have also arranged with local tour companies for private group tours of the Museum.

On Wednesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m. a Springtime Variety Concert will be held in support of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum at Grace Presbyterian Church, 101 Coburg Street. The programme includes the award-winning Rotary Boys' Choir under the direction of Dr. Kevin Langford, Robert Selby (baritone), Luan Salmon (soprano), Deantha Edmunds (soprano), Claire Driscoll (piano), David Dow (clarinet), Christine Dowling (clarinet), and Adam Washburn (a young rising singer/songwriter). The pieces performed will include selections by Jewish composers: traditional, classical and modern. You will be able to experience the variety of Jewish and secular music. It is aimed at appealing to a broad range of musical interests.

Tickets for the evening are \$15.00 and are available at the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum - please phone 633-1833 or email sjjhm@nbnet.nb.ca to arrange pickup time or the Imperial Theatre Box Office - call 674-4100 or order online at www.imperialtheatre.nb.ca (service charge for online or phone purchases).

The Annual General Meeting of the Saint John Jewish Historical Society Inc. will take place on Sunday, June 9th beginning at 2:00 p.m. There will be year-end reports from the President, the Auditor and the Curator. Elections will be held for officers and directors of the Saint John Jewish Historical Society for the year 2013-2104. The meeting will be followed by the official season opening of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.

Fredericton Community News

by Carol Airst

Tu B'shevat was celebrated in January with a Shabbat dinner sponsored by Rabbi Goldman. He provided a variety of Israeli fruit to taste for dessert. The Rabbi's birthday was celebrated with a Kiddush. Both events were well attended.

For Purim Shelley Stephens' family, and brothers Louis and Jake Budovitch, sponsored a Shabbat dinner in memory of their mother, Helen. On the following Saturday night after services, Sisterhood held a one and a half hour winter carnival event and the entertainment was provided by Science East. Those who attended were given prizes, and to eat, hamentashen.

Thank you to all who volunteered for all the events and for those families who joined us on this special night. (Shelley Stephens)

Pesach has come and gone. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and that your insides survived all the wonderful matzah. Here, in Fredericton, we had a wonderful seder. All of our volunteers worked very hard to make it a huge success.



Children were entertained during the celebration.

I want to thank Sophia, Eileen, Marisa, Shelley, Ziv, Yana, Liori, Jared, Rose, and the Rabbi for all their assistance. We had a total of 73 people in attendance. Bernie, from the Victory Meat Market Ltd., was great with the food. He even helped set up tables for the seder. There were five volunteers from the Knights of Columbus who served all of the food and cleaned up afterwards.

Ziv is a fabulous chef. Everyone loved the food and complimented the set up.

Thank you Fredericton. See you all next year.

There are those who are less fortunate than we, so we were able to make a contribution to the Fredericton Food Bank which purchased a food hamper to supply a family of four, for one month.

Now we are waiting anxiously for warmer weather.



Enjoying the Celebration.

Fredericton Holocaust Memorial Service

by Marilyn Kaufman

The Fredericton Sgoelai Israel Synagogue held its annual Holocaust memorial service Sunday, April 14th. Of the almost 400 people present, were dignitaries, Lieutenant-Governor Graydon Nidcholas, MP Keith Ashfield, and Mayor Brad Woodside.

Judy Budovitch opened with remarks of

how important the yearly observance of this solemn occasion is. Shul President Louis Budovitch then welcomed everyone to the Synagogue. Readings and prayers were read by Mel Soicher, Sophia and Leonid Yarin and Rabbi Goldman.

Judy introduced our guest speaker, Mr. Bill Glied, yet gentle looking man, whose inner light was reflected in his smile. For

he is one of the fortunate ones, to have, after the events of the Holocaust, been blessed with the enjoyment of children and grandchildren.

Born in Subotica, Serbia in 1930, Bill's experiences of the Holocaust came in 1944, the German Blitzkrieg...the invasion of Yugoslavia when part of Serbia was ceded to Hungary with a German

- Hungarian agreement. He now had to go to a Hungarian school, learn Cyrillic writing. But the real change in his life came at school when he was told to sit at the back of his class with three other Jewish boys, just because they were Jews.

Bullied and humiliated, no longer socially acceptable on the soccer team...this was the beginning of his new reality. Phones in Jewish homes were disconnected, radios had to be returned to the post office, shopping was allowed only between 3 and 5 in the afternoon by which time the best produce was gone. Jews were made to walk down the middle of the roads and Jews were banned from going to the movies.

A young boy of 14, in a school population of 1400 students, he remembers his mother sewing a big yellow star on his coat, one he would wear to school. This was the age he was, when his family received orders that they were to relocate. Only one day, this was all the time given for them to pack. Take only what they could carry, they were told. Loaded into a cattle car, doors locked, no food, no water, non-hygienic conditions. Not even a container to relieve oneself...only a small window allowing in a sliver of light. It wasn't until the war was over that he realized that this was the beginning of the dehumanizing process of the Jews.

"The world is a difficult place. Not for those people who do something, but for those who stand by and watch, and do nothing."

Two days and two nights later they arrived at their destination....Poland...Auschwitz to the cries of Nazi soldiers, "Out! Out. Leave your packages. You will collect them later!" Women and girls were told to line up in columns of five. The same for the men and boys. There was a Nazi officer standing in front of them, arms crossed, with his index finger quickly pointing to the right or the left. This, unbeknownst to anyone, was the selection process...who was to work, and who was to go to the crematorium and die. "My sister went with my mother. I didn't even get to say good-bye." The women's heads were shaved, and their ashes thrown in the Sobibor River.

There was an Auschwitz trial after the

war, where those who participated in committing the crime of murder, the killing of six million innocent people, denied their guilt in saying "they were only following orders." What makes us different from all other animals, is that human beings have free will and a conscience. If not exercised, we then become like all the other animals in the world.

The Nazis had built underground factories where airplanes, machine guns and tanks were being built. "My father and I were sent there to work twelve hour shifts seven days a week. It was an hour walk to get to the factory and another hour to walk to the barracks." The food they were fed began with nine hundred calories per day and eventually decreased to much less. "My father made sure I had enough to eat, breaking off a portion from his small piece of bread to add to what little I had to eat. He wanted to be sure I was capable of working, so as not to be taken away. Eventually, my father became too ill to work and was sent to the 'sick' camp."

No German soldier ever entered the sick camp as it was rampant with tuberculosis, dysentery and typhus. Bill was allowed to go with his father. "Nine days before the liberation of our camp by the American army, my father died...April 29, 1945."

When students leave the classroom - "I tell them to kiss the ground you stand on, because you don't know what a great land of opportunity you live in. Go home, hug and kiss your mom and dad, because family is the most important thing in the world to you."

Jews have a prayer in which you will find the words, "Tikun Olam"(Repair the World)." Humanity is a shared responsibility. If each of us here in Canada were to do one thing,

then we would have thirty-five million Canadians doing something.

Marilyn Kaufman then quoted from Anne Frank, "It is a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals. They are so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe...in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart."She followed this with the singing of Ani Ma'amin - I Believe.

Israel Unger recited the Mourners Kaddish.

Candle lighting followed led by Mr. Glied, followed by Past President Millie Lewis -The Royal Canadian Legion, Ina and Leon Gimelshtein, Carolyn Gammon, Dr. Israel Unger with students from Ecole Ste. Anne, Minister Keith Ashfield and Jonathan Lazerav.

Thank you to Israel Unger, his wife Marlene and his committee for organizing the service and refreshments that followed.



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Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen, AJC Community Representative

Purim was celebrated with a beautiful brunch following the Megillah reading this year. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food prepared by Sisterhood and seeing lots of the children parading around in costume.

Our Yom Hashoah service took place on April 21, a little bit after Yom Hashoah due to a change in the guest speaker, but it worked out very well since it was the weekend of the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and we paid tribute to the resistance fighters with a short video. Everyone there was very moved by Dr. Israel Unger's presentation on his experiences as a child survivor. Robert Goguen, MP for Moncton-Dieppe and Riverview brought greetings from the Government of Canada, and the Honourable Sue Stultz, MLA for Moncton West brought greetings from the Government of New Brunswick. Several other local MLA's and municipal councilors also attended.

April brought sad news to our community. Sulamit (Sue) Kohn passed away on April 12. "She was a courageous survivor of Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Though most of her family was stolen from her at that time, she had the spirit, love and courage to create her life anew." Sulamit moved to Moncton in the 1950's with her beloved husband Joseph, was a much loved member of the community, known for her sweetness, warmth and sense of humour. Sincere condolences to her husband Joseph and children Caroline and Harold.

Frances Doak, a former member of our community, passed away in PEI on April 29. Frances was well known for her willingness to help out in the community in any way she could, as well as for her beautiful artwork and poetry. Condolences to her children Shirley Agent and Gordon Doak and to her grand-children and great-grandchildren.

Mazel Tov to: Audrey and Irwin Lampert on the birth of their third grandson, Zev. The proud parents and Leigh Lampert and Darcie Richler. Sheldon Rubin and Reuben Cohen on receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals. Rabbi and Rebbitzin Yagod on the engagement of their daughter Chumie to Mayer Juni, and the engagement of their daughter Huvie to Binyamin Weinrach. Chumi and Mayer are to be married on May 5 in New Jersey, while Huvie and Binyamin are planning an August wedding. Betty Rubin Druckman who is being honoured as one of Moncton's 2013 Woman of Distinction. The award will be presented at a gala in May.

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Cape Breton News

by Evy & Barrie Carnat

Over the last few months, the Cape Breton Jewish community experienced the highs and lows of life passages. We mourn the passing of Brendan Yazer and Alan Leith - both 'young' members, and appreciated for their accomplishments and involvement in our community.

We are also thankful to the families who chose to celebrate milestones with the whole community.



Yom Hashoah speakers Leslie and Eva Meisels with Fred Blufarb, whose parents were survivors.

Evelyn and Harold Davis, formerly from the Pier shul, reached the 65 year mark in their marriage. They are unfailing in their dedication to shul attendance, and Evelyn is still hugely involved with the Whitney Pier Historical Museum which is located in the building of the Pier Shul. She said that she and Hal were so busy, that they didn't realize the years passing. Out of town visitors for this simcha were daughter Lynn and husband, Cameron Brown, daughter Beverly and husband Patrick Taylor, grandson, David Taylor, nephews Brian and Joel Goldberg from Toronto and Hamilton,

Evelyn's sister Betty from Ottawa, sister Shirley Weiner and daughter Nancy from Israel, and nieces Anita and Sandra Wolman.

People also came from near and far to celebrate Jack Yazer's 100th birthday - his children, grandchildren great grandchildren, previous members of our community, young and old. His remarkable achievements were celebrated both in the shul and by the general community with a huge well attended reception at a hotel. Jack stood for hours to greet each of the well-wishers, remembering the names of many people from the various chapters of his life. Someone asked him at the end of the afternoon if he was going to remember everyone who was there. His response - "I may forget one or two."

Just recently we also celebrated Evy Drucker's 80th birthday. Their daughters Harriet, and Amy and husband Yoav joined us from Toronto, as well has Evy's dear friend, Beverly Stern from university days to the present. A lovely and joy filled kiddush followed services culminating in a group singing of a song written in Evy's honour by her sister and niece. Avvie and Evy are long standing very active members of the synagogue and community, and of the holocaust education committee. Evy is RENOWNED for her baking.

Close to 300 people filled the synagogue for the holocaust memorial ceremony. The speaker, Leslie Meisels, who was liberated from Bergen Belsen, moved us all with his inspiring talk, and the message that those who stand by silently, are ALSO responsible.

His wife, Eva, who is also a survivor, was rescued by Raoul Wallenberg. Their stories were heard by over a thousand students at local schools. The media covered this event very well with articles in the Cape Breton Post, interviews on CBC radio, and on CTV.



Evelyn and Hal Davis - happy together after 65 years of marriage.



Evy Drucker and husband Avvie, Daughter Harriet, son-in-law Shelly Feld, and grandchildren, Joshua, Amanda and Jillian.

A week later, the Holocaust Education Committee, which is partially made up of dedicated local teachers, also brought Israel Unger to Sydney for a book launching of THE UNWRITTEN DIARY OF ISRAEL UNGER, co-written by Carolyn Gammon. He also spoke to school children, and was interviewed on the radio.

Purim services were conducted by Rabbi Ellis, and we got into the swing of things with adults wearing costumes and funny hats, the crowning of queen Esther, and a lovely meal. The congregation was boisterously loud in their condemnation of Haman.

We also want to congratulate Louis Allen on being named one of the finalists for the senior -of -the- year in New Waterford. He is a former town councilor and a living historian who has led tours of his community, recounting the history of the families and every building in town.

Although our community was diminished by losing two good people, our spirit is strong. There is still life in the body of the community and we continue with regular Shabbat minyans, followed by a friendly delicious kiddush. Though our celebrations are evidence of our aging, we are buoyed by the return of the snowbirds and strengthened by some families moving back to Cape Breton.

We carry on.

Book Review: *A Train in Winter*

by Peggy Walt

A Train in Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship and Survival in World War Two
(Caroline Moorehead, Vintage Canada, 2012)

Caroline Moorehead's deeply moving account of women who were part of the French resistance movement is not an easy read. The author zeroes in on some of the activities of these French resisters, and then focuses on the events that led to their being rounded up from Gestapo detention camps and sent on a train to Auschwitz. Finding out in 2008 that six of the women were still alive of the forty-nine who had survived the death camp, Moorehead set out to find them, and if possible, interview them.

The forty-nine were part of a group of 230 women which included Christians, Jews, atheists, communists, a doctor, a midwife, teachers, dressmakers, a singer and housewives - in short, a cross-representation of French society. Despite differences in their ages, background, education and wealth, the women for the most part were or became friends, and

it is this friendship which Moorehead credits as being partially responsible for their survival. Some had worked together and helped to hide each other previous to their deportation, and at Auschwitz they forgot class and social differences and worked together to save each other. The women of convoy No. 31000 were all tattooed with numbers beginning "31" for the train that had brought them to the camp.

Small acts of resistance continued in Auschwitz, where the woman doctor described how she would certify that inmates were menstruating in order to escape operations by a sadistic doctor who specialized in castration and sterilization (in reality the extremely malnourished women had long ago stopped having periods). There were occasional acts of kindness, but mostly, the brutality and horror is overwhelming to read about. After the war, one hundred and eighty-one of the original deportees had died of typhus, starvation,

gassing or other cruelties, leaving many children behind as orphans. The survivors relayed their problems after the war: families broken apart, poor health, bouts of depression, survivor guilt.

The amount of research undertaken by the author is impressive. *A Train in Winter* includes detailed information about some of the women before the war, and particularly noteworthy is an appendix naming each of the 230, their date of birth, and information on what happened to them during or after the war. Bringing together interviews, diaries, photographs and other personal accounts, Moorehead creates a picture of the unspeakable which is hard to forget. It's a moving portrait of these women resisters from Convoy 31000 that ensures they will not be forgotten by future generations, providing an important addition to the genre of Holocaust non-fiction.



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Our South African Cousins: How Was this Community Different From All Others?

by Rabbi David Ellis, AJC Chaplain

Around this time 22 years ago, Rose and I were planning a trip to see her family in South Africa. We were in Israel at the time. Leah was not quite two, Tamar was in the womb, Sarah had not even been thought of.

We made the looping round about flight via Zurich. At the time, South African Airways was not allowed to fly over East Africa.

Through South Africa's chief rabbi, I had located a position for the High Holidays in Rondebosch, a suburb of Capetown. Rose's sister lived nearby.

Most of the Jews from South Africa came from Lithuania, as many in the Maritimes did. They left around a century ago when poverty, pogroms and oppression made life unbearable. There were once Jews here who had kept up with extended family there.

I recall my meeting with the leaders of the then small community. It once had been the leading place to move in the post-war years. But Rondebosch, like all South African communities had seen its exodus especially of the younger generation. Whole synagogues were closed. Once vibrant ones had only a fraction of membership.

So the leaders came before me with an almost "al chet" posture. They were apologizing for their synagogue, all its failures, all its faults—before I even saw it.

I told them I had no expectations whatsoever. I was looking forward to whatever they were. But they still continued in their contrite mood.

It turned out that the community was not as bleak as they had portrayed it. They had definitely lost members over the years, but the small group they had was a solid one. Everyone knew their way around the synagogue and its services. You could say "Moshe" instead of "Moses" without translation or explanation. Nothing about Israel needed any elucidation.

So despite losses due to the political situation and prospects there, certainly no fault of their own, you found a small but thriving community.

Much more so than many I have encountered in North America. From the latter, I missed something—that sense of contriteness and humility.

Synagogues in North America have become mutual admiration societies—I'm OK, you're OK. Oh, yeah, we've had massive losses in our education, attendance and commitment. But don't worry about it. Don't take it seriously. We're all OK. Even our rabbi says so. If he doesn't—well, we'll get another one who will say such.

A typical position in North America is to say, I affiliate with the Jewish federation, not the synagogue. Or vice versa.

In South Africa, it would be unheard of for someone to have a community role without at the same time having a major commitment to the synagogue. Nor would someone in the synagogue be worried about his own little group there. The synagogue is a conduit to Jewish life around the world.

In my whole time there, I heard nothing about the Holocaust. This was obviously shocking coming from North America, but it was so. The reason was that South Africa, not in its finest hour, did not take in many survivors. Most of the Jews there had ancestry going back several generations before the wars in Europe. So the Holocaust was hardly on the agenda of the community there.

Finally, there was Israel. Everyone uses the word and claims to support Israel. The commitment to Zion in the South Africa is well-known. But it has a different meaning there.

In North America, a young person would, de rigeur, go on trips and programs to Israel. But the feeling might well be—hey, don't go too far. Remember, you've gotta get back and

get into Columbia or McGill.

In South Africa a young person would through Jewish community programming be put on a path to seriously considering settling in Israel. Obviously because of recent political problems in South Africa. But also for positive reasons—South Africa has provided thousands of immigrants to Israel from the early days of the state. They were trying to fulfill the vision of the original Zionists—that all countries of the Diaspora, whatever positive features they have, are not the place for Jewish life.

It is well-known that when South African Jews come into a community, that they bring special inspiration and initiative.

Hence, Australia, which once had only average communities, now has solid ones, due to an influx of South Africans. Likewise, you will find Toronto, Los Angeles and Houston have benefited from its immigrants. And, of course, Israel itself.

So though they were once part of the same path, the roads diverged. The Jews of South Africa took roads not traveled, and it made all the difference.

Who is wise? One who learns from everyone. Let our distant cousins from the Southern Hemisphere give us food for thought, as we come very soon to an early Jewish New Year.



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

Rabbi David Ellis
902-422-7491, ext. 228
rabbiellis@theajc.ns.ca

Laws of hospitality

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax NS

Wherever and whenever, Jews were always known to be at the head spear with the Mitzvah of Hospitality. Not only as a one-time act, but also with continuous functioning systems to welcome any guest in town, and attend to his needs. Even more so if the newcomers expressed their interest in linking on to the local Jewish community.

The main obstacles in fulfilling the commandment of hospitality stem from the cultural gap and the different purposes of the two sides of this 'meeting', the host and the guest.

Baruch HaShem, we are fortunate to have a large group of newcomers in town. Therefore I think it is a good time to shake the dust from this Mitzvah, to make sure we're doing it properly according to the Jewish Hallacha and with the right adjustments to our unique time and place.

A practical guide for hospitality, Atlantic Canada, 5773 from the creation of the world:

Who is considered a guest, for the purpose of the Mitzvah?

Initially, the purpose of the Mitzvah was to tend for poor people that needed "bread to eat and a bed to lay their heads on" (Shulchan Aruch, Or"ch, 333,1). Specifically here, in our case and in our community, the support needed is more of a mental kind. Whereas a person might be settled with assets, he can still be socially and mentally poor. As Maimonides says (Quoting Aristotle) 'humans are social and political creatures'. As such, they have also social and political needs. These needs too, need attendance.

Shouldn't they do the 'first step', show themselves in Shul etc. and then we will invite them over?

"They" already have tried to approach you more than once in the last three years. As mentioned in the opening, there is a bit of a cultural gap, so for some reasons

the 'first approaches' were missed. The good news is that it is yet not too late. Many of who I occasionally met, are still eager to get to know the local Jewish community.

Regardless to the above, I would like to refer also to our forefather Avraham (B'reshit 18,1-8). Three days after Avraham was circumcised (at the age of 99), sick and hurt, he was slowly healing from the operation. His home back then was in a hot desert. Avraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent catching the breeze when he saw three people wandering around. The Torah tells us in detail how Avraham runs toward his treasure; his guests. Forgetting his poor health condition, he runs and together with his wife Sarah, they prepare a feast fit for kings... Sarah and Avraham made sure their guest feel welcomed, without waiting for any first step. They are our example.

I tried to talk, invite, encourage and more, but it's stuck. Maybe they're just not interested!! It is not proper for me to 'overdo'.

They are interested. Ask your parents / grandparents, how they felt when they immigrated to this foreign country! For most of the newcomers that we are blessed with here, it is already the second time (Soviet union-Israel-Canada) they need to adjust to: Language, culture, economy, employer-employee relations, schools..

Interesting point: when Eliezer, Avraham's servant is sent to choose a bride for his master's son, Yitzchak, one might have assumed he would look for someone in that pagan world who made the extra step like Avraham and his household; someone who would realize there must be something very



wrong, even corrupt in worshipping idols! But no. That is not what Eliezer seeks for Avraham's son. He knows to look for something characteristically basic in human behaviour. He seeks for hospitality. Ideas and ideology can be taught, but good traits are harder to find and to become intrinsic to one's nature. Rivka is recognized to be suitable for the match, for being a Jewish mother, Foremother of Israel, wife to Yitschak, because she offers herself to quench the thirst of Eliezer and of his camels. More than that, she performs this noble yet exhausting deed with a smiling face (B'reshit 24). Rivka overdid - we can also do the same.

Few practical steps to start with:

There is nothing more Jewish than inviting a guest for a Shabbat meal. Whereas Shul is like a semi Beth Mikdash, a table with guests is considered as the altar itself (Babylonian Talmud Hagiga 27,2).

Don't ask about: reasons for immigrating, working place and whether he's here permanently or just on the way to Toronto. It might not be easy for him to talk about it (Avot, Ethics of our fathers 2,4).

Don't be judgmental. You are there to help a Jew at need. The supreme Judge of the universe, God Himself, is the only One responsible for measuring people.

Don't patronize. Don't shoot advice and suggestions at the newcomer, before listening to his real needs. They know how they want to live their lives and how to practice their Judaism. If you are eager to pass on information, start with technical issues: Where is best place to shop, important phone numbers, family doctor, Avia's Gma"ch of free furniture etc. (Isaiah 42,1-3).

Everything you do - do with a smile! (Babylonian Talmud, Baba Metzia 59,2)

Whose Wall Is It?

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

Iwrote the following Op-ed for "The Times of Israel" back in mid-February, the morning after Rosh Chodesh Adar. Since then, I am proud to say that there has been significant movement in Israeli civil discourse towards a palatable solution. Here's my piece from February:

It is 2:00am in Manhattan and this is a restless night, my mind preoccupied by the civil inequality continually experienced at the Western Wall in Israel. This past Monday, for instance, a group of women gathered, donned prayer shawls, and prayed together. Ten of them were arrested. As it happens, it is illegal for women to don prayer shawls and pray out loud, in unison, at the Western Wall; that is a right afforded only to men.

Before you question the Israeli government's policy, realize this: In a country where politics and religion are inextricably linked, it would prove nearly impossible for any sitting government to be completely immune to pressure from the extreme religious right (the group undoubtedly responsible for this piece of legislation).

To be sure, significant reform is badly needed vis-a-vis the role and influence of religion in government; but, with specific regard to the Western Wall, the true underpinning of the issue, as I see it, is:

To whom does the Western Wall belong? After all, isn't that an Israeli flag erected in the center of the plaza? Does not the Israeli flag represent all its citizens?

When the wall was liberated, men, women, and children danced, together, in jubilation.

When did the Wall become the exclusive property of the (ultra-Orthodox) Rabbinate? Why has it been turned into a synagogue structure with "in-house ritual policies" associated exclusively with the ultra-Orthodox movement? It seems as though every year, ever-so gradually, the extreme religious right has seized greater control of the Western Wall's operations.



The 'pinnacle' was reached a decade ago when it convinced political legislators to create and enforce a law banning public group prayer by women.

I respect the autonomy of every synagogue to interpret Jewish law as it desires. What is beautiful about Judaism is that, on the same street, you could find an ultra-Orthodox synagogue that restricts women from wearing prayer shawls and a liberal synagogue with a female rabbi. I support the diversity inherent in our religion, and every synagogue community has the right to nurture its own interpretation of Jewish law.

But, I pose the question: Is the Western Wall a synagogue (much less, that of one specific sect)? Or, is the Wall a national heritage site, sacred to all Jews, where moments of spirituality and prayer readily occur?

This is the core issue and I hope that Yair Lapid and Natan Sharansky can make significant strides to bring forth a just change.

Love your neighbour as yourself

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

We are taught in the Torah (Leviticus 19, 18): "VE'AHAVTA LERE'ACHA CAMOCHA" - love your (friend) neighbour as yourself. Many interpretations were given to this commandment, and I hope that I can add just one more little idea that really touched me.

The Christian world named this commandment - 'the Golden Rule'. This

is probably a good definition, since we have many examples in our history of Rabbis & Jewish philosophers who said that this was a major or central law



in the Jewish faith. Rabbi Akiva said: "ZEHLAL GADOL BATORAH" - this is a great principle in the Torah.

A blogger by the name of Lazariuk says the following about Leonard Cohen's song "One of us cannot be wrong":

It seems to me that this song is a prayer. The title convinces me that it cannot be otherwise - "One of us cannot be wrong" How many relationships do you know of

continued on page 38

continued from page 37

where there is one in the relationship who 'cannot' be wrong. Every relationship that I have been in it seems that we are both wrong almost, if not all, of the time.

Assuming that the song is a prayer works for me in trying to understand what he can be singing about in the song. For example:

I heard of a saint who had loved you

I studied all night in his school

He taught that the duty of lovers

Was to tarnish the golden rule

In the Jewish tradition, the golden rule had its origin when a Rabbi named Hillel

was asked by a non-Jew to teach him the sum total of the Torah (The Law) while standing on one leg. Hillel replied "What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbour" or as it is usually expressed "Love your neighbour as yourself".

What most intrigued me in this explanation is the following statement:

"I think that Leonard was thinking that the golden rule really was golden - he sang: "I who was born to love everyone" He recognized that gold is a metal which cannot be tarnished and so he was observing that the Tradition was teaching what was at heart contrary to the tradition.

Teaching you to tarnish what cannot be tarnished "to tarnish the golden rule". (you may want to read more commentary here: <http://www.leonardcohenforum.com/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=9931>)

In order to love your neighbour as yourself, I believe that you must love yourself first. Many psychologists and therapists have noted that a person who suffers from low self-esteem may try to boost his/her sagging self-appraisal by finding faults in others.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy & loving summer.

Of Weddings and Marriage

by Chana D Yagod, age 17, daughter of
Rabbi Y.I. Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

My older sister became engaged a few months ago and her wedding, G-d Willing will be taking place on Sunday the Fifth of May. Her fiancé is a well-raised, serious boy from YU and a great brother-in-law to my siblings and me. The two make a sweet couple; they complement each other quite nicely. In most solid marriages the spouses balance out and complement each other, in my opinion.

Because of her engagement - as well as my other sister's subsequent engagement - the topic of marriage has certainly been prevalent in conversation and general conduct the past half-year. Calls, arrangements, invitations, investigations, payments, etc. . . etc. all these happened in a flurry of high-intensity activity during a high-pressure time. The whole Wedding Experience is actually a series of events which take place during a brief spell of magical aura. First the Shabbat preceding the wedding, split into two parts: an Afruf for the groom and the Shabbat Kallah for the bride; each with their respective sets of friends and family. This practice results from the custom for the couple to spend the pre-wedding Shabbat separately. Then is the wedding itself, followed by a seven-day period called Sheva Berachot:

a week's-worth of festivities marking the beginning of a new journey in marriage.

So what is a Jewish marriage all about, anyway? A Jewish marriage is the sacred bond of unity between a husband and wife, in which a loving couple builds a solid foundation to raise and support a flourishing home and family. Together they create opportunity to make a biological dream realized, bringing fresh life into the world along with the potential for revitalizing outgrowth of greatness from the upbringing of new children.



These two people have the most amazing, priceless chance to take part in Creation - a rare chance in something special and a gift not to be wasted. (See Genesis 38:9-10) They are, in essence, partners with G-d in what is therefore an essentially holy act.

Marriage is a great responsibility in itself, which brings with it a tremendous amount of added responsibilities and a new dimension to meaningful living through sharing one's life with another person. A husband and wife's genuine, unyielding love for each other will lay grounds for pure seeds to bear the ripe, healthy fruit of the next generation. Marriage thus fulfills the positive commandment of procreation born from unity.

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Lag B'Omer: Jewish Knowledge & Jewish Unity

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

The auspicious day of Lag B'Omer carries two important lessons: Jewish knowledge and Jewish unity.

This festive day marks two significant events in Jewish history. Firstly, it is the day of the passing of the great Talmudic sage and mystic, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai (author of the Zohar). Rabbi Shimon, who lived in the second century, was the first to publicly teach the mystical dimension of the Torah known as the "Kabbalah." On the day of his passing, he instructed his students to mark the date as "The Day Of My Joy."



The Chassidic masters explain that the final day of a righteous person's life marks the point at which all his accomplishments achieve their culminating perfection. Each year, on Lag B'Omer, we celebrate Rabbi Shimon's life and the Torah wisdom that he made available to us. Indeed, these spiritual teachings continue to inspire millions of people the world over.

Lag B'Omer also commemorates another important event: In the weeks between Passover and Shavuot, a plague raged amongst the students of the famed sage Rabbi Akiva. The Talmud identifies the cause of this terrible plague: "They did not act respectfully towards each other." This is especially stinging since, after all, Rabbi Akiva is the one who taught that "Love your fellow as yourself"

is a central principal of the Torah. On Lag B'Omer, the dying ceased. Thus, this special day also carries the theme of love and respect for one's fellow.



Children enjoy an archery demonstration at the Lag B'Omer picnic.



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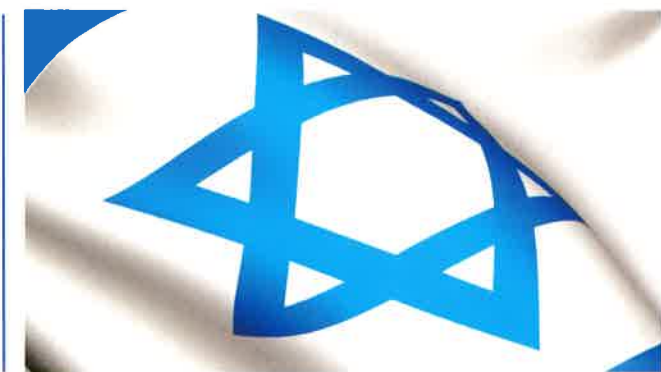
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