

SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם!

Winter 2014 Vol. 38 No.3

Shevat 5774



NATAN NEVO

THE SHRINE OF THE BOOK, JERUSALEM. ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 12"x16"

- SPECIAL FEATURES:
- CAMP KADIMAH: 70TH ANNIVERSARY
- 2013 AJC CHEVRA MISSION
- NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION





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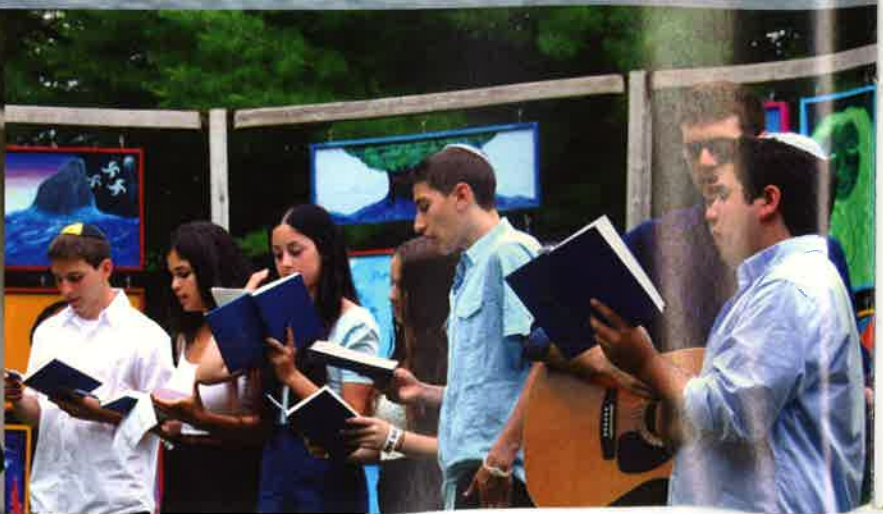
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SHALOM! שלום!

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Cover Artist: Natan Nevo

The Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem. Acrylic on canvas 12"x16"
 Natan Nevo was born in 1930 in Warsaw, Poland. Shortly after World War II broke out, he and his family fled to Siberia (USSR), which allowed them to survive the Holocaust. In March 1948, he immigrated to Palestine, where he took part in the War of Independence and the creation of the State of Israel. In 1962, he traveled to France, where he studied for a couple of years at the Sorbonne and attended drawing and painting classes at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris. He came to Canada in 1965 and worked as a Russian Professor (Dalhousie and Acadia Universities) for many years. Natan started painting seriously after his retirement, in 1999. He paints landscapes from Europe, the Middle East, and America, mainly using acrylic paint. He also paints in the abstract style. *The Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem*, is available for sale from the AJC, please contact Jon Goldberg: jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca (902) 422-7491

שלום!

President: Michael Argand

The Atlantic Jewish Council

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

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

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

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

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

President's Message

by Michael Argand

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Hannukah. I regret that I did not get to attend the Hannukah celebration in Halifax as, unfortunately my wife, Jo-Anne, broke her ankle and I have been her caregiver during her incapacity. I heard that there were close to three hundred people at the event and I want to thank all of the volunteers and AJC staffer Maya Moscovich who worked to organize the party.

This fall, Marcie-Ann Gilsig as chair of Holocaust Education Week, and Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement, along with a committed group of volunteers and community partners, organized a full week of Holocaust education programs. I was able to attend the opening and closing programs and both were well attended

and very professionally presented. Overall, thousands of people attended these events which were open to the public at no charge.

One of the highlights of the week was the testimony of local Holocaust survivor Mr. Phillip Riteman who spoke before more than 300 Dalhousie University students. The closing event, The Night of the Broken Glass: The 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, was extremely moving and the Jewish music provided by the Dalhousie University Chorus was



inspirational with guest singers David Korn, also a survivor of the Holocaust and Rabbi Ari Isenberg from the Shaar Shalom Synagogue. Just a reminder that the Dalhousie University Chorus will be performing Jewish music on April 1st at the Dalhousie Arts Centre in Halifax, and I encourage you not to miss it. This level of programming is remarkable for our community and I want to thank Marcie-Ann for her dedication in organizing this special week.

Israeli Consul

General Joel Lion visited St. John's, Newfoundland for a special presentation of aerial photographs of Israel. Naomi Rosenfeld was in attendance and met with all of the Jewish students at Memorial University. During his visit in St. John's Consul Joel Lion spoke to the students on campus.

Edna LeVine and I attended the Saint John fundraising luncheon in support of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum in October. There was a very large crowd and various corporations sponsored high school students to attend the luncheon to hear keynote speaker Sir Andrew Burns, first UK Envoy for post-Holocaust Issues, who was a riveting speaker. He stressed the importance of continuing to tell the story of the Holocaust. While in Saint John I truly enjoyed my visit to the synagogue and my tour of the Jewish Historical Museum and I want to thank the Saint John community for their hospitality.

We are now in the final stages of the UIA Campaign and I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have been calling and asking for donations. It is not an easy job, but without the funding from the Campaign we would not be able to operate nor provide support to Israel. I thank all of you who have donated to the Campaign and ask anyone who has not yet done so, to please consider doing so. It is never too late!



Michael Argand with Marcia Koven at the luncheon in Saint John.

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From the Desk of Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

Welcome to our winter edition of Shalom magazine. A blanket of white snow covers all of Atlantic Canada. As I look out my office here in Halifax it's our usual snow turned to rain day, with messy streets and slow traffic.

Since our last issue, I'm pleased to report that our staff has been busy in a number of areas, not only here in Halifax but throughout the region. While you can read about their specific activities in the individual reports, I want to thank our President Michael Argand who together with Edna LeVine attended the fundraiser for the Saint John Jewish Historical Society in October on behalf of the AJC. I also want to acknowledge the wonderful work done by this year's Holocaust Education Week chair Marcie-Ann Gilsig, our own Edna LeVine, and all the participants and volunteers who made the 10th annual Holocaust Education Week in Halifax such a success. Further congratulations to Naomi Rosenfeld our Director of Campus Affairs who has done a terrific job this first term including a visit to Newfoundland which is a first for our Hillel representative. Marilyn Kaufman, our chair CIJA partner and Mark David our CIJA Atlantic staffer continue to do an excellent job. Congratulations to our controller Svetlana Ratchinski and her family who passed the Canadian Citizenship test and will become citizens on January 7th 2014. Rabbi David Ellis continued his chaplaincy role this past year and Maya Moscovich capably administered our UJA Campaign and directed a number of programs with the local synagogues.

As the year comes to a close we are once again working to complete the annual United Jewish Appeal Campaign of Atlantic Canada. Thanks to our Regional Chair Howard Conter, Halifax Chair Karen Conter, and a wonderful group

of dedicated canvassers in Halifax and throughout the region. We attempt to give everybody an opportunity to contribute. Our goal is to reach every Jewish household in Atlantic Canada and ask for their support. We are fortunate to have a core of long-time supporters who care. They care about the Jewish people in Israel, in the Diaspora, and our local Jewish community. UJA is the one campaign that reaches all levels of Jewish life and we only ask that you give within your means but please give!

As Executive Director, I and my staff are frequently asked, in particular by our younger generation and newcomers, Why UJA?

Much of what we do is not always obvious or directly effects individuals. The Atlantic Jewish Council, which is maintained mostly from your gifts to UJA, represents our region both to the State of Israel and the government of Canada. When the Israeli Consul General in Montreal or the new Ambassador from Israel to Canada in Ottawa wants to visit the region to meet local government officials and the local Jewish Community they call the Atlantic Jewish Council. When CIJA



wants to organize Israel advocacy or programming in our region they call the Atlantic Jewish Council. We are stronger as a whole then as a group of small communities in four provinces. When numerous Jewish organizations want to advertise programs and opportunities for young people they call the Atlantic Jewish Council. When Holocaust education, Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'hazmaut programs are planned, organized and financed, it originates by and large with the AJC. The actual programs are actuated by volunteers in the community. Shalom magazine comes to your home from the AJC. Our partnership with the Galilee Panhandle in Israel, now in its 12th year, is part of what the AJC does. Camp Kadimah owned by the AJC and operated by a volunteer committee is represented on our board and I am on the Kadimah board as the AJC representative. We have at least 500 Jewish students on campus in Atlantic Canada, mostly in Halifax and the vast majority from Toronto. The AJC is responsible through the Executive Director to manage the Hillel and the Bayit (Jewish student house) operations here in Halifax. In addition the AJC works with CIJA on Israel advocacy on campus and throughout the Atlantic region. We are also involved with a number of interfaith and multicultural organizations within the region. Much more on what we do will be profiled in the next issue of Shalom as we are planning a full spread on what the UJA campaign is and means to Atlantic Canada.

Our new subscription year begins in January and we have exciting news for our readers on an offer/option to replace your hardcopy issue with an online issue. More information to follow early in the new year.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our readers and their families a happy and healthy 2014.



Jon Goldberg, right, with the Israeli committee at P2G meetings in Israel, November 2013.

The Atlantic Jewish Foundation: Scholarships & Bursaries for 2014

All applications must be received by April 30th, 2014

The Noa & Sarah Heinish Scholarship

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

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

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

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

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

To carry on their good works, the Heinish family established the Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation. This charitable foundation has provided endowments supporting Jewish educational and health care institutions in Canada and Israel. A portion of the funds has been allocated to the Atlantic Jewish Foundation to provide an annual merit scholarship for a student from the Maritime Jewish Community to study in Israel. Dependent upon the vagaries of the market, the scholarship should provide a stipend of one to a maximum of two thousand dollars to the successful recipient.

Noa and Sarah Heinish Foundation Trust – One scholarship per year for study in Israel

The Miasnik-Rein Trust

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

Miasnik - \$2000 each (Maximum 5 scholarships per year)

Halifax Endowment Fund (Jayson Greenblatt Bursary)

A \$500 bursary awarded to Jewish individuals from Atlantic Canada to further Jewish studies in Israel or in the Diaspora.

Jayson Greenblatt Bursary - \$500 each (Maximum 2 scholarships per year)

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

**For further information and applications please contact the Atlantic Jewish Foundation
(scholarships and bursaries) in c/o Jon Goldberg, jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca**

Applications are available online from our website: <http://theajc.ns.ca/mission-statement/>

From the Desk of

Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement

Jewish Communal Service in the 21st-Century: Challenges and Opportunities in Canada was the theme for the 2013 Jewish Federations Canada-UIA and Association of Jewish Family & Children Agencies national conference in Toronto this fall. I participated in a cross-section of sessions that provided a lens to support the work in Jewish communities across Canada, sharing insights and experiences in these interesting times of change and opportunity. Pioneering and embracing change was the message that resonated throughout the conference. The necessity to develop a new community narrative, to move forward and let people engage in a collective vision were common threads throughout the many keynote speakers and workshop presenters.

This year I was fortunate to work with volunteer chair Marcie-Ann Gilsig to organize the 10th Annual Holocaust Education Week (HEW) in Halifax. With committee members, Dr. Dorota Golwacka, Mary Ann Gilbert, Peggy Walt and Krystyna Panek we offered a wide-range of programs and attracted record numbers of participants, often at over capacity. Local Holocaust survivors, David Korn, Natan Nevo and Philip Riteman shared their stories of survival with the media to educate and encourage learning. Highlights and reflections of HEW 2013 are on pages 16-18.



Newcomer and recent mother!, Yulia Sultan-Shakh, right, offers her talents as a clown to entertain children at the ISIS annual open house in December.

The Saint John Jewish Historical Society hosted a very successful and enriching fall fundraiser with keynote speaker Sir Andrew Burns.

I attended this sold-out event with AJC President Michael Argand. The dedicated work of the committee members was reflected in the highly organized and engaging program. Local sponsors provided many students with the opportunity to attend and gain valuable knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust. Please refer to the article on page 15 for more information on this inspiring event.

The exhibit "Ship of Fate: Voyage of the MS St. Louis" is touring the Atlantic Provinces this year and an update on this exhibit is on page 13. Please contact the AJC office if your community is interested in hosting this exhibit. The tragic voyage of the MS St. Louis inspired Two Planks and a Passion Theatre, in Nova Scotia, to create a short performance, Project 937. Director Ken Schwartz is keen to expand this performance and we are presently working together to determine the feasibility of touring the Atlantic Provinces this year.

The Polish Consulate hosted a celebration for the Polish National Independence Anniversary and at this festive occasion Consul Andrzej Szydlo expressed a warm appreciation for the relationship between our communities. Future joint programs are planned and tentatively we are discussing hosting the exhibit "The World Knew: Jan Karski's Mission for Humanity" in our region. It was inaugurated in Canada this fall at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

Immigration in Halifax has energized our community, evident in the increased numbers at holiday celebrations!



Immigration Settlement and Integrated Services (ISIS) continues to be an active partner in settlement and our new joint pre-arrival program is proving to be a huge help to newcomers.

I represent the AJC in the group Partners for Human Rights and this year we organized a celebration for International Human Rights Day (December 10th) at the Prospect Road Community Centre. The event was attended by over 400 people and the program featured local talent embracing the theme "Speak Up Against Discrimination" with a special tribute to Nelson Mandela and local activist, the late Burnley "Rocky" Jones. Sheri Lecker was presented with an award for her longtime work in areas of homelessness and poverty and additional information, with a photo, is on page 19.

Building on the success of last year, the AJC hosted the 2nd annual Christmas Lunch at Spencer House Seniors Centre and our community volunteers turned out to support and create a festive atmosphere for all the guests. Once again Myrna Yazer and Schuyler Smith brilliantly organized the kitchen activities.

This year the AJC, with a dedicated group of volunteers, is presenting an Atlantic Jewish Film Festival in Halifax. Please check out ajff.ca for more information on how you can participate and support this initiative and plan on spending the weekend in Halifax!



Minister Hon. Lena M. Diab, Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Immigration, right, with Edna LeVine at the Polish anniversary celebration.

Kadimah Celebrates 70 Amazing Years

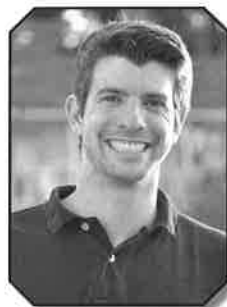
by Jared Goldlust, Director, Camp Kadimah

On Saturday, November 2nd, more than 450 alumni and friends of Camp Kadimah gathered in Toronto for the largest event in CK history: Camp Kadimah's 70th Anniversary celebration! The 70th was enjoyed by everyone who attended – and that included alumni from as far back as camp's inaugural year in 1943, to as recently as former staff from this past summer. The evening featured some great moments including a special Havdallah service, a tribute to Dr. Les Rosoph for 35 years of service and commitment to camp, lots of singing and reminiscing, a slide show and photo display of the last 70 summers, the launch of camp's first-ever annual campaign and much more. A slideshow of photos from this great event can be accessed in the alumni section of our website at www.campkadimah.com.

The launch of the campaign, called 'This is MY Camp' signals an important position for camp. In the past, campaigns for Kadimah were initiated in order to meet specific needs at any given time. But, today, annual campaigns are a part of almost every non-profit institution. It is a safeguard for the future and a way to have so many maintain a direct bond to a place they hold so dear. It is also a way to ensure that current and future campers will experience what only Kadimah can offer – and has done so with such success, for more than 70 summers. Included in this Shalom edition is a copy

of a pledge card that you can cut out, fill in and send back to the Kadimah office. Alternatively you can call us at 1866-KADIMAH (523-4624) to make your contribution by phone. We hope we can count on everyone to support this initiative. We have already received \$52,000 in committed gifts. The funds raised will be put toward a number of items including programmatic and facility enhancements, as well as scholarship assistance, for summer 2014.

Our history proves it and our reunion reinforced it: Kadimah remains a most cherished place to everyone; to those who attended and even to those who did not attend but elected to send their children or grandchildren. Kadimah is where Jewish values are cemented. It is a place that builds such a strong connection to Israel and fosters Jewish pride. The evidence is out



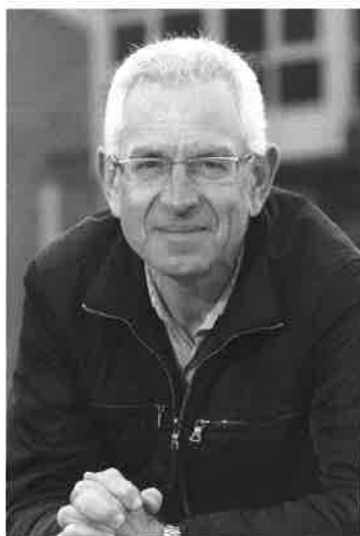
there. There is a disproportionate amount of Jewish community professionals and leaders that are Kadimah alumni. It is also a place where life-long friendships flourish and where the Canadian Maritime influence prevails.

The next 70 years of Kadimah has started off strong, with a great early bird registration for summer 2014! We have already matched our 2013 camper total and are expecting a huge junior camp this year. There is still space available for your children, grandchildren and friends but they should contact the camp office soon or visit our website. One Happy Camper grants of \$1000 are also available for Atlantic Canadians attending Kadimah for the first time.

REUNION CELEBRATION PHOTOS



CAMP KADIMAH: 70TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION CELEBRATION PHOTOS



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JNF Ottawa and Atlantic Canada
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lynda.taller-wakter@jnf.ca

Partnership Together (P2G) Report

By Karen & Howard Conter, Chairs

In November of this year Howard and I, along with Jon Goldberg, attended the P2G meetings in northern Israel. For those not familiar with P2G, it is a partnership between the Coast-to-Coast cities in Canada and five communities in the northern part of Israel above the Sea of Galilee.

The meetings allow Canadian representatives and delegates from all the Israeli communities to meet and discuss the immediate and long-term needs of the region. We concentrate in three main areas: education, health care and youth at risk. All areas must also have a Geisher Chai component (People-to-People) between Canada and Israel.

At the meetings we determine where funds will be used to better the lives of



Jon Goldberg and Howard Conter in front of the plaque honoring the Arthur Saffron Bridge at the new hospital in Safed.

the residents of our region. It is our job to meet with the local mayors and community delegates and determine with them how best to allocate our budgeted resources. This year our focus was on providing 3D printer technology to the schools of the region as well as funding a program for youth at risk and also an adult education program that will provide outreach education associated with Tel Hai University which is the largest secondary education facility in the north of Israel.

The Partnership is

really the most important program that Atlantic Canada has to unite us with the other Coast-to-Coast cities and of course the State of Israel. Over the last 13 years we as a partnership, have funded numerous projects that have helped schools, community centres, youth programs and underprivileged and disabled children. We have been fortunate enough to watch these



Visiting the Hydrotherapy pool in Galilee Panhandle.



Howard Conter and friends cutting the ribbon to officially open the Hydrotherapy Pool.



The Conters and Jon Goldberg with new friends at Hameginim Elementary School in Kiryat Shemona.

projects and programs grow over time and truly see the benefits they have provided to the region.

The Geisher Chai (People-to-People) component has linked schools from all our partnership cities in Canada with schools in Israel's north, it has allowed us to bring Israeli CIT's and other campers to Camp Kadimah and has allowed for a back and forth discussion between kids, volunteers and educators. The friendships and relationships that have been created through this program are truly a vital link for our youth as they develop many long-

term connections with the State of Israel.

You can continue to support our Partnership through your UIA donations and by purchasing Partnership gift cards during the year. If you'd like to learn more about P2G and how to get involved please feel free to contact either of us or Jon Goldberg at the AJC. We look forward to our meetings in Ottawa next June and a return to Israel in December 2014.



Karen Conter greets National CEO of UJA Linda Kislowicz at P2G meetings in Northern Galilee, November 2013.



Atlantic P2G chairs, Howard & Karen Conter, left, with students of Kav Hazinuk.



Mayor Benny Ben Muvhar, Yesud Hamala, addresses the PG2 committee at the Schlafim School for students with disabilities in Northern Galilee.

WE BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.

Thank you to all who generously contributed to our 2013 UJA Campaign and to all the volunteer canvassers throughout the Atlantic region.

Thank you for making a stand for what you believe in.

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United Jewish Appeal of Atlantic Canada

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AJC Chevra Mission to Israel: October 25-November 1, 2013

by Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director

Eight weeks ago I had an opportunity to spend seven great days with a wonderful group of Maritimers and former Maritimers on a UJA planned program in Israel.

The participants were: Sharon and Stanley Jacobson; Martin and Gale Chernin; and Ellen Stoddart all of Cape Breton, NS. Howard and Karen Conter; and Steven and Gloria Pink of Halifax. Semon Jacobson; and Clara Kalechstein of Toronto; and Allen and Rhona Ruben, formerly of Fredericton, now living in Toronto.

Our guide was Jeff Katz, a former Torontonians who made Aliyah to Israel about forty years ago. We began with a Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel and then celebrated Marty Chernin's 70th birthday with a singer at the beautiful King David Hotel. Shabbat was spent

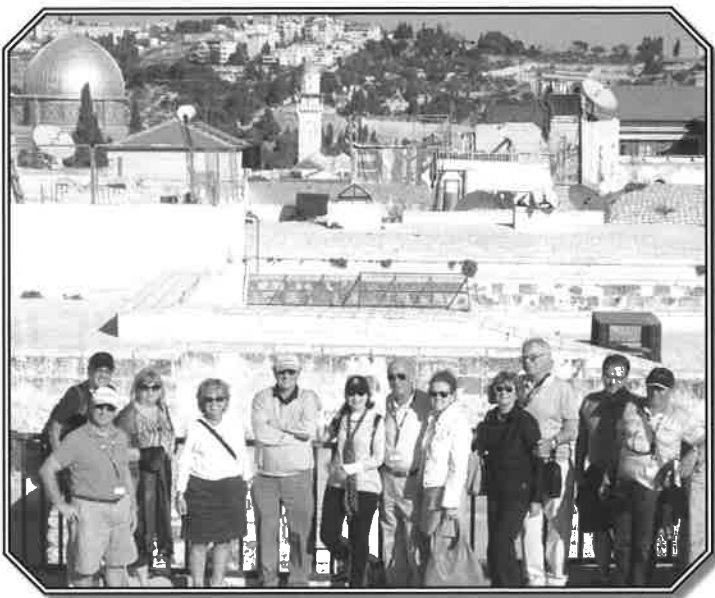
on walking tours of the Old City and on the following day we visited Yad Vashem and Machane Yehuda Market. The next few days flew by with touring the center of the country on the way to the Carmel Forest Spa on Mt. Carmel. We had a wonderful visit to the Technion followed by a visit to an IDF base in the Golan Heights and then returned to a fabulous day touring Tel Aviv including the famous Rabin Museum. As we bid each other farewell, after a week of laughing, crying and singing together, the group felt a bond not only with the State of Israel, but with each other which will last for many years.



Howard and Karen Conter with an Israeli soldier at a tank base on the Golan Heights.



"The girls" in the lobby of the King David Hotel.



Chevra mission group over-looking the Old City, Jerusalem.



"The boys" visiting a synagogue in Neve Tzdek near Jaffa.



Members of the group visiting the Technion in Haifa.

Report from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

by Mark David – Advocacy Consultant (Atlantic Canada)

It is said that a rolling stone gathers no moss. And to confirm the wisdom of this adage, CIJA has been involved in a number of important activities since my last report. A sampling of those activities follows.

SHARED VALUES

Internally, CIJA has reviewed its core advocacy principles. In a broad sense, the CIJA approach has always been to direct its advocacy efforts at the large majority of the population who could potentially be influenced, using a manner and style of message delivery that resonates with them. Integral to this strategy is a "Shared Values" approach that emphasizes the values – including family, freedom of speech, pluralism, and democracy – Canadians and Israelis share.

In a world of limited, even diminishing, resources, it does not make a lot of sense to focus advocacy efforts on those who will, no matter what, always support Israel and Jewish issues; and, conversely, it does not make strategic or tactical sense to apply energy to those who will always respond negatively to our issues.

The Shared Values approach is about addressing the right audience with a simple message using the appropriate tone. It is not a tool designed to communicate with our core support base (i.e. Jewish Canadians) but rather with our target group (non-Jewish Canadians). Given that the core's view and experience with Israel generally differs from that of our target audience, it's not surprising that advocacy messages designed for the target audience fail to resonate with the core and that this has fueled a lively debate as to the proper manner of advocacy.

After careful review of extensive research and experience, the CIJA National Board agreed that the Shared Values approach was sound and has had an immense impact in forging relationships between leading

Canadians and the Jewish State. Indeed, we can be proud that Canada is – arguably – the most pro-Israel nation on Earth. Just as CIJA staff will be continuing to study and test Shared Values, we will be exploring new ways to implement it across the country – and to connect important segments of our fellow Canadians with Israel.

LOCAL ISSUES

I have continued to work closely with Jon Goldberg at the AJC and Naomi Rosenfeld of Hillel Canada regarding advocacy issues in our communities and on our campuses. My approach has been to follow the Shared Values advocacy model described above and increase an understanding of Israel as a vibrant, pluralistic, modern democracy with much to offer Canadians in a range of areas. Particularly of note were two great events staged by Dalhousie Israel on Campus (IOC), as well as the visit of CIJA's Executive Vice President Sara Saber-Freedman to Halifax in early December to meet with the community and students.

IRAN

While the CIJA team is always engaging with the Government and other federal political parties on Iran, there was substantially increased activity around the agreement between the P5+1 and the Iranian regime announced on November 23rd. In particular, the CIJA team worked diligently to ensure that the statements of all parties met two key objectives.

The primary objective was for all parties to express skepticism toward Iran's intentions



and reiterate the need for the regime's words to be backed up with verifiable actions. The second was to ensure – as much as possible – that significant divisions did not emerge among the parties on this issue and, by extension, that all parties reaffirm the need for a comprehensive agreement that denies Iran nuclear weapons capability. As we have heard from a number of media sources, these objectives were met.

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT ON JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

This issue has long been an important advocacy item for CIJA. In early November, the Foreign Affairs Committee tabled a report in Parliament on Jewish refugees from Arab countries in the years after the founding of the State of Israel. The report makes two ground-breaking recommendations that we hope the government will implement in the near future – that Canada should:

- 1) Officially acknowledge the experience of Jewish refugees from the Middle East and North Africa, and
- 2) Call on Israeli and Arab negotiators to include all refugee populations in any future peace accord.

From our perspective, this is not only a matter of immense, personal importance to our Sephardi and Mizrahi brothers and sisters but also a fundamental matter of justice for those whose lives were uprooted across the Arab world in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I will be sure to keep readers informed as this issue progresses toward what we hope will be a historic change to Canada's standing policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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Campus News

by Naomi Rosenfeld, Director of Jewish Student Life – Atlantic Canada

Shalom from university campuses across Atlantic Canada!

Fall 2013 was a very busy semester for us. Not only did we hold many events, but they were also broad in content, including holiday celebration, social justice, Holocaust education, and, of course, Israel advocacy.

Within the greater Halifax region, our Hillel team worked tirelessly to make our Shabbat dinners and holiday parties smashing successes! We really pushed ourselves in terms of food production this semester – we started baking our own challah and bringing in food from out-of-town including kugel and suphgniot. Other highlights of the semester included our very successful trick-or-treat drive to collect toiletries for the Phoenix House, a local organization that helps homeless



and at-risk youth, and our orchestration of Holocaust survivor Phillip Riteman speaking on campus – drawing an at-capacity crowd of almost 400 students.

Israel on Campus (IOC) really took off as an organization this semester. Our most notable event was titled "Building Bridges: Israeli Wine and Canadian Cheese" – a very classy reception at the University Club that drew a prestigious crowd, 80-people strong, of Jewish students, non-Jewish student leaders from Dalhousie and Saint Mary's, university administration, and several politicians including former premiers John Buchanan and Darrell Dexter. The students followed up this incredibly successful event with a day of Israel advocacy tabling at Dalhousie, where they had great foot-traffic consistently throughout the day as they gave out swag and food, as well as educated the students about Israel. IOC is also planning regional Shabbaton for next semester.

Jewish student programming was further active this semester in the greater Atlantic Canadian



Tamar Ellis at the Israel on Campus table at Dalhousie University

region. In St. John's, the Consul General of Israel spoke at Memorial to a full room of political Science students, and the Jewish students got together for a dessert potluck dinner! We also had small chanukkah gatherings in Moncton, Sackville, Fredericton, and Wolfville, and helped the Jewish students of St. John's have a strong chanukkah presence at their student union's multi-faith holiday party. Overall, it was an incredibly successful semester for Jewish students in Atlantic Canada, and we have much more planned for the next!



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אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
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MS St. Louis: travelling exhibit update

by Joel Jacobson

A display currently at the Museum of Industry in Stellarton, NS, tells the sad tale of the MS St. Louis and its ill-fated passengers almost 75 years ago.

The story of how 937 potential immigrants, seeking refuge from Nazi persecution in Germany and Europe, were turned away by several North American countries, including their last hope, Canada, still causes shame among Canadians.

"It's a story that should be told," Debra McNabb, the museum's director, said as the display was seen by dozens of people during a run that will end January 31, 2014. "It's the job of a museum not to censor history. We must not just tell the stories we're comfortable with hearing. We must tell both the light and the dark."

The Ship of Fate exhibit includes a metre-long model of the St. Louis and 11 traditional display panels that tell the little-known story of the voyage. Visitors can use interactive kiosks to read scanned documents associated with the ship.

The panels show photos of German Jewish families holding one another and smiling as the luxury liner turns its stern to a nation descending into hate and sails off across the Atlantic. The panels also tell how the ship was turned away by governments in Cuba, some Caribbean nations and the United States prior to attempting to land in Halifax. It was forced to return to Antwerp, Belgium, and the passengers found refuge in the Netherlands, Belgium and France, which became overrun by the Nazis, as well as Great Britain. When the Nazi machine moved into those countries months later, 255 were swept up and exterminated in the concentration camps.

This project was funded with a grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and was a joint-effort between the Maritime

Museum of the Atlantic and the Atlantic Jewish Council. The travelling exhibit was launched in 2012.

There was interest in a travelling exhibit, said Gerry Lunn, the museum's curator of exhibitions. The panels have since visited



Pier 21 in Halifax, Yarmouth NS County Museum and the Confederation Centre in Charlottetown PEI. A website is being developed to give the story of the St. Louis international exposure.

"The exhibit now can go to any synagogue, community centre or town hall anywhere if we can obtain funding to enable it to travel," said Lunn.

McNabb stressed the importance of the story to Canadians. "We have a lot of immigrants in our part of Nova Scotia who can appreciate this story. It's an incredibly heartbreaking story."

In researching for the exhibit, Lunn said Maritime Museum staff unearthed the correspondence of King with his then-immigration minister Frederick Blair.

In 1939, Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King was ready to admit the Jewish immigrants until his Immigration chief, F.C. Blair, known for his hatred of Jews, sent King a secret memo explaining the passengers didn't qualify under immigration

laws. The oft-quoted phrase, "None is too many" has been attributed to Blair. It's a story many have said should still haunt Canadians today.

With the St. Louis heading back toward Europe, but still within reach of Halifax,

University of Toronto history professor George Wrong led a group of prominent clergy and academics in petitioning King to grant sanctuary to the refugees on humanitarian grounds.

King, who was travelling in the United States at the time, wrote to Blair, advising that he "strongly consider this request."

But Blair, whose race-based immigration policies saw Canada only accept 5,000 Jewish immigrants (compared to 200,000 by the United States) during the 1930s and '40s, fought the move.

"Much to our shame, King, who had many Jewish friends, didn't force the matter," said Lunn.

In 2009, a survivor of the ship, Lisa Avedon attended the 70th anniversary Halifax commemoration of the events. She was only four years old in 1939 but had vivid memories of her first reception in North America as a passenger on the MS St. Louis.

"There are a few pieces I remember today," the Toronto woman, 74, said at the time. "I know I was seasick most of the trip and saw only my stateroom and a bit of the deck. But I'll never forget sitting in Havana Harbour, where we were refused admittance at the last minute after being granted visas weeks before."

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

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Anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and the Creation of Israel: A Modern Parable

by Henry Srebrnik

A family that had owned their home for many decades was evicted, by force, by a huge multinational corporation that took over the entire neighbourhood.

The members of the family, forced to flee, moved to a number of other towns, where they rented rooms in various homes. The owners did not particularly like them, and every now and then they were told to leave and find new lodgings. This went on for a long time, until one day, the owners of the biggest house, together with many of their neighbours, became so hostile to the members of the family that they ended up killing most of them.

The remainder, those who had survived, after much soul searching decided that their best hope for their future was to return to their old house, which had in the meantime been occupied by a succession of renters and even squatters, long after the multinational had gone bankrupt.

However, upon their return, they discovered that their old deed was not recognized by the current tenants – whose neighbours on the street were all related to them. They insisted that the old legal document no longer was valid, despite what the original owners thought, and the house was now theirs. Nor were they prepared to have the house divided in two, so both could live in it.

Since the occupants in the house refused to share the premises, the family was forced to fight with them in order to reclaim at least part of their old residence. They put a lot of work into restoring it to what it once had been. However, the rest of the street (as well as the people living in the other part of the house) remained determined to remove them again, by force if necessary, and so the family was forced to defend their property day and night. It was no easy task.

Henry Srebrnik is a professor of political science at the University of Prince Edward Island



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Sir Andrew Burns speaks in Saint John, New Brunswick

by Lorne Daltrop

Each year that passes since the tragedy of the Holocaust, which saw the Nazi regime kill six million Jews, there is a greater urgency to pass on the knowledge of these events, as well as the lessons learned to younger generations, said the British Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues in Saint John, October 11th.

"The reason we put such emphasis on educating young people about the Holocaust is twofold. The first is that the Holocaust is the most extreme form of genocide the world has ever seen. It is a paradigm of genocide and it's worth studying for the lessons it holds for everybody in the world. Therefore it is very important that it doesn't fade into the background as just another historical event," Sir Andrew Burns told a sold-out crowd at

a hotel in Saint John. His speech was the keynote address at a luncheon in support of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum.

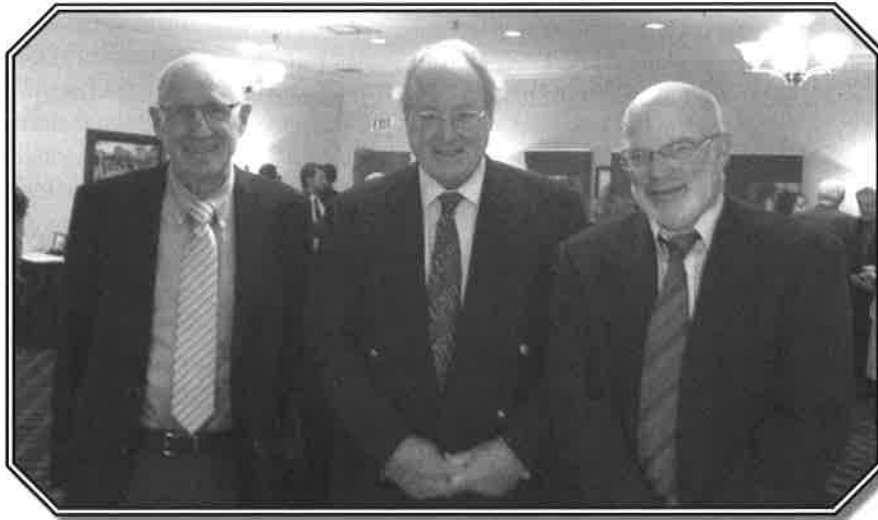
"Secondly, given that the first generation of Holocaust survivors is beginning to die out, we have to find ways of keeping the subject alive," he said.

Burns is a former British High Commissioner to Canada and ambassador to Israel. He was first named to his current post three years ago. Among the hundreds of people in the audience who heard him speak, 100 were local high school and university students, as well as their teachers. There were also several local mayors and community leaders and Senator John Wallace and Jason Kenney, Federal Minister of Employment, Social Development and Multiculturalism.

Burns also talked about the Holocaust

as an example to young people of what could become terrible consequences of intolerance.

"I would hope they realize the absolutely overriding, importance of standing up to hate speech and resisting public expressions of intolerance about minority groups of any kind. Once that cat gets out of the bag, in any society there are great difficulties."



Gary Davis, SJJHM President, left, with Sir Andrew Burns and AJC President Michael Argand

The President of the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum, Gary Davis, said he was pleased so many young people were able to hear Burns speak at the event, called, "The Holocaust - 75 Years Later."

"I hope they take something from this and there will be some discussion so the students have a chance to think about what they heard today," Davis said.

Burns also spoke about a number of other topics such as the public perception of the State of Israel, the broadening of further study about the Holocaust in many countries and the work of Jewish museums around the world.

Since the Soviet Union fell in 1989, a huge amount of information about the Holocaust became available to researchers. Burns says it further revealed how the genocide was

planned and became a reality.

"It's no longer seen as a unique event, inexplicable, self-inflicted or caused by the wrath of God, but rather an all-too-explicable consequence of European history and human emotions through the past. Historians have really revealed how easy it was for such murderous passions to be generated and exploited," he said.

Burns also talked about the matter of looted art and property during World War Two, a subject he said is of great personal concern.

"The Nazis were methodical about ransacking galleries, museums and private collections across Europe," he said.

An international agreement signed by 45 countries in 1998 was aimed at recovering such art.

The agreement either offered restitution or a means to return the items to their rightful owners. However Burns said a lack of proper documentation or easily challenged laws left many pieces of Nazi-confiscated art in personal collections or part of major museums around the world.

Davis was pleased by Burns message and also considered it important for the Jewish Museum in Saint John and the city's Jewish community.

"I think it shows we are an important voice in the community, one of several of course. He's a very high-profile person and to have come and speak to this group in what is really a fairly remote location, it's more than an honour and just a very positive, rare event."

Reflections on Kristallnacht

by Mary Martell, Dalhousie University Chorus Director

Editor's Note: This was the closing program for the 10th Annual Holocaust Education Week in Halifax. The Dalhousie University students prepared a selection of Jewish Music, including several pieces being sung in Hebrew.

Music begins when words are powerless to express, said Claude Debussy in 1889.

I believe this is true. Be it love, joy, sorrow or ecstasy, music says more than words ever can and as a result, causes us to feel more, when we hear it.

Kristallnacht, Music, and Choral Singing may seem incongruous ... but because of the inadequacy of my own words, coupled with my desire to honour lives altered that infamous night, ... Music, was required. For this is where music begins.

I began thinking and reading and soon realized that November, 2013 marked the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass. It quickly became clear that this project was 'meant to happen.' The musical selections came to me easily and I could 'see' the evening. It was a priority for me to set a somber and solemn tone, and so I began at the end.... with Kaddish. The solo voice setting by Maurice Ravel, was sung by Professor Marcia Swanston. During the song Dr. Gregory Servant spoke the names of 10 concentration camps in the 10 fermatas ... for the 10 Commandments, the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel and the Six Million who lost their lives. The journey the Dalhousie University Chorus took to prepare and perform this program was life changing for me, and for them. "Art, Absolute" music, is music for music's own sake. This music was art ... but it served a

tangible purpose. There would be Holocaust survivors in the room ... there would be people who understood Hebrew ... thanks to Marcie-Ann Gilsig and Edna LeVine it became the closing event of Holocaust Education Week.

I am not certain what my singers thought when we began rehearsals ... but I do know, by the end, they were honoured to be part of such a project ... and that every year, on Remembrance Day they will remember many things. They will remember the soulful Rabbi Ari Isenberg as cantorial soloist for Max Janowski's, Avinu Malkeinu. That Ernest Bloch's, Avodath Hakodesh, was premiered in the 1938, in the same year as the Night of Broken Glass.

We offered two selections from the Bloch Sacred Service on November 7th and we will perform the work, in its entirety, with the Dalhousie Orchestra, Gregory Servant baritone soloist, on April 1, 2014 in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

We will all remember that we had the privilege of singing Ani Ma'amin with Mr. David Korn. Mr. Korn who came to our rehearsal filled with joy and kindness had survived the Holocaust, with his brother Jacob, as young children hidden by priests.

As aspiring musicians my Chorus members musically grew. They felt the power of music. They felt that audience members were moved, (and I hope healed a little), by the music we offered and by our united love and intent.

Below are two reflections from students in the chorus:

Cameron Stowe: My understanding of the pretext to this concert was hazy at best. I remembered Kristallnacht only as a footnote of the "WWII" section of my grade eleven history class. Of course I knew vaguely of the events of that night and the political context in which it occurred, but rarely did the impact of those events so long ago seem any more immediate to me than the text from which I read about them. However, there was something about the emotional nature



Mary Martell, Rabbi Ari Isenberg and Heidi Petracek from CTV

of the music that deepened the significance of what we were commemorating. I'm not much of a singer, and I certainly don't speak Hebrew, but in our final rehearsals through these songs emerged a solemnity that I've never seen before in our choir. I watched during rehearsal as the singers struggled to maintain their composure while Holocaust survivor David Korn sang Ani Ma'Amin, the same Hebrew song of faith that would have been sung by many of his family and friends as they marched to their deaths in the gas chambers. I think maybe it was at that moment when I realized, "This is serious; we have to do this music justice." It's probably fair to say that everyone else thought the same. I'd like to think that through this experience I have been able to identify with the visceral emotion behind the words we were singing, and gain an understanding, on at least the most superficial level, of what the commemoration of this event means to the Jewish community. I'm honoured to have been a part of it.

Arash Delavar: Being an Iranian born Canadian, taking part in the Holocaust Education Week was a very special experience for me. Meeting people from the Jewish community brought great comfort to my heart. By attending the testimony of Mr. Philip Riteman and singing in "The Night of Broken Glass" I have come to learn more about the story of Jews as a people and the depth of faith in Judaism. I am also very excited about the new-born relationship between Dalhousie Music and the Atlantic Jewish Council and I look forward to preparing and performing Avodath Hakodesh in April. In conclusion, I must add that singing Ani Ma'Amin with Mr. David Korn was a great honour.



David Korn

10th Annual Holocaust Education Week in Halifax

by Christine Liddell, Dalhousie University Co-Op Student
Administrative Assistant, AJC

This fall the Atlantic Jewish Council coordinated the successful 10th Annual Holocaust Education Week. From October 27th to November 7th over 2500 individuals were reached through a variety of programs in Halifax and in other regions of Nova Scotia. Programs featured speakers, films, poetry and music. Many different demographics were present in the attendance of these events including students from middle schools, high schools, community college and universities. Along with students, many people including families and seniors attended the programs.

The event kick-started with Holocaust survivor Michael Kutz, speaking at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, the opening program co-sponsored by the Azrieli Foundation, where many families gathered to hear his story. Along with Michael Kutz's personal testimony, Colin Boyd, Head of the Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, spoke on the future of Holocaust education. A featured screening of the Polish film *Aftermath* depicted a drama, with historical components of the Polish attitudes towards Jews as the Germans invaded their country. People packed the auditorium for the program that brought another Holocaust survivor, Renata Skotnicka-Zajdman (accompanied by her son and daughter) to tell her story of being a child saved by the famed Irena Sendler. The program also featured Norman Conard, director of the Irena Sendler Foundation. Sadly Mrs. Skotnicka-Zajdman passed away on November 27th, shortly after the program in Halifax, where she spoke to the general public, at the University of King's

College and at Citadel High School. The following event presented local Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman who provided his emotional testimony to a captivated audience of Dalhousie University students. Mr. Riteman's personal testimony coincided with the international travelling exhibit from Germany, *Names Instead of Numbers*, a series of posters with stories of survivors and those affected by the Dachau concentration camp. This exhibit was present in the Dalhousie Killam Library for a week and also travelled to multiple public schools, community centres, universities and churches in Nova Scotia. Once again people filled the room to capacity to attend the special film presentation of *Kinderblock 66*, a documentary of four men returning to Buchenwald concentration camp for the 65th anniversary commemoration of their liberation. The two screenings at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (general public and to over 400 students from schools in Nova Scotia) were presented along with the personal testimony of one of the men in the film, Alex Moskovic as well

as his son, Steven Moskovic, the executive producer. The closing program was the 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, *The Night of Broken Glass*. This final event featured the Dalhousie University Chorus, under the direction of Mary Martell, performing music from Jewish composers and a keynote speech by Brigadier-General Eldaoud, Commander Land Force Atlantic Area.

Holocaust Education Week would not have been a success without our dedicated volunteers, sponsors and community partners. Special thanks are given to our 2013 chair, Marcie-Ann Gilsig for her visionary leadership. The sponsors and community partners for the 10th Annual Holocaust Education Week were: The Azrieli Foundation, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Consulate General of the Republic of Poland, University of King's College, Dalhousie University, Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Marine Drive Pentecostal Church, Nova Scotia Community College, Citizenship Immigration Canada and the Jewish Federations of Canada-UIA.



Edna LeVine, left, with keynote speaker Michael Kutz, Colin Boyd and Elin Beaumont, Azrieli Foundation. Kutz shared his first hand testimony at the opening program for Holocaust Education Week and with students at the NSCC, Akerley campus. Audience members received a copy of his memoirs, If By Miracle, compliments of the Azrieli Foundation.

10TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK IN HALIFAX



Marcie Ann Gilsig, left, with Peggy Walt and Edna LeVine at the closing program for HEW, Night of Broken Glass: Kristallnacht, that included the heartfelt performance of the Dalhousie University Chorus.



Shael Brown introduces the meaning of Kristallnacht with poetry prior to the keynote address from Brigadier-General Nicholas Eldaoud, M.S.C., C.D.



Shael Brown, third from left, with his family after the Kristallnacht performance.



Philip Riteman, right, with Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University, prior to Riteman sharing his first hand testimony with over 300 people.



Renata Skotnicka-Zajdman ז"ל, right, shared her story with a captivated audience at the University of King's College, pictured with Dorothy Riteman.



Marcie-Ann Gilsig with survivor speaker Alex Moskovic and Edna LeVine at the screening of the film Kinderblock 66: Return to Buchenwald.



The AJC hosted a luncheon with local Holocaust survivors and Colin Boyd, Canada's Head of Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, seated front left. Clockwise from front right: David Korn; Laszlo & Anna Fried; Natan Nevo; Jacob Koren; Elin Beaumont, Outreach and Communications Manager, Azrieli Foundation; Pat & Michael Kutz, Montreal; Morris Strug; and Philip Riteman.



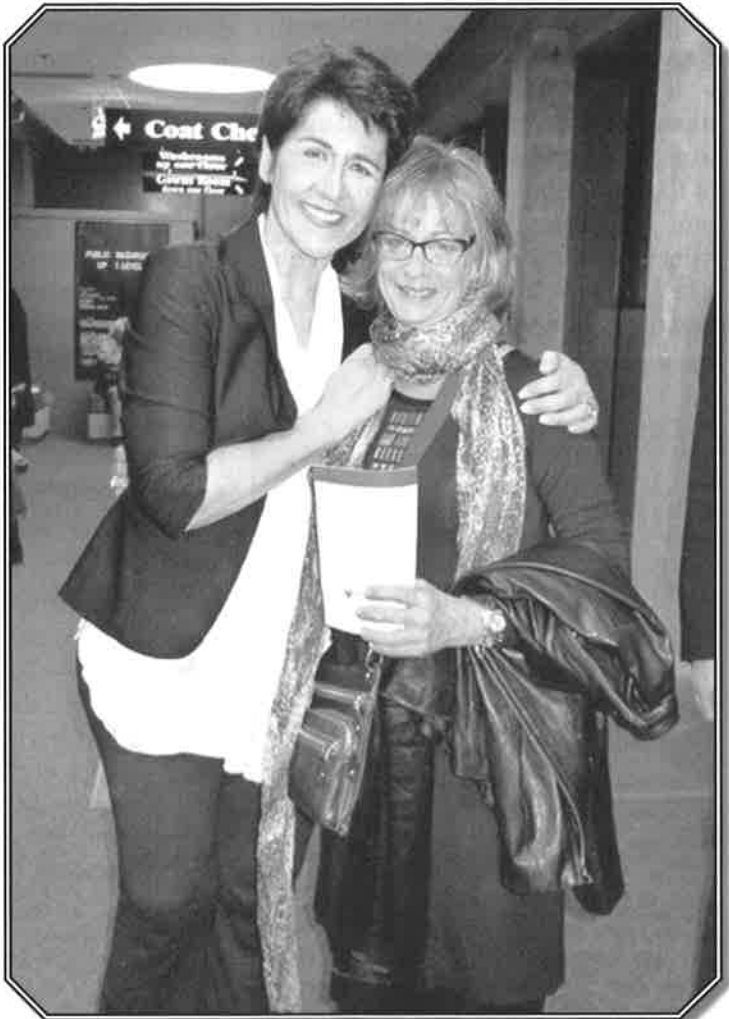
2nd Annual Christmas Lunch at Spencer House. Volunteers successfully hosted a joyful afternoon, pictured l to r, Schuyler Smith, Sherri Kasten, Harvey Hoff, Zack Novack, Barb Alberstat, Myrna Yazer, Robin Budovitch, Hannah Novack, Donna Assh and Bobbi Zahra. Volunteers not pictured: Jerry & Nancy Blumenthal; Rachel & Maya Budovitch; Phil Alberstat; Derek, Lisa & Harper Brett; Nana & Sharon Shteinberg; Tanya & Adar Svidler; live musical entertainment was provide by Olga Kulakevich and Belinda.



Polish Consul General Andrzej Szydlo, Montreal, right, hosted the Polish Independence Anniversary celebration in Halifax. From l to r, Jan Skora, Honorary Polish Consul, Halifax; Edna LeVine and Dr. Dorota Glowacka, Professor of Humanities, University of King's College.



On December 10th, International Human Rights Day, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission individual award was presented to Sheri Lecker. Lecker works with hundreds of women, youth and children at risk, providing them with shelter and stability at a chaotic time of their lives. She has raised awareness about the issues of poverty and the root causes of homelessness. She was also involved with Save the Children and worked overseas doing advocacy and education work for children and families. In honour of the late Burnley "Rocky" Jones the individual award will now be known as the Dr. Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones Human Rights Award. Mr. Jones or Rocky, as he was well-known, was a passionate advocate for civil rights and social equity. Sheri Lecker, left, with Brigadier General JJ Grant, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; Eunice Harker, Chair, NS Human Rights Commission; and Tracey Williams, Director and CEO, NS Human Rights Commission.



This fall the Gilsig Series in Jewish Arts and Culture presented the Canadian premiere of Bella: The Colour of Love, a one-woman musical about Marc Chagall's wife and muse. Pictured with Marcie Ann Gilsig, right, is Theresa Tova, Yiddish jazz singer, actor and award-winning playwright who stared in two sold out shows at the Sir James Dunn Theatre, Halifax.

Report from The Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama

While we are still reeling from the loss of our daily delivery of the Globe (preceded by the disappearance of the National Post), we have gained a couple of suppliers of Chanukah candles and decorations. As St. John's continues to attract the North American chain stores which are sprouting like mushrooms after a good rain, so we in the Jewish community are finding little gems at emporiums such as "Bed, Bath and Beyond" and "Target". Thus our sense of being cut off from the mainstream of Canadian news is tempered by the sight of Jewish holiday decorations heretofore unavailable. We are, however, still unable to get Kosher poultry since the demise of Chai in Toronto. Furthermore, the provincial liquor board is no longer bringing in the Tishbi Kosher wines from Israel due to lack of demand. Ah, the vagaries of business and commerce!



Messod with lulav and etrog in the Sukkah

On Sunday, September 1st, we held our yearly Schacharit at Cape Spear service. The weather was gorgeous as we contemplated the majesty of the ocean while chanting the familiar prayers. The morning service was followed by our yearly visit to the cemetery on Blackmarsh Road. This year's memorial service began with the unveiling of the headstone at the grave of our dear friend and synagogue member, June Mercer. We remember June, always an enthusiastic volunteer, as she was a blessing in our lives. The service was attended by her family, including her children, Roxanne and Geoffrey, their spouses and children. Following the unveiling, we visited many of the other graves, including those that receive no other visits during the year. The service was followed by a brunch at the synagogue.

The early celebration of the Jewish New Year during the first week of the school and university year was a great success. We greatly appreciate the commitment of our members and friends, as minyanim were constant during all the traditional services.

A full Kosher dinner on the first night of Rosh Hashanah was held at the synagogue and was enjoyed by approximately 25 guests. The menu consisted of gefilte fish and salad, turkey, roast potatoes, green beans, fruit and traditional honey

cake, washed down with those soon-to-disappear Tishbi wines from the Galil.

On the Friday afternoon of Yom Kippur, I ran from work to make soup for the breaking of the fast. As I tried to leave the synagogue, I was cut off by a gentleman waving his hands wildly from the seat of a huge RV. Wondering what on earth he wanted, I stopped and waited while he got out. The gentleman, a teacher of tourism from Israel, and

his wife had just arrived in St. John's and were thrilled to hear that we were holding Yom Kippur services. The two of them participated in our services and attended the communal breaking of the fast as well. They both spoke to the congregation and thanked us for the little miracle of coming to so remote a destination and finding a little bit of "home" where they least expected it. We also enjoyed the participation of Jennifer Marcus and her husband from Toronto.

During Yom Kippur we welcomed Randy Mauskopf, son of Ernie Mauskopf, and Arlene Bloomfield, the fiancée of Dr. David Mercer. David, a long and faithful member of Beth El, and Arlene have since moved to Montreal, but they promise to visit us often.

Immediately after Yom Kippur, a sukkah was built and we were able to use it for Kiddush on several occasions as we had no hurricanes for the first time in a number of years. We also celebrated Simchat Torah and had a small supper following Hakafot.



Brunch following Memorial service for June Mercer



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Children looking on as Ernie Mauskopf lights the Chanukiyah at the Chanukah party at Beth El



Students from Brother T.I. Murphy with teacher/author Trudy Morgan-Cole



Pupils from Mary Queen of Peace

On Wednesday, October 16th we were treated to yet another lifeline from the outside. The Honourable Joel Lion, Consul General of Israel for Quebec and Atlantic Canada, arrived for the unveiling of a series of aerial photographs of Israel at City Hall in St. John's. Board members of the Synagogue and the Havura were invited to a small reception immediately afterwards. Warm thanks to Janet Adams from the office of the Mayor, Dennis O'Keefe, for her efforts in organizing this event.

Mr. Lion was accompanied by Naomi Rosenfeld, the new and enthusiastic Director of Hillel for Atlantic Canada. She was able to meet with a few of our students, and has promised to keep in touch with all our young people.

Shortly after this event, on October 24th, we were pleased to welcome Daniel Stern of UIA Campaign and Regional Community Services and Eran Singer, Middle East Editor of Israel Public Radio. Thanks go to Jonathan Richler who organized the venue, the Bruneau Centre at Memorial University. Mr. Singer gave an excellent presentation and update on the situation in the Middle East with a concentration on the war in Syria. His explanations of the factions were clear and insightful. And, again, we Jews who live in

the "far east" of Canada felt just a little less cut off from the mainstream.

On the 31st of October the students from Brother T. I. Murphy Learning Resource Centre spent the afternoon at the synagogue with their teacher (and acclaimed Newfoundland author), Trudy Morgan-Cole. It was a pleasure as usual. On November 7th we welcomed 92 Grade four pupils from Mary Queen of Peace to Beth El synagogue for a little talk and tour. Both the English and the French Immersion stream groups behaved beautifully and asked some very pertinent and intelligent questions. As

per usual, they left with a box of this past Pesach's leftover Matzah for tasting.

That weekend we were thrilled to see Philip and Dorothy Riteman. Philip received yet another honour – this time from the Association of Police Chiefs. The following weekend we welcomed yet another intrepid visitor, Adam Taxin, three-time winner on Jeopardy, Harvard-trained lawyer and columnist, for Shabbat. Apparently, visiting Newfoundland was always on his list of places to see, and he was not disappointed.

Finally, on Sunday, December the 1st, we held our Chanukah 5774 party at Beth El. Students were invited to help in the frying of latkes which were then served at the party following. Approximately 25 people including small children turned out for the festivities, candle-lighting and dreidel-playing. Special thanks to Jennifer Marcus and Nicole McIlwain for yummy, fluffy levivot and to everyone who participated. And thanks to Target for the lovely Chanukiyot, candles, sacs of Chanukah gelt and pretty napkins. I bought out their stash of candles, so I can only hope they'll keep us supplied for another year. Sigh.....



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Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

August, September and October were beautiful months with warm sunny days and lots of blueberries, partridge berries and other delicious fruits of the earth. We welcomed outside guests from Israel, Canada and the United States. We also welcomed new members who live in this province as well as others who arrived in September.

Elizabeth Loder, who usually leads our High Holy Days services, was busy with her new baby, so other community members stepped in to lead and to learn Torah portions. It was truly a community effort. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski organized the meals and members pitched in to assist her. We gathered at the Koubis' to walk to the Rennies River for Tashlich. It was especially memorable on a beautiful sunny day with the water rushing below the footbridge where we held our service. The younger members were especially adept at sounding the shofar.

The Bendzsa family's back yard was this year's home for the sukkah built by Paul

Bendzsa and Sharon Koubi. Besides hosting the Sukkot service, the Bendzsas hosted the annual Sukkot brunch. More than 30 people attended on the warm, sunny Sunday—along with lots of children and babies. Everyone had a chance to shake the lulav and etrog and some people even tried out a tightrope strung between two trees.

Simchat Torah finished the High Holy Days and this year the Mackey-Browns hosted the service. It was a rainy night but the rain let up for a few minutes so we could briefly go out with the Torah when we were parading for the last hakafah. There was much merriment during and after the service and many stayed for awhile afterwards to chat. Unfortunately it started to rain heavily as some of us were



Brunch following Memorial service for June Mercer

walking home and in spite of our raingear, we were quite wet when we got home.

As soon as the High Holy Days were over, our regular every other week services commenced. Two services required minyans for yartseits and we were very happy that so many came in response.

October brought several opportunities

for members to speak in schools and at Memorial University, which we always enjoy doing. Jonathan Richler was invited to teach a university class how to make rugalach which was a big hit with the students. Though the intent is for us to impart knowledge on Judaism, we always find that we learn so much from the students. Learning is indeed a two way street.

On October 16, the Mayor of St. John's invited the Boards of the Jewish Community Havura and Beth El Synagogue to the unveiling of 20 aerial photographs of Israel. The photographs, by two former Israeli Air Force pilots, were sponsored by the Public Affairs Division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs to celebrate Israel's 50th Anniversary. The exhibit was a chance to see Israel as it is, not only deserts and historic sites, but also green farmland, snow on Mount Hermon, and people snorkelling and kayaking. The Consul General of Israel for Quebec and Atlantic Canada Mr. Joel Lion was here for the unveiling. City Hall hosted a small reception and Mayor Dennis O'Keefe warmly welcomed Mr. Lion. Mayor O'Keefe talked of commonalities between Israel and Newfoundland and Labrador, such as the strong musical, artistic and cultural traditions that arise when a people is isolated by geography or in other ways. Mr. Lion also used this trip to speak at Memorial University.

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Joel Lion, Consul General of Israel for Quebec and Atlantic Canada, listens to St. John's Mayor Dennis O'Keefe at a reception to unveil an Israeli photo exhibit at St. John's City Hall.



Jillian Gould, Daphna Koubi, Elizabeth Malischewski and Noam Koubi (from left to right) light candles at the Havura Hanukkah party, while Andrea Monro and son Cole McGuire wait their turn.

Naomi Rosenfeld of the Atlantic Jewish Council came from Halifax for the City Hall reception and then spent the evening meeting with university students in the area, first for the Consul General's talk and then at a dessert potluck. Trina Rosenzweig invited the students to her home to meet with Naomi and to discuss re-establishing a Jewish Student Association at Memorial. The number of Jewish students at our post-secondary institutions has grown over the past few years and there is definitely a need.

On October 24th, Eran Singer, Middle East Editor of Israel Public Radio, gave a public lecture, "Middle East and Israel Update," at Memorial University. Eran spoke of the ever changing events in Egypt, Syria and other Arab countries as well as in Israel. Those attending had many questions and observations and Eran was able to draw on his vast knowledge and insight to give meaningful and in-depth responses. Daniel Stern, of the Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA, accompanied Eran and gave a brief talk about one of the organization's successes in Israel which the audience found inspiring.

Chanukah came upon us so early this year, and several of our members visited their relatives in the U.S. to celebrate Chanukah and Thanksgiving, which came together this year. Here in St. John's, we celebrated without the turkey but we celebrated in style. Sixty adults and 20 children gathered together to light the candles, eat, socialize, play dreidel and dance to the klezmer band. Everyone got in the spirit and sang along with the band when they knew the words. The children had a great time playing around and watching their parents

dance to the music before joining in. Inbal Bahar organized the children's table and her daughter Daphna taught the other children to make origami dreidels. This year, we tried something new. Instead of having a latka making party, we asked members to bring their favourite type. It is amazing how many different types of latkas you can make and the members enjoyed the challenge. Elizabeth-Anne Malischewski was the organizer of the food and managing the kitchen while Jonathan Richler was our master of ceremonies and organizer of the events for the evening. All in all it was a noisy, successful evening.

Please join us if you are in St. John's and check out our web site www.havura.org. Don't forget to order our CD. Ordering information is available on our website. A healthy 2014 to all of you.

News and Notes

Mazel tov to Diane and Marvin Siegel on the marriage of their daughter Corinne to William Smith. The wedding was held in Toronto.

Mazel tov to Heather MacDonald and Lorne Sulsky on the birth of their son Ronen Daniel.

Mazel tov to Steven Wolinetz on receiving the designation of Professor Emeritus at the fall convocation at Memorial University.

Former Newfoundlander and Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman was in St. John's in November as a guest speaker at the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary 27th Mess Dinner. He continues to educate and inspire all those who hear him.

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Greetings from PEI

by Rosalie Simeone

Here is a synopsis of our fall events. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were held at the home of Joel Palter and Rachel Kassner.

Sukkot was planned for Summerside this year. Unfortunately not too many people could come-but it was a great looking Sukkah.

The Chanukah party at the home of Andrew and Karin Melzer was well attended, with a great variety of yummy latkes to sample.

Our PEIJC book club has resumed. This year

we are alternating Movie night with book night. This is proving to be popular, and we have between 6 and 10 participants.

Future events include a sleigh ride for Tu B'Shvat. This will be our second annual sleigh ride.

Comings and Goings:

The PEI community is always changing. Isabel and Ariel Epshtein and family, and Marcela Rosemberg (glass Artisan) have moved to Ontario. We wish them all the best, and will miss them.

Beatrice Davis a long time PEI Summer resident and member of the PEIJC executive passed away this year and a remembrance was held for her and others who passed away.

Anyone planning a visit to PEI, is encouraged to contact us through our website <http://www.peijc.org> There you will find information about upcoming events, and contact information.

News from Fredericton

by Ayten Kranat

Many events have kept members of the Fredericton Jewish Community busy this autumn, following the Yom Tevim.

As of September 2013, 17 families have re-located to Fredericton under the New Brunswick Provincial Nominee Program (NBPNP) Agreement signed in March 2004. Within the group of 17 arriving families, one family left abruptly for British Columbia after a month, and two families left for Alberta after trying unsuccessfully for almost 4 years to obtain employment in the health field due to a protracted Health Region hiring freeze. However, compensating for the out-migration, two more families arrived in Fredericton from Saskatchewan

and Ontario after having first immigrated to Canada via the Saskatchewan PNP and the Federal immigration stream. They found us through our website, www.fredshul.ca. One family is scheduled to arrive during spring or summer 2014. Overall, we are pleased to have achieved a 94% retention rate since the inception of our community support agreement.

Chedar classes have resumed with Rabbi Goldman and we are presently examining implementing a program for pre-schoolers.

In October, some members from our community attended the Saint John Jewish Museum fundraiser luncheon in Saint

John. Guest speaker, Sir Andrew Burns, the United Kingdom's Envoy on Post - Holocaust Issues to the UN, spoke of the "Consequences of the Holocaust". He pointed out that the Stockholm Declaration now has 46 countries signed, dedicated to "preserve the memory of those who died and the need to educate the younger generations". He also stressed how important it is to "talk about history to teach the lessons of the future".

Seymour and Marilyn Kaufman, met with Marcia Koven, original founder of the museum, and Dan Elman following the luncheon, for a comprehensive tour of the



Marcia Koven with Marilyn & Seymour Kaufman at the Saint John luncheon.



Scout Jacob Kranat honouring Remembrance Day.



Morton Cohen, pictured, and Lil Budovitch travelled from Toronto to join family in Fredericton for the Chanukah celebrations!

facility, which encompasses the Synagogue. A beautiful, warm and welcoming ambience...rich in culture and history, well worth a visit. Mazel tov to the planning committee for a wonderful successful affair.

The United Jewish Federations 2013 Speakers Tour partnered with the St. Thomas University's Dept. of Journalism under Dr. Jan Wong, to host Israeli journalist

Eran Singer, Mid-East editor for Israel Public Radio. Eran told the over 150 people in attendance, "Never underestimate the power of the people". As he exposed the many layers of the Middle East turmoil, Shiite -v- Sunni, Moslem -v- Christian, secular -v- conservative elements, he emphasized the importance of social media and how it has changed and continues to change the map of the Middle East. He pointed out that choice of words, as a reporting journalist, is important so as to maintain impartiality in the eyes of the public. He expounded on the conflict in Syria and its effect on the countries in the region. The following day, his scheduled half hour in a STU journalism class, continued for an hour and a half. The event organized by Marilyn Kaufman and Dan Stern (Jewish Federations of Canada), was chaired by Marilyn Kaufman, recorded by Ayten Kranat. Thank you to Dan Stern, Dr. Wong, Marc Kranat, Marcelo Santos and Judy and Arnold Budovitch.

On Remembrance Day, several members of the Fredericton Jewish community turned out at the Cenotaph in downtown Fredericton to honour members of our

Canadian Armed Forces who died in battle and those who continue to serve our country. Jake Kranat had the honour of carrying the flag for Fifth Fredericton Scout Troop in the Remembrance Day Parade.

November 17th was the Global Day of Jewish Learning. Marilyn Kaufman, Eileen and Larry Finkelman, Marc & Ayten Kranat, took advantage of the free online registration, lectures and resources offered from areas around the globe. This was the first year we have participated, and those who did, found it very enlightening and educational. The good thing is, that we can now access these materials through you tube as far back as 2010.

November 26th, at the University of New Brunswick, some of our members attended an online presentation by Raymond Ibrahim entitled, "Turmoil in the Middle East and Its Implications for the indigenous Christian population." Sponsored by Fredericton Advocates for Human Rights, the event was organized by Marcelo Santos and Marc Kranat and recorded by Ayten Kranat.

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➤ GET CONNECTED. GET INVOLVED.



The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) serves as the advocacy arm of the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Jewish Federations of Canada. Here are three ways you can get involved in advancing policies that strengthen the Jewish people in Canada, in Israel, and around the world.

1

Learn more.

To learn about the issues and policies we are involved in, go to **www.cija.ca** and sign up for email updates.

2

Make your voice heard.

Take our survey at **www.cija.ca/survey** to let us know the issues that matter to you.

3

Volunteer.

Consider volunteering through CIJA's Atlantic Local Partner Council by contacting Mark David at **ajc@cija.ca**.

THE
CENTRE
FOR
ISRAEL &
JEWISH
AFFAIRS



David Aramoff

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The Fredericton Public Library was unable to partner with us this year due to renovations. However, they set up a beautiful Chanukah display in their main lobby entrance. Thank you to Marilyn Kaufman for the Chanukah items and the home baked cookies for the first day celebration.



The Sisterhood sponsored the Jewish community Chanukah party at the Synagogue, Saturday evening on November 30th. Morton Cohen and his mother Lil, visiting from Toronto, joined us. Rabbi Goldman, joined by a few members to brave the cold, commenced the festivities with the lighting of the menorah outdoors under the stars. Others lit menorahs inside. The choir from St. Thomas University entertained. For the youngsters, there was a Chanukah story read by Brenda Purdy and craft activities. Refreshments of latkes and sufganiyot rounded out the evening. Thank you to Rabbi Goldman, Shelley Stephens, Brenda



The Speaker of the Senate invited Dr. Israel Unger to present his book, The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger, to the Senate and Parliament. At that time he had a private meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Purdy, Yana Tichonov, Albina Lazarev, Ayten Kranat, Michal Almog, Liron Henderson, Sydelle Grobe, Edye Besner, David Aranoff, Josh Stephens and Cary Grobe for pulling this event together.

The Sisterhood, under the leadership of Shelley Stephens, recently had a women's afternoon get together where discussion centered around ideas for upcoming social events. So stay tuned. The JNF Negev Dinner honouring Prime Minister Stephen Harper was live streamed to reach Jews across Canada. Ministers Jason Kenney and John Baird, MC's for the evening, staunchly reiterated PM Harper's deep and strong commitment to the State of Israel. Their Yiddish wasn't bad either. What a marvellous way to include those who cannot personally attend.

The Synagogue had its annual meeting in November and elected a new executive: Past President - Louis Budovitch, President - Arnold Chippin, 1st Vice- President- Marilyn Kaufman, 2nd Vice-President- Eileen Duguay, Treasurer- Ruth Chippin and Secretary- Mel Soicher. Our new AJC representative is Ayten Kranat. Congratulations to all and best wishes for a successful term.

Our condolences to the family of the late Irene Leckie who passed away in November.

In appreciation, the Sgoorai Israel Synagogue wishes to acknowledge the donation made by the Aranoff family, David, Michael and Lynne.

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Moncton News

by Nancy Cohen

Members of the community including several children came together on Sunday, September 15th to build and decorate the succah. Their work was much admired by all and the fine weather meant that the succah was well used this year. The following Sunday a reception was held in the succah to celebrate the recent marriages of Rabbi and Rebbitzin Yagod's daughters Chumie and Huvie.

A large crowd showed up at the Moncton Public Library on October 22nd to hear Eran Singer, Middle East Editor of Israel Public Radio speak about events in the Middle East and how they are affecting Israel. Everyone agreed that it was a very interesting and informative talk and there were many questions at the end.

Every year the Jewish community takes part in Remembrance Day services, laying wreaths in honour of the Jewish war vets. This year Francis Weil laid the wreath at the service in Moncton and John Sichel laid the wreath at the service in Dieppe.

Our community was proud to learn that Natalie Arsenault, daughter of Janice and Paul Arsenault and granddaughter of the late Norm and Adele Rubin, won second place nationally in the intermediate division of the Royal Canadian Legion's annual Remembrance Day essay contest. Natalie, a grade 10 student, wrote a fictional story underlining how important it is to "never forget" the sacrifices made by our veterans, and to pass this message from generation to generation. Natalie's story was printed in the Times & Transcript on Remembrance Day.

Several activities took place in Moncton to celebrate Hanukkah starting with the Tiferes Israel Preschool's concert. Public menorah lighting ceremonies took place at the Moncton Hospital and at Moncton City Hall. Councilor Charles Leger brought greetings on behalf of the City while Rabbi Yagod and all the children in attendance lit the candles. Hot chocolate and Hanukkah cookies were appreciated by those who braved the cold.

A beautiful dinner was served at our annual shul Hanukkah party. A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings as well as latkes, was prepared by Tiferes Israel Sisterhood under the direction of Joan Meyer and Goldie Johnston. The social hall was beautifully decorated for the event by Theodore Lewis. A highlight of the evening

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The Machas family and Rebbitzen Yagod at the Chanukah dinner!

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was the display of menorahs that were made by the children for a contest organized by Rebbitzen Yagod. Judging was difficult since all of the children worked hard on this project, but the winners were the Machas family, who designed a menorah that looked like the façade of our shul.

There has been quite the baby boon lately among some of the Jewish children who grew up in Moncton. Mazel tov to: Annette and Oscar Coleman and Sylvia Krinsky on the birth of their grandson Noah Ethan, a brother for Jakob Benjamin. Proud parents are Randy Coleman and Elisa Krinsky of Toronto. Betty Druckman on the birth of her granddaughter Izzy Sophia. Proud parents are Michael Druckman and Tamar Hertz. Izzy who was named for her late grandfather Isaac Druckman had her naming ceremony at Tiferes Israel when her parents visited Moncton for Rosh Hashanah.

Irwin and Audrey Lampert and Barry and Terri Applebaum (Toronto) on the birth of their granddaughter Annie Joyce on October 14. Annie is named after her dad's grandmother, Annie, and her great aunt, the late Joyce Attis, who is known to many Shalom readers because she went to Camp Kadimah for many years and was active in Young Judea.. Proud parents are Mindy

Lampert and Derek Applebaum.

Marilyn and Andy Boghen on the birth of their grandson Kai Michal in November. Proud parents are Robbie Boghen and Nicole Melanson.

Elizabeth and Adam Karpowicz on the birth of their grandson Roman on December 5. Proud parents are Phillip Karpowicz and Justyna Lorenc.

David and Margaret Attis on the birth of their grandson Noah on December 6. Proud parents are Samara Attis and Noah Mizrab.

Unfortunately we have also suffered several losses over the last few months:

On June 7 Amos Gorber passed away just weeks before his 100th birthday. Condolences to his daughter Judith and her husband Jim Cormier, his three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The community was saddened by the loss of two members of the same family. On June 18 Joe Savage passed away after a lengthy



Nir El with his menorah



Eli and Zev Davidson with their menorah

illness. Joe was the beloved husband of Carole, father of Jen and Lewis, and brother of Max. We were shocked to learn that Joe's sister Edith Savage had died suddenly on November 7th. Heartfelt condolences to Max, Carole, Jen and Lewis.

On December 10th we lost another much loved member of our community, Irving Schelew. Irving was a community leader served on the Tiferes Israel board of directors until recently. Sincere condolences to his wife, Lillian Schelew, his four sons, Jeffrey of Nova Scotia, Alan (Suzan Trotter) of Moncton, Michael (Lum) of Toronto and Bernard (Theresa) of Nova Scotia, 8 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, his brother Don of Toronto, his sister, Ruth (Doug Willansky) of Toronto.

Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft, Curator

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum hosted the annual Chanukah menorah lighting ceremony on the fourth night of Chanukah, Saturday, November 30. We used the large wooden menorah constructed by Harry Davis in the 1950s which is placed outside the entrance to the Synagogue. Guests were welcomed by Gary Davis, president, Saint John Jewish Historical Society and Bruce Washburn, president, Congregation Shaarei Zedek. Mark Koven gave a brief history of the holiday and led the prayers and songs for the lighting of the candles. For the first time in many years, we had several young children to assist with the lighting: Nikka and Emily Muskal, Daniel Shalom, Bar and Alon Khayat and Eliana and Jadon Davis. Afterwards everyone was invited inside to enjoy a short musical programme and partake of apple cider and cookies. We would like to thank Diane Bloom and the children of the community for preparing the delicious cookies. The event was filmed by a local film producer for a programme to be broadcast on Bell TV - check our Facebook page for the link to the show when it becomes available.

We sent our Chanukah education outreach kits to four schools in the Anglophone South School District in the months of November and December. The teachers responded positively to these resources. The kits provided the opportunity for their young students to learn about another culture through stories and activities. Teachers often supplement the resources in the kits with information from the internet. We have had several teachers return each year to borrow the kit again. Katherine Biggs-Craft also gave a short presentation on Chanukah to a group of grade 8 students at Princess Elizabeth School who are members of a noon-hour club where they learn about other cultures. The students really liked playing with the deridels. They reported that the rules were easy to follow and had time permitted they

would have played for the entire afternoon.

Over the winter months, our curator, Katherine Biggs-Craft will be working on a number of archival projects. She reports that "the winter months allow me to focus on cataloguing and organizing archival material. We have many boxes of documents and photographs to integrate into our collections and I hope to have the archives fully organized and indexed by the end of 2014."

Gary Davis will be heading up the creation of our new exhibit for 2014 on the summer community of Pamdenec. He says: "The village of Pamdenec occupies a big place in the hearts and minds of members 'of a certain age' who grew up in the Saint John Jewish Community. Located just a few kilometres outside the City, it was a fresh air refuge for residents of the smoky city, with sunshine and warm temperatures instead of fog and chilly sea breezes. It was considered significant enough to be recognized as a place of historic interest by the Province of New Brunswick. Some of us felt that it was about time to consolidate the vast information available by doing research on its history and collecting stories, photos, and movies about life in the summer there and what gave its iconic place in the community." The exhibit has been funded by an Exhibit Renewal Grant from the Heritage Branch of the Province of New Brunswick.

Preparation is also underway for the Holocaust Study Group programme which will run from the end of January to the end of April, culminating in the Yom Hashoah programme on Monday, April 28. We work with the Fine Arts and Social Studies Coordinator for the Anglophone South School District to connect



Mark Koven explains Chanukah

with schools and invite area high schools to nominate and register students for the programme. The students will hear from a number of guest speakers and participate in a number of independent study activities to develop their understanding of the Holocaust.

Active fundraising to support the Museum's activities will increase in the next year. If you can assist with our operation in any way - through personal memberships, suggestions for funding sources or ideas for events - please let us know by telephone or email.

You can also keep in touch with museum activities on a regular basis by liking our Facebook page.



Eliana and Jadon Davis colouring Chanukah pages with Andrew Craft

Saint John Community News

by Susan Isaacs-Lubin



Chanukah lunch

The Saint John Jewish community had an exciting fall. We hosted a luncheon honouring Marcia Koven, when she returned to Saint John for the Museum luncheon. This was very well attended. We presented Marcia with leaf on the Tree of Life from the Synagogue; Sisterhood gave Marcia a glass dreidel and the Museum named the Wedgewood room after Marcia. It was a fitting farewell to someone who has been such an important positive influence on our community. Marcia is now living in Toronto near her daughter Charlotte.

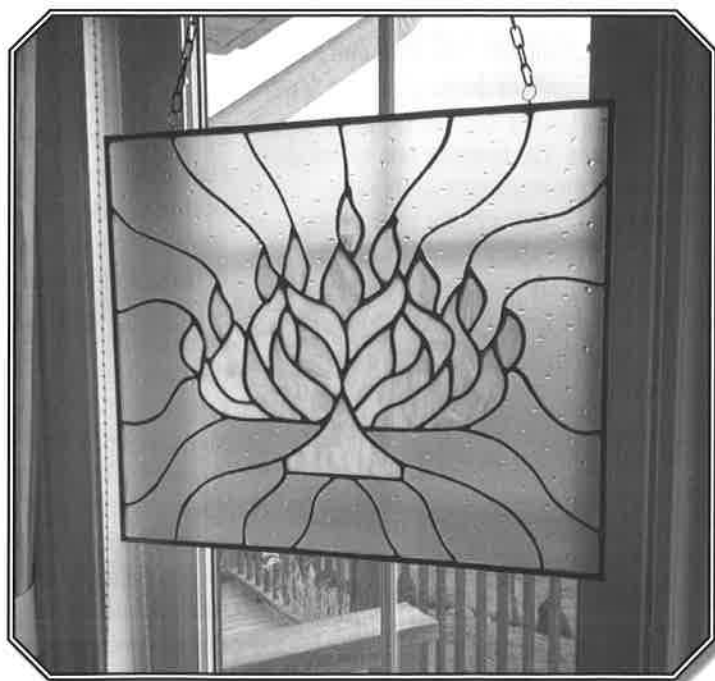
Diane Bloom had the children of the community in to help bake Chanukah cookies. I am not sure how many went into their mouths and how many made it to the freezer! But – a good time was had by all the children as a prelude to Chanukah.

The public lighting of the large outside Menorah that was made for the Synagogue around 1850 by Harry Davis was held on November 30th. Despite the cold, there was a large attendance from the general Saint John community, with Chanukah songs and sweets.

On December 1st, we held our annual Chanukah luncheon with about 80 people in attendance. This event is always well attended as everyone enjoys the chicken and latke meal with Chanukah cake (beautifully made and decorated by Sandy Levine) for dessert. One of our visiting Israeli couples, Anna and Yaniv Barnea had presented the Synagogue with a beautiful Menorah depicting the Wailing Wall, and that was lit along with other Menorahs. A beautiful stained glass created and donated by Steven and Rhoda Fransblow was raffled. The proud winners were Elena and Michael Khayat.

Our snowbirds have mostly all left for Florida, with a few "stragglers" leaving towards the end of December. It is quiet for Saint John over the winter months with so many away.

On December 17th, we have another Israeli family coming to live in Saint John – Avishag and Isaac David with their three children. They have had a home built for them and will be anxious to get settled here. In February, Orit and Alon Silberstein and their three children will arrive in Saint John to live. We welcome both families and are thrilled to have them become part of our community.



Cape Breton News

by Barrie Carnat

Holocaust education conference in November

Designed as an in-service training for teachers as well as being directed at students, the holocaust education committee, headed by Diane Lewis, invited Lara Hana Brady as the conference guest speaker. Lara is the niece of Hana Brady, whose story of transport to, and death at Auschwitz was told in the book Hana's Suitcase. A "pot luck" supper was held at the home of Sharon Columbus to welcome Lara Hana Brady to Cape Breton as well as honour special guests Avvie & Evie Drukker, dedicated and founding members of the Holocaust Education Committee.

Youth Speaks Up

In 1996, at the urging of his wife, Zelda, Jack Yazer, developed a program called



Celebration of Tootsie's 85th

Youth Speaks Up. It was designed for grade 6 children to encourage them to say NO to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, violence, racism and peer pressure. Children from all schools in the area were given the opportunity to join and would meet weekly. One of the guest speakers was Myra Freeman, our past



Presenting the Chanukah play!



Lieutenant Governor. During the 10 years the program ran, 4,000 students participated by meeting together once a month. The children were also responsible for raising funds for a charity of their choice, and donated \$80,000 to charities including the food bank and the SPCA.

This year, the program was restarted at the initiative of the Southend Community Center. And naturally, Jack Yazer, 100 years old, is there inspiring a new crop of children. He says it gives them added strength to face the challenges of high school.

Milestones- Faye (Tootsie) David celebrated her 85th birthday. She hosted the community at a Kiddush at the shul, with her children Laurel and Phil from Toronto, and we all enjoyed her humour, intelligence and

We mourn the passing of Hymie Goldberg.



Raymond Goldman with the wreath that he laid in honour of his three brothers Hymie, Phillip and Solly, all deceased, who served their country in the war.

Remembrance Day

Dr. Joseph Claener was the speaker at this year's annual Remembrance Day Shabbat service. Dr. Claener, whose father served overseas, spoke about growing up in the absence of his father and the disruption to his life when his father returned. It was a

moving talk that made those of us born after the war more aware of the effect the war had right here at home. Thank you Joe!

Also on Remembrance Day in Glace Bay Raymond Goldman laid a wreath for his three brothers who served in the armed forces during the Second World War. Hymie, Phillip and Solly Goldman all served their country.

Hanukkah dinner

Congregation Temple Sons of Israel celebrated Chanukah on Sunday, December 1, with a community dinner. Hundreds of latkes, hand made by Alan Nathanson, knishes made by Shayna Strong, and many other delights were enjoyed by the more than 60 people in attendance. Evy Carnat led us in a great sing song, we performed our Chanukah play, and the holiday spirit glowed along with the lights from all the chanukiot.

We continue our Shabbat services, every week, with a haimish sit down kiddush afterwards. And despite the impending departure of two couples to Toronto, and our snow birds flying south, we know we will carry on thanks to 'our regulars' and to a few who plan to resume their shul attendance.

The women of the community marked the retirement of Mrs Betty Dean. For over 36 years, Mrs Dean cleaned the synagogue, set up for Bnai Mitzvahs, parties, and celebrations. Her husband, son, daughter-in-law and later her two granddaughters all helped over the years. The entire congregation wishes Mrs Dean a happy retirement.



Margaret, Bailey and Martin Karrel, Tootsie David and Shirley Chernin celebrate Chanukah.

A Chance for Peace?

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council

*Gonna do my very best
Baby, can't you see?
Gonna put me to the test
Take a chance on me . . .*

From an ABBA song

Everyone has heard about the negotiations in Geneva over the Iranian nuclear program.

But I was almost right in the middle of the discussions.

Once again I was privileged last month to be invited to the Halifax Security Forum.

This was conceived several years ago by former defense minister and good Nova Scotian, Peter Mackay, as a gathering of government officials, military leaders, journalists, academics, policy analysts--anyone involved in foreign affairs, from dozens of countries.

This meeting is highly anticipated by those involved as a unique opportunity to meet persons of many viewpoints.

So one of the special meetings started in the evening. The topic was Iran and the nuclear issue.

I was the first to enter and saw someone familiar organizing the session. It turned out to be Jackson Diehl, editorial editor for the Washington Post, whose columns I always follow.

Then a friendly man and his wife came and sat down next to me. He introduced himself as Senator Tim Kaine, a recently elected Senator from Virginia. We spoke of national and Virginia politics. Though a Democrat, Senator Kaine has a wide base of support. His state is one of the top as far as defense resources goes. His tenure as governor saw him work for the little guy in getting people out of bad mortgages.

Keep him in mind, as I believe you will be seeing him become a prominent Senator.

Then finally there was the panel which included a retired Israeli general, Amos Gilad, and another person concerned about Israel, Joseph Cirincione, formerly of the

Carnegie Endowment and now president of Ploughshares, a group seeing nuclear disarmament.

There were opposing views on the Iranian deal, which was just announced at that time. Who was right?

Is any deal with Iran dealing with the devil, a sellout, a Munich?

We do not know. But--sometimes you have to take a chance.

John Kennedy made a compromise with the former Soviet Union on missiles in Turkey during the Cuban missile crisis.

Richard Nixon broke down years of opposition and negative attitudes and visited China.

There were numerous disarmament agreements over the years.

Could the other side have cheated, used the situation to its advantage?

Of course. But it didn't happen. That's called diplomacy.

Much closer to home, the old fighter Menachem Begin, of all persons, sat down with Anwar Sadat, had just started a bloody and vicious war on Israel five years prior, to work out a settlement.

Did Begin "sell out"? Many thought so at the time.

However, these matters are full of complicated innuendos not fully reported or reportable to the public. Though not perfect, hardly anyone questions the value of the Sinai accords. So it's not simple. Cirincione said that he would like a pure cure for cancer, but it does not exist. We would like to have certainty, but things are not always that way.

If anyone, Cirincione, has a stake in security in Israel.. His wife is Jewish and one of their children is now living in Israel.

So--stay tuned.

Other events from the Forum

Irwin Mendleson asked me to get John McCain's autograph, as he is a regular

attendee there. I told him it was hard because everyone wants to talk to him. But then I just happened to pass him coming down the hall. Senator, would you mind signing this for someone? Sure. Uh, could you do another, for one of daughters? Sure, what's her name? Senator McCain is always highly informed and committed to security issues. Always great to hear him.

Drones! You've heard about them? Stay tuned--you'll be hearing much more. One panel explained how all military strategy is moving from piloted aircraft to drones. The Israeli military may be completely drone run in a few years. Many questions and issues to be resolved over them.

India is becoming a leading nation in the world. As we move through the century, will have much to do with them. They became a state with Israel in 1948. Like the Jews, India has its homeland and its "diaspora"--of millions of her people living world-wide, in London, Toronto, Los Angeles.

In another evening session, I met a number of representatives of eastern European countries, mostly Slovenia and Georgia. Their activities are always in the shadow of the "Russian Bear" surrounding them.

Finally, he seems to have had trouble as prime minister, but Kevin Rudd of Australia is an eminent scholar on Asia. He cited lists of important events in Chinese history in his presentation, and cordially answered some of my questions afterwards.

So once again, it was a very interesting gathering. Let's see what will be next year.

I made it around the region to most of the communities. Others will report about those visits.

I felt you should know about this important meeting, if you have further questions or interests, please call me.

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

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The Shining Light in the Darkness

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

Recently, I attended a Bible Study Class in the house where my grandparents lived, apparently it was announced the previous week that the class will be a Christmas party with fellowship, food & music. The musician who played a violin, challenged us to recognize the songs, and sing along if we knew the words. Then came a song which I recognized (I don't know any Christmas carols), this song was Elton John's "Candle in the wind". Now, he wrote two versions for the lyrics of this song: the first - for Marilyn Monroe; the second - for Princess Diana's funeral. So, naturally, I was curious which one we should sing. Since the main message is the same, it didn't really matter. The message, I believe, is that we don't always recognize great people for who they truly are until it is too late.

We are all still under the impression of Nelson Mandela's passing. This is a man,

like many other leaders before him, who showed us that with faith & perseverance, the light of hope & redemption will come.

When you read this, we will be in the full darkness & cold of the winter. The Torah Portions we read in this time of year, speak of recognizing even the dimmest of lights in the darkness. Our people were enslaved in Egypt - the Hebrew meaning of the name Mitzrayim is 'boundaries' or 'limits'. When Moses was born, the Torah says: "and she (the mother) saw him (Moses) KI TOV HU (that he is good)". Our Rabbis point out that the very first we find that expression in the Torah is when G-d "created the light and saw



that it was good". Therefore, they conclude, here too when Moses was born - there was light. Of course, for every family the birth of a child brings light, but we are talking about the birth of a child who had little (if any) chance of survival with the Pharaoh's order to kill all the sons. In modern days, we would call that birth - a mistake! I am not trying to offend or upset anybody, just trying to show how much faith in better days to come, did this mother have.

It is truly remarkable when we can see the tiny shining light in the darkness, when our leaders help us believe in better times. In a way, the miracle of both Jewish holidays of the winter (Hanukkah & Purim), is that our leaders - the Maccabees & Esther, were able to see that light and make it shine stronger for our people in all generations.

Wishing you all a happy & healthy winter! And may we all be redeemed speedily in our days!

Let's talk about brothers

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

"And Cain spoke to Abel his brother, and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him." (Genesis 3,8)

And that was the end of a promising beginning.

On the onset of Genesis, at the beginning of the first book of Moses, there are two brothers born to Adam and Eve.

One becomes a Sheppard, the other a vegetable farmer. Being the first born children in the world makes everything they do exciting and virginal.

One day they come up with the idea to bring an offering to the LORD; to the creator of their wonderful new world. However, one of them, Cain, made a mistake in the process

and therefore "... and the Lord turned to Abel and to his offering. But to Cain and to his offering He did not turn..." (Genesis 4:4-5). Cain needed to make some sort of a change, an improvement, so next

time his offering will be accepted. Moreover, God Himself turned to him (to Cain) and encouraged him not to give up!

The next thing we learn is the following verse that is quoted at the beginning of this article: "And Cain spoke to Abel his brother, and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him." (Genesis 3,8)



Halt. Let us re-read. After all, these are the words of God. Each verse, every word, nay, even each and every letter bears meaning; carries a message for us to decipher if we only pay attention. Upon re-examination it might seem that something is missing in the verse "And Cain spoke to Abel his brother, {what did he speak? What did they say???} and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him." (Genesis 3,8)

While investigating this chapter in our weekly study, we suggested that there could have been an easy and obvious way for the story to continue: "And Cain spoke to Abel his brother: Hey Abe! How did you prepare your offering? Because something in the way I did mine was not right. And

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Abel answered: Sure big bro' this is what I did... and Able showed him the proper way of bring an offering...and they lived happily ever after."

But it never happened!

Something was said ("And Cain spoke to Abel his brother, and it came to pass when they were in the field...") but what? WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT?? What was their last conversation before Cain murdered his brother?

I argued that there must be a purpose for the Torah to omit this discussion. There must have been nothing of relevance said in those last minutes, before that outrageous crime. Cain spoke about the weather maybe, the crops of the season... everything that will disrupt Abel from what is going to happen, about everything else rather than what really needed to be discussed. The Torah does not record what he said because it was as if he didn't say anything!

In essence, the last thing Abel heard, when he looked at his brother's face before the rock went down on him was... silence. Plain. Gurnisht.

"And Cain spoke to Abel his brother [???silence], and it came to pass when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against

Abel his brother and slew him. "

In our weekly Torah portion we are reaching the completion of Genesis, and tragically it almost ends with a similar story of Josef and his brothers. Again the disability to talk things through can bring the worst of all:

"And his brothers saw that their father (Jacob) loved him (Josef) more than all his brothers, so they hated him, and they could not speak with him peacefully... So now, let us kill him, and we will cast him into one of the pits, and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him,' and we will see what will become of his dreams." (Genesis 36:4,20)

When God created Man, He blew into him that extra piece of soul that separates man from animal. That extra wind, or spirit, is defined by our sages as the ability to converse. ("Ruach memallela"- Rashi/ Unkelus) That is what steps us up from all other creatures. When we do not converse we are not anything above the lowest creature. Unfortunately, when man behaves like animal, it is in the worst sense, in the most inhumane manner.

Baruch Hashem, the story of Yoseph and his brother ultimately ends differently. How did that come to be? Yehuda approaches Yoseph and speaks to him! He tells the whole story. He explains the situation. This crucial moment is epitomized by the Torah naming

this Parasha with one single word that marks the turning point: Vayigash. In English: And he approached. There is a halt to the flow of events. Yehuda stops the development of a new tragedy by making a point to approach Yoseph with his point of view; with speaking to him, talking it out! His words dissolve the wall between the lost brother and his siblings. They weep, they make peace and the Jewish nation continues to grow from that point on, teaching us its lesson on the way:

If you love your brother and you have an un-finished business with him - you talk it through.

Speak it out because it's the only way to solve real problems.

Converse because you care and because we all share collective responsibility. When we see our Jewish fellow about to commit a sin, we have a moral obligation (from the Torah) to persuade him not to do it. In a respectable manner, with caring words, with humbleness and sincere intention we are to talk him out of it.

Challenge the other's ability of understanding and maybe forgiveness.

If it comes down to it, loud confrontations might not be a pleasant thing, but then again, unplaced silence can kill.

Canada Values a True and Lasting Peace

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

In mid-December, I was stunned by news that the American Studies Association voted in favour of a complete boycott of Israeli academia. I immediately published the response below. I believe we should all raise our voices and stand in defense of true values and fairness when we see injustice in this world. Let us all do our part, in our local communities, the broader issues facing our country Canada, and matters around the world.

Canada Values a True and Lasting Peace

Under the guise of seeking a just peace for all, the American Studies Association voted to join the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement boycotting

Israel's academic institutions, faculty, students, and research. How can this organization preach peace while also severing ties with one of the key parties in that very peace process?

The Israel-Palestine conflict cannot be a zero sum game. Seekers of a true and lasting peace are cognizant of this and have constructively directed their efforts, working hard toward ensuring that both the Palestinians and the Israelis are afforded maximum opportunity to succeed -



Rabbi Ari Isenberg with from l to r, Molly Rechnitzer, Naomi Judah and Marianne Ferguson.

academically and economically.

Canadians are natural peacekeepers and appreciate the complexity of a peace process. Canadians understand that the most effective path forward in any peace process is to develop – not suppress – the positive elements of each party sitting around the negotiating table. Weakening Israel's academic infrastructure therefore flies in the face of an honest peace process. The ASA's stance and the BDS movement undermine the peace process. Only when children on both sides are given full potential for growth, in security, will a true, lasting peace be on the horizon. Like Canada, agencies and organizations should all work to strengthen the two sides, not weaken them.



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3500 Years and Going Strong or 3500 Years and Expired?

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

Often people, who are fundamentally observant take exception with some of the more challenging Halachos (Biblical regulations) and in order to circumvent these unpopular laws, are prepared to reduce the Torah to a man made Code of Conduct and thus modify these laws to satisfy society.

To be sure there are countless laws that seem ancient and obsolete, for instance many will argue that the laws of kosher were issued for health purposes and therefore today since all our food is FDA approved the laws of Kashruth are no longer relevant or for instance the prohibition to ignite a fire on Shabbat, in ancient times it took a great deal of effort to produce fire (from stone), since today it is with a strike of a match or a flick of a switch it would seem that these laws and prohibitions are simply dated.

Indeed, the doubt of the authenticity and relevance of Torah can be expanded to all 613 laws including the observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Fasting for 25 hours can be seen as an ancient way of worship and in as much as it can cause weakness

and dizziness should too be revisited. All this could have had merit had there not been any guiding principles in place. However, the Rambam / Maimonides set out thirteen "ANI

MAAMIN'S" thirteen fundamental principles of our faith in order to guide us in these matters. Indeed for of what value is a religion without Principles.

I will quote the 8th and 9th principles which are relevant to our topic.

Principle 8 reads:

"I believe with perfect faith that the entire Torah that we now have is that which was given to Moses"

Maimonides explains: The eighth principle is that the Torah given to us by Moses originated from G-d. Every verse and every word in it is equally holy; they all originated from G-d, and are all part of G-d's Torah which is perfect, pure, and true.

Principle 9, reads:



"I believe with perfect faith that the Torah will not be changed and that there will never be another Torah given by G-d".

Maimonides explains: The ninth principle involves permanence; the Torah is G-d's permanent word and cannot be changed. The Torah clearly states that its commandments will remain binding forever, without change, addition nor subtraction.

Based on these two Principles it is clear that the Torah is a Divine dogma from its very origin. By virtue of definition the word of G-d is beyond our intelligence and cannot be modified or reduced to satisfy society. To paraphrase the Midrash, "We will negate Solomon and one thousand of his equals rather than cancel (even) a letter of Torah."

Some question the Torah's view regarding homosexuality

- 1) Nowhere does the Torah imply that same sex orientation is not normal, the Torah prohibits the practice of this type of union regardless of its normalcy.

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- 2) There are many laws in the Torah written in an obscure fashion or in code which leaves room for our Rabbis and sages to analyze these texts and seek deeper interpretations; still, this would be done within the guidelines of the above mentioned fundamental principles.
- 3) It is abundantly clear and obvious that from a religious perspective every member in the community is to be treated with equal respect and dignity. The instruction to "Love your fellow as yourself" applies equally to every member of the community regardless of sexual orientation.
- 4) Just as - the suffering in the world does not put the value of monotheism and the belief in one G-d - in doubt, since it is obvious that finite human beings cannot understand the ways of an infinite G-d. So too, with regard to His laws in the bible, although (at least) some are beyond the scope of our intelligence and may be a cause of pain and suffering, still, this does not put the legitimacy and eternal relevance of these laws in doubt.

The Torah in its entirety originated at the same time and in the same place, accordingly, should the integrity of one verse or one observance be challenged, by definition that would doubt the integrity of the entire Torah.

This is not to suggest that Jewish law is



Celebrating Chanukah at City Hall with from l to r, Mayor Mike Savage; PC Party Leader Jamie Baillie; Premier Stephen McNeil; Louis Wolfson lighting the Menorah; and Rabbi Mendel Feldman.

frozen in time and that we are to ignore modern developments and modern medicine, the opposite is true, because Jewish law is eternal its laws apply to these cutting-edge developments as well. Current Halachic authorities thoroughly study these advancements and apply the law accordingly. In other words, although the realities of life constantly change with modern

development, still, the permanence of Jewish law permeates these new realities as well.

With best wishes for a healthy winter.



Children enjoying craft activities at the Chanukah party in Halifax!

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