

# SHALOM! שלום

Fall 2014: Vol. 39 No. 2

Tishrei 5775

## SHANA TOVA 5775!



THE KNESSET - TOM FORRESTALL

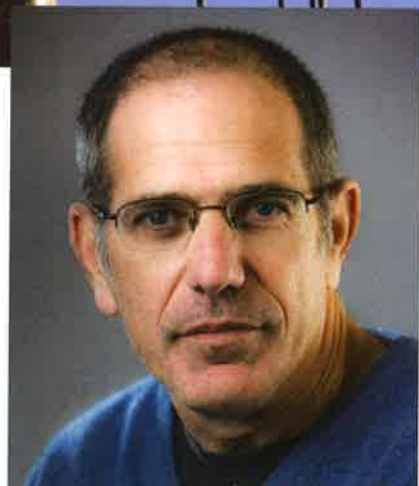
- › SPECIAL FEATURES:
- › AMBASSADOR BARAK KICKS OFF ATLANTIC UJA CAMPAIGN
- › HALIFAX STANDS WITH ISRAEL
- › NEWS FROM AROUND OUR REGION







Welcome  
Dr. Friedman.  
You pass with  
flying colours.



A new recruit to Dalhousie Medical School and the IWK Health Centre, **Dr. Alon Friedman** arrived in Halifax from Israel's Ben-Gurion University in July 2014, to accept his new role as William Dennis Chair in Epilepsy Research.

Dr. Friedman is on the forefront of world efforts to prevent brain diseases, such as epilepsy, by detecting and treating damaged blood vessels in the brain. Tissues and data in the **Maritime Brain Tissue Bank** will be an important resource for Dr. Friedman's work. For this we say, "Shalom!" and welcome to Nova Scotia, Dr. Friedman.

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P.O. Box 15000, Halifax NS B3H 4R2 1.888.866.6559



For more information on epilepsy research, or ways to give: [mollyappeal.ca](http://mollyappeal.ca)

# SHALOM! שלום!

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**Cover Artist**  
**Tom Forrestall**

**Tom Forrestall** is one of Canada's most exciting realist painters. Forrestall was born in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia in 1936. In 1965 he held his first solo show at Roberts Gallery in Toronto.

Since then he has received numerous awards, including The Order of Canada & The Order of Nova Scotia. His work can be found in both public and private collections, as well as in Canadian and International galleries.

*The Knesset, original watercolour on paper, 15" x 22", is available for purchase from the AJC, \$4100.*

*Please contact Jon Goldberg, Executive Director.*

# שלום!

**President: Michael Argand**

The Atlantic Jewish Council

FALL 2014

TISHREI 5775

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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 everyone is having an enjoyable summer. Unfortunately I cannot say the same for our fellow Jews in the State of Israel. As I am currently writing, I just saw on the news that Hamas has just recently fired rockets into southern Israel, breaking the most recent cease fire. An Israeli was quoted "We cease, they fire". As you can imagine this has kept the AJC office very engaged this summer. Unfortunately I was not able to attend the rally in Halifax for supporters of Israel but I was informed that there was over 250 people in attendance, and you can read more about the rally in this issue. Our Atlantic community contributed over \$11,000 to the UJA Israel Emergency Relief Fund 2014 which has raised almost 10 million dollars from coast to coast for the Jewish homeland in its hour of need.

Consul General Joel Lion with his wife, Rifka came to Halifax prior to his return trip to Israel. He brought with him a wonderful pictorial essay of Tel Aviv that was shown at the Halifax City Hall. I would like to thank Mayor Michael Savage for his assistance in bringing the exhibit to City Hall. That evening Jo-Anne and I hosted a farewell gathering in our home. Consul General Lion had been a strong supporter of Atlantic Canada, making visits to all the provinces and he visited Camp Kadimah at least twice. We wish him and his family much success on his return to their home

in Israel.

Jo-Anne and I were invited to attend the opening exhibit at the Halifax Citadel in remembrance of the hundredth anniversary of WW1. As part of the exhibit there is a letter from David Ben-Gurion and pictures from the time when he was a training officer in 1914. I encourage all of to attend the museum as it is a wonderful exhibit. The AJC was proud to be a contributing sponsor.

I attended Camp Kadimah on two different occasions and was told it was a fabulous summer. As I have in the past I encourage all the parents of the Atlantic Jewish Community to consider giving their children a wonderful Jewish experience by sending their children to camp. Thank you to Michael Pink and all the other directors and volunteers who give up so much of their time to make camp work. On visiting day Jim Spatz dedicated the new office at Camp Kadimah in memory of his parents, (my Uncle and Aunt) Simon and Riva and all those who perished in the Holocaust. We in the Jewish Community of Atlantic Canada are extremely grateful to Jim's philanthropy.

I would like to thank Jared Goldlust who has been the Camp director for the past



four years and wish him much success in his future endeavours. I would like to welcome Phil David as the new director of Camp Kadimah. Phil is originally from Cape Breton and we all look forward to working with him to make camp bigger and better. Phil and I met just before he left for Toronto and I was impressed with his passion and vision for camp. Jared has left Camp in good hands.

I would also like to say thank you and good bye to Naomi Rosenfeld our staff person involved with the Jewish Students Association (JSA). Naomi will be greatly missed, she did a wonderful job this past year. I wish her good luck in her future studies at Brandeis University. We have been fortunate to have hired Arielle Branitsky as the new director of Campus Services. I have met with Arielle on a couple of occasions and I am confident she will bring the same professionalism and passion that Naomi had for the job.

Jo-Anne and I were honoured to host the Ambassador of Israel to Canada, Ambassador Rafael Barak and his wife Miriam for dinner prior to the UJA 2014 Campaign Kick Off. We were able to share this event throughout the region via a webcast that included the Ambassador's address to the Jewish Communities of Atlantic Canada.

Let us all pray for Peace in the Jewish State of Israel and I wish you all a wonderful New Year, Shana Tova.



Atlantic  
Jewish  
Council

## SAVE THE DATE AJC 19th Biennial Convention

**The New Mosaic: The Changing Demographics of Atlantic Jewry**  
November 14th – 16th 2014 Halifax, NS

*A weekend to explore topics relevant to our Jewish communities and the opportunity to celebrate our heritage at the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (November 13th - 16th).*

## *From the Desk of* Jon Goldberg, Executive Director

**W**elcome to our New Year's edition of Shalom magazine. Summer seems to have flown by here at the AJC. Since the start of "Operation Protective Edge" the AJC and CIJA have been called upon to advocate for Israel and Atlantic Jewry in the media, by answering a storm of letters to various newspapers in the region, by appearing on television and radio, and by organizing a rally for Israel here in Halifax. Last week, we hosted the new Ambassador from Israel to Canada, Mr. Barak, and a live webcast of his speech was available throughout the region. I believe this is something that we are going to do more often with various speakers and programs.

Camp Kadimah had a great season and we said goodbye to Jared Goldlust and welcomed our new director, Phil David. We also bid farewell to Naomi Rosenfeld, who did a great job as Director of Jewish Student Life and we welcome Arielle Branitsky, who will be assuming the position on September 1st.

We have been fortunate to receive the Canadian Jewish News through the generosity of Ralph and Shirlee Medjuck. I am pleased to say that Michael Stein and Pamela Medjuck Stein are continuing to sponsor the CJN in every Jewish home in Atlantic Canada through the end of October. I hope that many of you will continue to subscribe once this introductory period is over.

As we move into the fall, once again, it is time for the UJA Appeal of Atlantic Canada. Many people ask what the AJC does. Through our involvement with CIJA, and UIA we advocate for Israel. We support projects in Israel and we advocate for our Jewish community here in Atlantic Canada whether it is anti-Semitism, Israel bashing, or representing the Jewish community in multicultural or interfaith areas.

The AJC is here to answer questions from government and from private citizens throughout the region. When a national organization wants to communicate with Jews of Atlantic Canada, it is through the Atlantic Jewish Council. Whether it is the embassy in Ottawa, the consulate in Montreal, or the many national Jewish organizations, it is the Atlantic Jewish Council whom they call.

I realize that the AJC like all of us is not perfect. We can't be everything to everyone in Atlantic Canada, I wish we could. Our resources are limited, distances are great, and there are 6 Jewish communities to respond to at various times and various levels. There are also many Jews living in the rural areas of our region. Whatever our situation, our mandate is to keep trying to do the best we can.

The UJA of Atlantic Canada is the life blood of the Atlantic Jewish Council. While there are many wonderful organizations that ask for your support for Israel, however, the UJA Campaign not only supports Israel but makes sure that our resources are also used to support and maintain our Jewish community here in Atlantic Canada. Whether it is seniors programming,

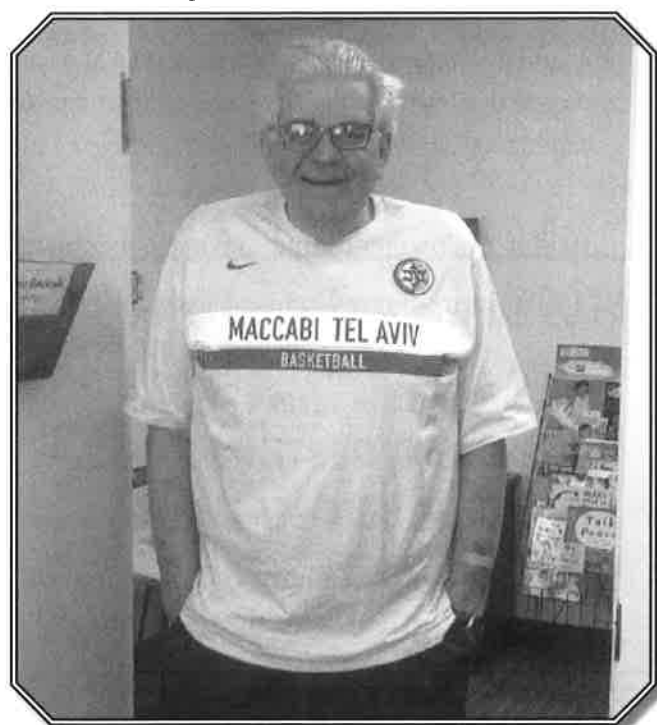


youth programming, newcomers programming, Holocaust education, Shalom magazine, Hillel, Israel on Campus, Camp Kadimah and much more. Only your gift to the UJA Campaign can answer the needs of our Jewish world locally, nationally, and in Israel.

When our voluntary canvasser contacts you this fall we ask you to put Jewish values of compassion, generosity and responsibility into action. Together we do extraordinary things!

As 5774 comes to a close, I would be remiss in not thanking the many of you who call, write, and email with your support and your suggestions. I want to thank the management committee and the board of directors for their efforts this past year and to the staff in particular Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement; Svetlana Ratchinski, Controller; and to Mark David, CIJA Consultant, Advocacy (AJC). Thank you for your assistance.

To all our readers, my best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy, and peaceful 5775.



## The Atlantic Jewish Foundation: Scholarships & Bursaries for 2015

*All applications must be received by April 30th, 2015*

### **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](mailto: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

**H**olocaust Education Week (HEW) in Halifax is entering its 11th year and local community organizations are once again keen to partner with us to offer thought-provoking educational programs from November 2nd - 8th. This year we will host a workshop for educators, hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, on November 6th from 10am - 2pm and we welcome teachers from across Nova Scotia to attend. Please contact the AJC office if you are an educator and interested in participating. For a complete listing of HEW 2014 programs in Halifax please see our website.



*Minister Hon. Lena M. Diab, Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Immigration, left, with Edna LeVine at Premier Stephen McNeil's announcement of the Immigration Advisory Council to enhance Immigration in Nova Scotia*

This summer Philip Riteman, Holocaust survivor, continued to educate the public by providing his first-hand testimony to audiences in New Glasgow and Moncton. With the start of the school year comes many requests from educators for Holocaust education resources, including survivor testimony, and once again this fall Philip Riteman will fulfill a demanding schedule, speaking in schools throughout Nova Scotia.

Steven Markus, Holocaust survivor, published his memoirs this summer, *Miracle Postcards: Two Jewish Brothers in War-Time Hungary*. A program in Halifax is being planned featuring the Markus'

story. The book is available for purchase; please contact the AJC office for additional information.

The Atlantic Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) will open November 13th in Halifax, screening films for four days. Over the past year our committee has met regularly to organize and create an infrastructure for the AJFF to become an annual event. The festival weekend coincides with the AJC Biennial and our Saturday night film and party will bring our community together to celebrate our heritage. We hope you will join in the celebration and plan to spend the weekend in Halifax. Please check out our website [ajff.ca](http://ajff.ca) for information on the program schedule and how you can support the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival.

Immigration continues to grow our communities in the Maritimes and we welcomed newcomers this spring and summer in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Last month I met with Dan Elman from Saint John, who spearheaded a successful community immigration program with a large committee of dedicated

volunteers, and we discussed the future of immigration and the importance of retention. Dan has offered to share Saint John's successful immigration plan with other New Brunswick communities.

In Nova Scotia the provincial immigration program is redefining a stream for nominees, while the province embarks on assembling committees to develop a plan to implement the latest



government report: Building our New Economy, One Nova Scotia. Stabilizing and increasing the population is an important component to growing the economy and international immigration is one way to achieve that goal. As a result of our success with community immigration in Halifax I have been invited to participate on the committee for international immigration with a goal to complete the report in the next few months.

January 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau. To commemorate this event, an exhibit is being planned with local partner, The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. The exhibit will be held during the month of January at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax and more information will be posted on our website as soon as we have finalized the details.

Jewish Artists in Atlantic Canada is a new exhibit we are working to launch in July 2015. Our committee has just begun to organize and develop a plan for this exhibit. Next month we will send out a request for submissions from Jewish Atlantic Canadian artists. The exhibit will be at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax for the entire month of July. If you are an artist and are interested in participating, please contact the AJC office.

Wishing you a happy & healthy New Year, Shana Tova.

## ATLANTIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2014

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PLEASE CONTACT:

**Edna LeVine**  
**[elevine@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:elevine@theajc.ns.ca)**

## Consul General Joel Lion Makes Final Visit to Atlantic Region

by Joel Jacobson

**D**uring his three year term as Consul General of the State of Israel to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, Joel Lion allegedly spent more time in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland than any of his predecessors.

"He's been more dedicated to the Atlantic Region than most consul generals in the last many years," said Kathy Zilbert, a past president of Atlantic Jewish Council, of the man who visited the region many times in his term. "He met with everyone, from politicians to the everyday people, visiting Camp Kadimah each year, attending special events in the region."

Speaking to a gathering at the home of Atlantic Jewish Council president Michael Argand, Lion said, "It's been great to be in Canada, to meet Atlantic Canadians, to experience your great heart and your love for Israel. We'll miss you."

With those words, Joel Lion bid his farewell to Halifax members of the Atlantic Jewish community after three years and he returns to Israel in early August.

In an interview, Lion mentioned his mission has been to "serve, promote and watch over the interests of Israel and to represent the Jewish community wherever I go. I'm proud to be part of the State of

Israel and part of the Jewish people, a moral, ethical Jewish people."

Among highlights from so many visits, Lion cited a Yom Haatzmaut celebration in Halifax last May when more than 200 people gathered. "We had the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, mayor of Halifax, and chief of police among the crowd and that showed such a strong relationship between Israel and the general Halifax community."

When he first arrived in the region, Lion said he had no idea what to expect but was overwhelmed by the involvement of the community for its size.

"It was incredible in every way, from enthusiasm to financial support for Israel. I am so glad to see the economic cooperation between the region and Israel. I see ZIM (shipping) containers all over Halifax. There's been a trade mission between Nova Scotia and Israel, attended by and supported by Darrell Dexter (the former premier of the province), and a strong educational commitment between Dalhousie University and Ben Gurion University. In May, I met with Stephen McNeil (current premier) and he wants to strengthen the relationship started by Mr. Dexter."



*AJC president Michael Argand presented a photo of the schooner Bluenose at Consul General Joel Lion and his wife, Rivka, during a reception at the Argand home as Lion completed his final visit to Halifax, ending his three year term.*

Lion visited Camp Kadimah this summer, for the last time and spoke with about 30 Israeli young people attending camp as counselors and counselors-in-training. He encouraged their enthusiasm to bring Israeli culture to Canadians.

"It's wonderful to see the commitment of Atlantic Canada to protect the future of the Jewish people through camp experiences," he said later. "It's more than normal what this community is doing to keep Kadimah strong."

During his visit, Lion helped open an art exhibit titled Tel Aviv Moment at Halifax City Hall. The consul general had chosen 20 to bring to Canada from a collection of 100 photographs taken by residents from around Tel Aviv- Yafo, work by professionals and amateurs in a variety of mediums, from still shots to film, focused on different demographics such as young, old, religious, or secular. It shows various locales from Yarkon Park to the Boardwalk to Old Jaffa and Rothschild Blvd. and Herzl Street and Tzmoret Park.

"The exhibit (which is in Halifax until July 18) shows the spirit of Tel Aviv and the values we share with Canada - freedom, democracy etc.," said Lion.



*Vicki and Paul Lipkus look at one of the photographs of a Tel Aviv art exhibit at Halifax City Hall. The Boardwalk photo was one of 15 on display. The art show was opened by Consul General Joel Lion and Halifax Mayor Mike Savage.*



# Joel Lion Visits World War I Exhibit in Halifax

by Joel Jacobson

**T**he Jewish Legion. The 38th through 42nd Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers became known as the Jewish Legion. Camp Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia provided the training ground for over 1,100 Jewish troops."

The plaque, mounted by the Army Museum Halifax Citadel as part of a display commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War I, is gazed upon with amazement by Joel Lion.

"I knew the story of the Jewish Legion and its history but never knew it was in Canada and Nova Scotia," said the consul general of the State of Israel to Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces during his term-concluding visit to Halifax and Prince Edward Island in early July 2014.

Moving forward, he read another plaque, this one identifying David Green, later to become David Ben-Gurion, as one of the trainees at Camp Edward in 1917. The plaque said, "At 70 years, Ben-Gurion wrote (to the mayor of Windsor): 'I will never forget Windsor where I received my first military training as a soldier and when I became a corporal.'"

Lion was given a tour of an exhibit, featuring original uniforms, equipment and pictures and with a replica of the Vimy Memorial in France.

The exhibit featured the sizeable contingent of Jewish volunteers, a number of whom went on to create the modern State of Israel, three decades later.



Consul General Joel Lion and wife Rivka spent time at the Army Museum's World War I exhibit. Jon Goldberg proudly explained some of the history.

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# *The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs*

by Mark David - Consultant, Advocacy (AJC)

**B**uilding Friendship ... Friendship can evolve in many ways from many sources, but a meaningful and lasting friendship is often based upon shared values. For example, my personal experience was that families who had children involved in a group activity such as minor hockey often shared a certain level of affinity based on that activity. However, generally the affinity was limited to the fortunes of the team, and the families had no connections beyond that.

Sometimes a true friendship grew when it became apparent that certain families shared other interests, saw each other on other occasions, and it became clear that, underneath everything, both families shared common values, such as the core Canadian ideals of respect and tolerance for others.

The same can be said for nations. While international politics can certainly make for strange bedfellows (look at the so-called "Coalition of the Willing" in the 2003 Gulf War), narrow political/national interests need to be distinguished from a true bilateral friendship.

We are indeed fortunate that Canada and Israel have become and remain true friends based on shared core values found in liberal democracies. CIJA works diligently to support this friendship by providing information, education and research to Canadians in key fields, including government, media and academia. This work encompasses a range of hot topics, including the Middle East, antisemitism, human rights, and various domestic policy matters. The numerous multi-partisan expressions of support for Israel that have emanated from Parliament Hill are clear evidence of Canada's strong friendship with the Jewish state.

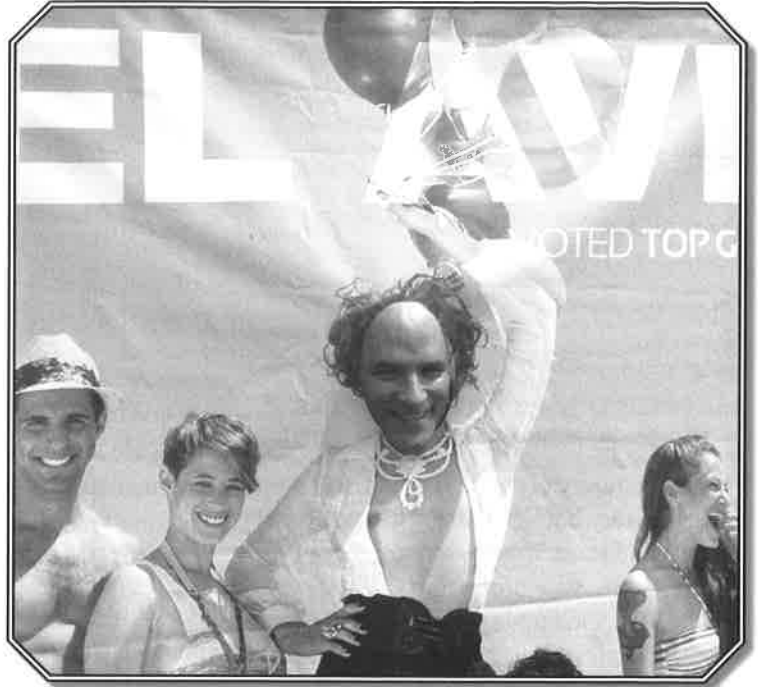
However, a friendship must exist not just on paper or in words, but also in reality. And one way to experience reality is to

see something in person for the first time.

As CIJA Chair David Koschitzky has written: "In advocacy, seeing is believing. There are few experiences as compelling for our fellow Canadians as seeing Israel firsthand. That is why CIJA invests immense energy and resources in hosting fact-finding missions to Israel that have yielded extraordinary results in garnering support for the Jewish state from individuals who hold key positions across Canada."

In 2012-13 alone, CIJA brought more than 400 current and potential influencers – virtually all non-Jewish Canadians – on missions to Israel. This roster includes scores of parliamentarians, political staff and activists, university presidents, journalists, Christians, student leaders, First Nations leaders, and civil society activists. Missions are our most valuable means of ensuring that Canadians in positions of leadership understand the Jewish state, its character as a pluralistic democracy, its prodigious contribution to the world, and the serious threats and challenges facing its people. Put differently, to see Israel is to understand and recognize the values that Canadians and Israelis share.

Even more compelling is that two missions of parliamentarians were present in Israel during the recent Gaza conflict – one of which experienced first-hand



*Mark David at Pride Day.*

a Hamas terrorist missile attack. The parliamentarians, like other Israelis, were forced to take cover when sirens warned of missiles fired from Gaza heading for Jerusalem. Two of the parliamentarians on one of the missions were from the Atlantic Region – Newfoundland and Labrador MPs Yvonne Jones and Gerry Byrne.

The Honourable Mr. Byrne tweeted: "Of all the informative meetings while in Israel, being witness to a terrorist attack in motion offers a unique perspective like no other." He later wrote: "I saw Israelis – Jews, Muslims, Christians – gathered in one room waiting out the attack without hatred on their lips."

It's difficult to ask for better than that – friendship based on shared values and cemented by first-hand experience of the threats Israelis face on a daily basis. CIJA, through its many activities, will continue to play an integral role in supporting the Canada-Israel friendship by facilitating these sorts of life-changing encounters with the Jewish state.

## CIJA: Recent Conflict Calls for Redoubled Advocacy

by Shimon Koffler Fogel, CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA),  
the advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada

**M**y first real memories of Israel date to the Six Day War and the shockwaves that an imminent threat to Israel's existence sent throughout the Canadian Jewish community. As I reflect on those tenuous days in 1967, I cannot help but be saddened by the fact that our children have just borne witness to their own generational war in Gaza.

For countless young Jewish Canadians, the connection to Operation Protective Edge is both instant and palpable. Email, Skype, Facebook, and Twitter provide real-time updates and images from friends and family in Israel. That I was able to Tweet a photo of my nephew, Yaron – a Paratrooper in Gaza, just goes to show how the pen-pal era has been replaced with complex, far-reaching, and fast-moving social media communications. Implications for pro-Israel advocates are significant.

Throughout the summer, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has been extremely active in explaining to our fellow Canadians – via social media and other means – the reasons for Israel's operation against Hamas. This has entailed activities across the country: engaging traditional media, providing daily written briefings to every MP, mobilizing allies in other faith communities, creating and sharing compelling infographics online, and hosting

a parliamentary solidarity mission to Israel – to highlight a few. This is to say nothing of a successful community rally at Halifax's Shaar Shalom hosted by the Atlantic Jewish Council, in addition to rallies held

across the country by local Federations.

Perhaps most important, we have made an effort to engage members of the community to take an active advocacy role during this difficult time. Many have answered their need to take meaningful action through the simple but powerful act of conversing. Our 4 Questions: Speaking with Canadians about Israel campaign may prove a successful model for grassroots mobilization.

By challenging our grassroots to engage four friends in four days while providing clear and reasonable information on the four most difficult questions surrounding the conflict, CIJA tapped into a communal desire to take action. In a matter of days, the campaign earned more than 5,000 "Likes" online. This is in addition to the abundance of emails sent to parliamentarians from all parties by Jewish (and non-Jewish) pro-Israel Canadians activated through email action alerts.



It is crucial that we build on this collective momentum in the coming weeks and months. Redeployment of Israeli troops out of Gaza following the destruction of Hamas' attack tunnels is a source of relief for all with family serving in the IDF or living in southern Israel. De-escalation, however, will not mean an end to advocacy challenges stemming from recent hostilities.

Working with the Atlantic Jewish Council and our Federation partners nationally, CIJA will be launching various initiatives to further engage the grassroots in the effort to express solidarity with Israelis and strengthen support for Israel in Canada. Whether your interest is in contacting your local MP, writing a letter to the editor, or BUYcoting Israeli products targeted for boycott, now is the time for action – and I urge you to contact us for more details at [advocacy@cija.ca](mailto:advocacy@cija.ca).

More importantly, and in the spirit of "crowd-sourcing," I encourage you to let us know if you have an idea for a pro-Israel advocacy initiative to unite the community, inspire grassroots action, and build support for the Jewish state among our non-Jewish neighbours. Indeed, the tumultuous events of recent weeks should serve to ignite our passion for Israel and reaffirm the indivisible bond between the Jewish people and the world's only Jewish state.



**Canadians Remember** is a registered, not-for-profit Campaign launched this month asking all Canadians to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz by giving \$1 to support the Camp's Perpetual Fund. The grassroots campaign aims to collect \$2.5 million nation-wide to support the continuing restoration, preservation and Holocaust education efforts at the former German Nazi Camp. Partners include the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs.

For more information, or to donate \$1, please visit [canadiansremember.ca](http://canadiansremember.ca) and follow the campaign on Facebook and Twitter (@CdnsRemember).

## Campus News

by Arielle Branitsky, Director of Jewish Student Life, Atlantic Region



### Shalom Shalom readers!

I am very excited to be joining your community as the new Director for Jewish Student Life for Hillel in Atlantic Canada. I grew up in the suburbs of Toronto, where I attended Jewish Day School and many different summer camps. After graduating from York University in 2008, where I was an involved student leader for Hillel and Vanier College Productions (a student theatre company), I spent a year working as the Program Associate for Hillel at the University at Albany. I then returned to Toronto, and worked as the Ontario Region Director for the World Zionist Organization's student group. Simultaneously I taught in two religious schools, worked at a leadership institute, and participated in Canada Israel Experience's Madrich-in-Training program.

In 2011, I began graduate school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and, as is required, moved to Jerusalem for a year. After two years studying in New York City and two summers in Los Angeles, I received my Master of Arts in Religious Education and Master of Arts in Jewish Nonprofit Management.

I am looking forward to this next adventure with Hillel. Building on the great work Naomi did this past year, this year I plan to focus on offering more great programming, fostering leadership development, and further developing Hillel's involvement on campuses outside of Halifax. If you have any questions or ideas for us or just want to refer a student, please be in touch!

[abranitsky@theajc.ns.ca](mailto:abranitsky@theajc.ns.ca)

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# Amazing 2014 Summer and a Goodbye

by Jared Goldlust, Director, Camp Kadimah

**The 2014 summer at Camp Kadimah has come and gone and what an incredible summer it was in Barss Corner! Campers from across the world shared in a fantastic summer from start to finish, filled with many memorable moments and creating friendships that will last a lifetime.**

We saw a tremendous growth in enrollment this summer that brought us over 80 new campers into the Kadimah family. Most notably was a record number of Gibbie campers (ages 7-9); we had a total of 54 Gibbies and four cabins! With the many young and new campers, our staff did a tremendous job creating a welcoming environment and within days all campers felt right at home. As well, an impressive total of 75 campers from Atlantic Canada participated in one of our full summer programs. For the seventh year in a row, we ran our Pre-Gibbie Day Program, where twenty kids from the region got to experience camp for the day.

On the program front, Kadimah specialists and staff were hard at work developing the skills of our campers in the many peulot (activities), bringing their own talents to kids in a new peulah called kef, and organizing creative evening programs. Of course the traditional camp programs including Maccabia (colour war), hockey marathon, Haganah night and so much more were enjoyed by all. There were four excellent theatrical play productions this summer put on by Junior Camp,

Machar, CIT and the Staff. Our informal Jewish and Zionist programming continued to be strong this summer, led by a team of shlichim who did an outstanding job bringing Israeli culture and meaningful educational content to all Kadimah campers.

This summer we also built a few programs around the theme of tikkun olam and teaching our campers the importance of helping others who are less fortunate. There are two inspiring programs from this initiative that I would like to highlight. Our CITs for the second year in a row were a part of a Jewish teen philanthropy program where they learned all about the values of Jewish giving, tzedakah and philanthropy. They were then given \$1000 from the Jewish Teen Funders Network and charged with the responsibility to decide as a group where and how they wanted to allocate the philanthropic dollars. After much research, site visits and proposals that CITs decided to give the grant to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Shore. The second amazing project was a program called Summer Stock – where our campers and staff made over 150 litres of soup from scratch to donate to a local women's shelter (Harbour House in Bridgewater). The shelter was extremely appreciative of this initiative



and our campers got to learn hands on what it means to make a difference in the community.

This summer was also very bittersweet for me as it was my last as Director. Goodbyes are never easy but camp goodbyes (especially after 17 years) is even more difficult. However, I am comforted by the fact that Kadimah will be in great hands with my successor and good friend, Phil David. Phil is a real mensch who cares deeply about Atlantic Jewry and developing our leaders of tomorrow. With his unbelievable passion for Kadimah, I am excited to see Kadimah grow under his leadership.

As this will be my last article in Shalom magazine, I would like to thank the Atlantic Jewish community for the tremendous support. In 1998 as a camper at Kadimah, I immediately fell in love with Atlantic Canada, so much so that I decided to go to Dalhousie and live in Halifax for 5 years. Over the years I have experienced nothing but incredible Maritime warmth and hospitality from all members of the community. It has been a real honour and pleasure working in and for this community for the past 10 years in various capacities from Youth Programming at the AJC, Hillel President and of course Camp Kadimah. I will forever cherish my time spent in the community and will always be grateful for the many relationships formed. I look forward to the visits back to my second home in Atlantic Canada and reconnecting with many of you.



*Campers sailing on Lake William.*



*Kochotniks jumping for joy at general swim.*

## Hello...

by Phil David, "Incoming" Director, Camp Kadimah

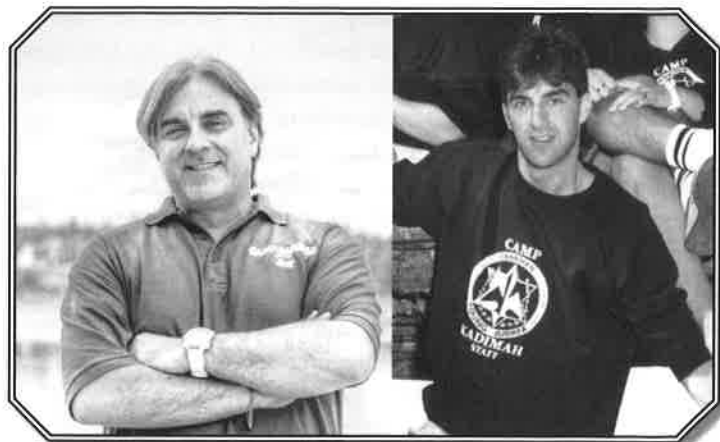
**I** imagine your first day in a new job and you hear a twenty-year old co-worker say to his colleague... "Who is the old guy on the bike"? And so started my new career as the incoming Director of Camp Kadimah, a sanctuary I called my second home for 14 summers back in the 70's and 80's.

How did I get here? Well first, some background. Though I've lived in Toronto for over 20 years, I'm proud to say I grew up in downtown Sydney, Nova Scotia - living in the same building which housed my parents' deli (Ike's) and where I ate many a smoked meat sandwich and read comics while waiting on less-than-impressed customers. When I look back, our Jewish lives were actually quite robust for a small town with Hebrew School twice a week, Young Judaea gatherings and weekly Shabbat services where the kids would take up the first 3 rows at the Temple Sons of Israel - a sight we sadly haven't seen in a few decades.

But nothing compared to our summers at Camp Kadimah which brought Jewish kids together from smaller centers all over the Maritimes and even a few from the big cities of Montreal and Toronto. Starting at age 8 as a Gibbie way back in the early 70's, I spent 8 summers growing up with my closest friends at Kadimah. Following two years of Biluim at ages 16 and 17,

I was fortunate my folks sold lots of smoked meat sandwiches because the proceeds allowed me to return to Kadimah for six more seasons on staff as I plugged my way through undergrad and grad school at Dal - first as a counsellor and then as a section head, Rosh Machar and Assistant Director. Needless to say, when my camp career ended in 1988, my parents could finally retire shortly after!

Fast forward more than 25 years. In a stroke of fortuitous luck, I began coaching hockey in the Avenue Road Ducks' organization and two of our team's assistant coaches happened to be Kadimah alumni. One was this guy named Jared Goldlust who turned out to be the Director at Kadimah. Through many conversations over two seasons together, I became re-immersed in Kadimah culture and around the time of the 70th reunion last Fall - on a team bus trip to Montreal - Jared hinted that he might retire from Kadimah. Through a pretty extensive interview



*Phil David, Now and Then!*

process which followed, what I consider to be the best job on the planet was offered, but it meant leaving the safety of corporate life back in Toronto.

This past June, I nervously walked away from a neat job and career at Toronto Pearson; hopped in my car and drove directly to Kadimah so I could spend the summer working with Jared to "re-learn Kadimah" (who I want to thank for doing such a tremendous job and putting up with my never-ending series of questions). While the camp has grown physically and many new traditions have emerged, I was pleased to discover that the warm, inclusive and welcoming culture that has defined Kadimah since 1943 is still as prevalent as ever.



*White team members taking a break from Maccabia action.*



*Gibbie Boys ready to go for Shabbat.*



*CIT's cooking soup for the Summer Stock program.*

Knowing I am getting a bit long in the tooth and the physical site is so much bigger than in the 80's, I decided to take my bike to camp which I used to shuttle between CIT Land and the Chairman's field – a 10 minute walk on a good day and much longer during Hurricane Arthur! It was on one of my first journeys that I heard the comment from a counsellor, "Who is the old guy on the bike?" I'm happy to say, in true Kadimah fashion where everyone knows everyone, those comments very quickly turned to "Hey Phil, can I borrow your bike?".

As we know, the camp office is now based in Toronto and we are proud to have so many Ontarians travel to Nova Scotia each summer, many of whom are kids of our Alumni. But we will always be mindful of our Maritime roots and the fact our camp

is situated in Nova Scotia. As we continue to work closely with the AJC, I personally look forward to meeting our local Jewish families whose kids already attend camp to help me understand their feelings towards Kadimah – what we do well and what we can do better to serve their needs. For those Maritime families whose kids are of camp age but don't attend, I'm equally interested to understand why and how we can help address their concerns so they



*Big buddy (CIT) with her little buddies at BBQ.*

feel comfortable considering Kadimah as a viable summer option.

In the most simple terms, Kadimah is special...for the campers who call it home; for the parents who watch their kids return every August a little more grown up, more confident and self-assured; and for the staff who take on leadership responsibilities on Day 1 which may take years to earn when they start their professional careers.

In the 25+ years since I left Kadimah, I really missed it. I thought for years I would travel down on Visiting Day or ask whoever the Director was if I could spend a night so I could check out my name on the walls of the cabins I lived in and look for my Maccabiah banners on the dining hall ceiling. In the end, I did something way better!



*The CIT Philanthropy group with the presentation of their donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters.*

I became the Director and now I am honored to play even a small part in shaping the meaningful experiences our campers and staff will remember long after they leave our hallowed grounds in Barss Corner. And for all the Maritime kids who don't yet attend Kadimah but wonder what the fuss is all about, I extend an invitation to spend a summer with us so you can begin creating your own special stories.

If you have any questions or stories to share about Kadimah, please contact me at [Phil@campkadimah.com](mailto:Phil@campkadimah.com). Also, you can view lots of fun videos and pictures from Summer, 2014 on our website at [www.campkadimah.com](http://www.campkadimah.com)



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המגבית היהודית המאוחדת באטלנטיק קנדה



## ISRAEL & OVERSEAS PARTNERSHIP2GETHER



### The AJC and UJA are working together for Camp Kadimah and Israel!

As part of our partnership2gether program, the Atlantic Region is now in its 12th year of the Kadimah Israel (KI) Geshet Chai program.

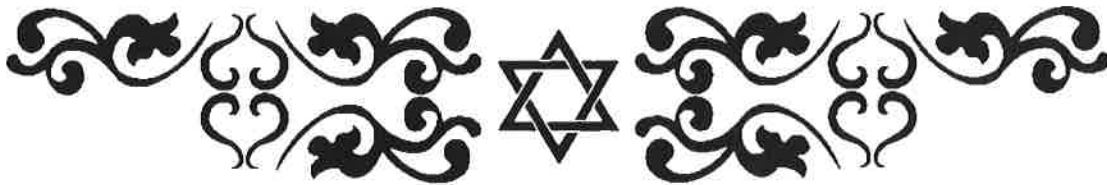
Our mission is to strengthen our relationship between Etzba Hagalil and Atlantic Canada.

Below is a picture of our five KI participants for 2014 having an Ice-cream at Cow's in PEI. They are part of the Kadimah CIT

program and all come from various communities in the North of Israel.

Together they have written a letter to Camp and to all of the supporters of UJA here in Atlantic Canada.

**P2G Regional Chairs:**  
**Dr. Howard & Karen Conter**



### Shalom!

Writing from the longest bridge in the world. We are coming from New Brunswick and on our way to Prince Edward Island. During this time we have a moment to reflect on the first few weeks of camp.

These last few weeks have been some of the most amazing experiences in our life. We are so grateful for this opportunity given to us from Geshet Chai and Magbit Canada.

Coming from northern Israel, not knowing what to expect, but excited to try something new this summer.

Leaving our family and friends behind, we quickly connected with the new and big Kadimah family. We can't wait to keep in touch for years to come, and strengthen the relationship we have made so far.

We want to again thank everyone who works to give us the experience of a lifetime. Hopefully we have also given some love, ruach and Israeli culture back to Camp Kadimah.

**Chazak ve'amatz,**  
**Gefen, Ido, Inbar, Hila and Chen**

# *Dr. Alon Friedman: New epilepsy research chair seeks to stop brain diseases before they start*

Contributed by the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation

**D**r. Alon Friedman is on the forefront of world efforts to prevent brain diseases, such as epilepsy, by detecting and treating damaged blood vessels in the brain.

A new recruit to Dalhousie Medical School and the IWK Health Centre, Dr. Alon Friedman arrived in Halifax from Israel's Ben-Gurion University in July 2014, to accept his new role as William Dennis Chair in Epilepsy Research.

"I was so impressed by the collaboration between scientists and clinicians, and the facilities for brain research, I knew it would be a positive environment for translating my findings to the patient," says Dr. Friedman of his decision to come to Halifax. "It was also appealing to me that the Dennis family cares so much about epilepsy research, they would fund a research chair. It's important to me that people in the community are promoting and supporting research."

More than 20 years ago, in Israel, Dr. Friedman found that damage to blood vessels in the brain—from concussion, traumatic brain injury, stroke, high blood

pressure or other reasons—is associated with epileptic seizures. "When vessels in the brain are damaged, proteins and other substances in the blood can cross the protective blood-brain barrier into the nerve tissues, where they can have toxic effects over time," he explains. "My aim is to develop new technologies and treatments for detecting and repairing vascular damage and early brain changes before disease develops."

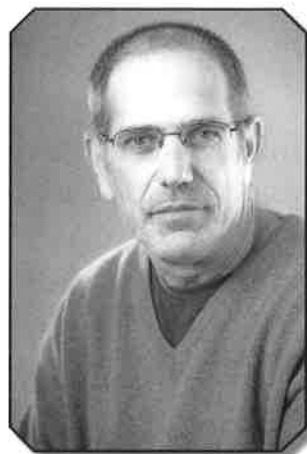
In addition to epilepsy, vascular damage in the brain can lead to emotional and psychological problems, mild-to-severe cognitive impairments, and neurodegenerative diseases such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy and Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Friedman has already found in lab studies that a common blood pressure drug, Losartan, can help heal vascular damage in the brain and prevent epilepsy. He's looking forward to testing this agent in clinical trials, while looking for even more effective treatments. Tissues and data stored in the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank will be an important resource for this

work. "The brain bank will allow us to compare the clinical histories of donors with the pathologies of their brains, to see how damage to the blood-brain barrier was involved at various stages of disease," he says. "We want to identify a mechanism we could target in early stages to prevent further deterioration."

Early diagnosis is the key to early intervention, of course. Dr. Friedman is collaborating with researchers in the Biomedical Translational Imaging Lab (BIOTIC) at the IWK and QEII to advance new technologies for early and accurate identification of blood-vessel damage in the brain. Someday, he hopes such technologies could be used to screen for blood-vessel damage in anyone at risk—due to concussion, high blood pressure, diabetes, family history, and many other possible factors—so they can be treated early and effectively to avoid brain disease.

Dr. Friedman is enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead for him in Halifax's collaborative and increasingly influential brain research community. As an ambassador for the 2014-2015 Molly Appeal—which will support neuroscience research by raising funds to expand the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank—Dr. Friedman hopes to make even more new connections in his new home.



## **Weizmann Canada to honour Ralph Medjuck, Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L**

**on Nov. 16, at the National Leading Men Gala 2014**

Both a pillar of the community and a vocal advocate for betterment, Weizmann Canada is proud to name him as an honouree.

We invite you to support a special fund in Mr. Medjuck's honour, focused on cardiac research at the Weizmann Institute of Science, a world renowned research institute that has truly made a major impact in medicine, the environment, technology and so much more.

To learn more or to support Mr. Medjuck's project, please visit [leadingmengala.weizmann.ca](http://leadingmengala.weizmann.ca) or contact Susan Stern at [susan@weizmann.ca](mailto:susan@weizmann.ca) or **1.855.337.9611**



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# Sailing Championships: Israel Competes For 2016 Sailing Spots In Rio

by Joel Jacobson

**D**espite a sporadic training schedule at home, and enjoying time in generally sunny Nova Scotia waters, two teams of Israeli sailors entered the World Disabled Sailing Championships in Halifax with great optimism. "We're here to win," says Dror Cohen, skipper of the three man crew sailing a seven-metre Sonar. "The only enjoyment is to win."

SKUD 18 coach Alon Dagan says Halifax is the first competitive race for his two-person team in the 5.8 metre boat. He thinks the husband-wife team, Hagar and Moshe Zahavi "can be around the middle of the 15-boat field." The Sonar team, with Arnon Efrati and Shimon Ben-Yakov joining skipper Cohen, 46, is rightfully confident. Cohen, a paraplegic from a 1992 car accident while in the army, was on the 2004 gold medal-winning team at the Athens Paralympic Games. He also won gold at worlds in Weymouth, England in 2011 after a silver at 2009 worlds. His teammates then were Efrati and Benny

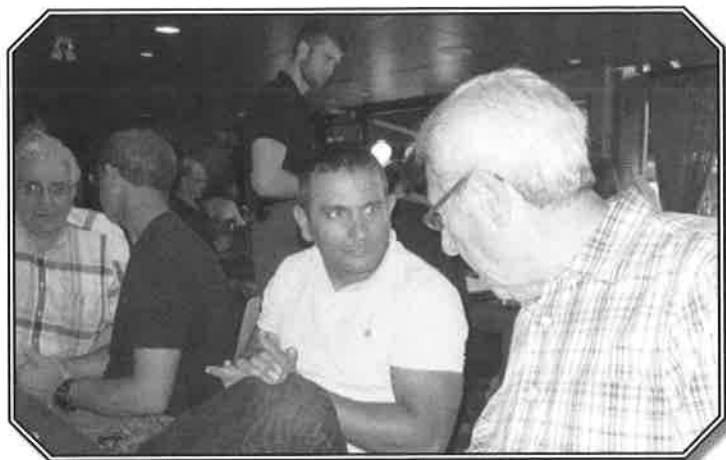
Vexler who has since retired. Ben-Yakov, 57, with many years of sailing experience, joined the 2014 team.

Efrati, 62, lost his right arm while an officer in the 1973 Yom Kippur War while Ben-Yakov suffered left leg damage from a bullet wound in the Lebanese War of 1982. "I walk, but not well," he says.

Sonar coach Israel Altman, a social worker with veterans and youth at risk, explains training was halted for the crew that sails under the auspices of Beit Halochem Haifa, the Veterans Association of Haifa.

"We weren't allowed to train because of the Gaza War and, besides, we were in rocket territory and had to be near home. Each hour was different. You couldn't plan anything." Finally they received clearance to travel to Canada, spent 10 days training and sailing in Lunenburg NS, then came to Halifax for Worlds that ran from August 18 through August 24. Results were not available at press time.

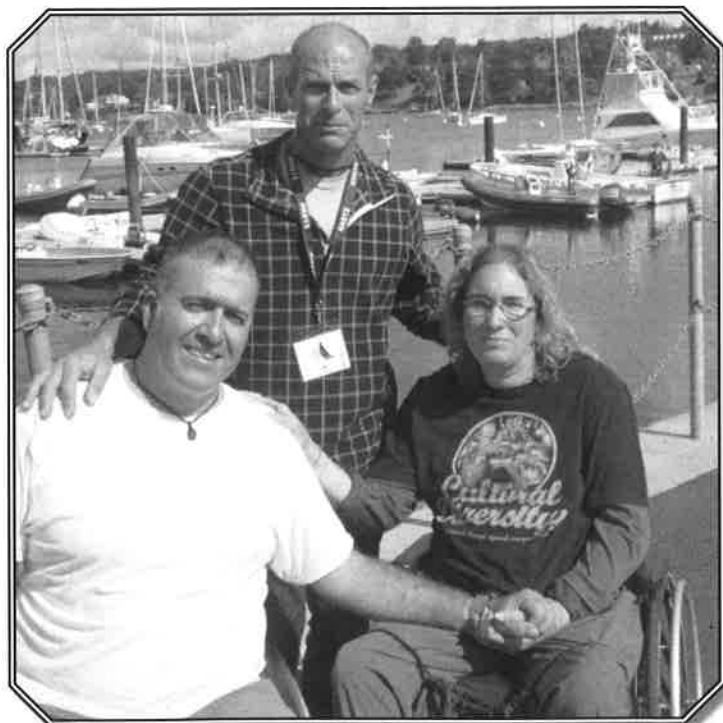
The first seven countries of 17 competing in the



*Israel's Dror Cohen, skipper of the Sonar boat, at the World Disabled Sailing Championships in Halifax discusses the intricacies of sailing with Harvey Meretzky at a social event prior to the championships.*

Sonar class qualify for the Paralympics in Rio De Janiero in 2016. Israel will decide a representative after its 2016 national championships, "if the country qualifies through Halifax," says Altman. The Zahavis have sailed together for only 10 months through Beit Halochem Tel Aviv. Moshe, 46, who contracted polio at seven months and is in a wheelchair, sailed Sonar for six years, with a best finish of 5th at 2010 worlds. A construction materials buyer, he jokes it's mostly peace and love on the water with Hagar. "Sometimes we shout but we always seem to get to shore safely," he smiles. Hagar, 44, and mother of their four children ages eight to 15, became a paraplegic in a car accident in 1990. She played wheelchair basketball on Israel's national team but when Alon needed a female and called her to sail SKUD, she accepted and gave up hoops. "I knew she had sailed a bit of Sonar and was very capable," says Alon, a sailmaker by profession. Hagar says she likes participating with Moshe. "I'm the captain on the boat. Moshe says 'Yes, dear!'"

Cohen, who works in real estate, admits hearing Hatikvah played at the gold medal ceremony in Athens was a proud moment. "There were no guns, no F16s. It was a WOW moment. For me as an athlete and



*Moshe and Hagar Zahavi, a two-person SKUD 18 sailing team, represents Israel at the World Disabled Sailing Championships in Halifax. Coach Alon Dagan stands behind.*

*continued on page 18*



*Israeli sailor Shimon Ben-Yakov discusses sailing strategy with Millie Meretzky before the World Disabled Sailing Championships in Halifax.*



*Israeli Sonar sailing team at World Disabled Sailing Championships in Halifax. From Left: Shimon Ben-Yakov, coach Israel Altman, Dror Cohen, Arnon Efrati*

*continued from page 17*

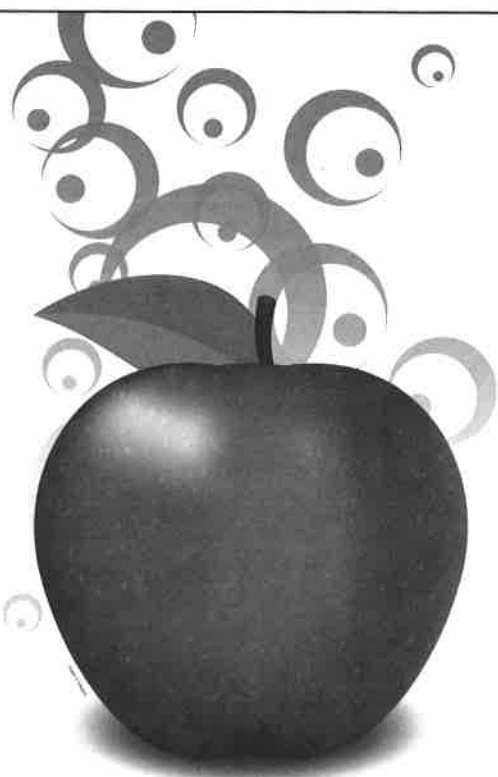
all of us for our country, it's something we'll remember all our lives."

Ben Yakov, a building inspector and father of four, said he spent a year in hospital after his leg was wounded but says, "I have a wonderful life, even with the disability.

The disability is small. Life is big."

The teams have had financial help. A British woman gave the Sonar crew her boat which was shipped from London to Nova Scotia. Halifax businessman Menny Suissa has covered the cost of a coach boat to sail Halifax Harbour waters. The Sonar

is a seven metre one-design keelboat for three to five people, crewed by three when being sailed by disabled sailors. SKUD 18 debuted in the 2008 Paralympics. It was the first Paralympic class to specify a severely disabled sailor and a female in the crew.



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# Halifax Stands with Israel

by Mark David, CIJA Atlantic Consultant



*The Honourable Scott Brison addressing the crowd.*

**T**he evening of July 23, Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax, was the scene of a community gathering, "Singing, Solidarity and Hope for Israel", organized by the Atlantic Jewish Council and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). Howard Conter, past President of the AJC and current Atlantic Canada UJA Campaign Chair and Co-Chair of P2G Atlantic, hosted the event attended by more than 250 pro-Israel supporters. The evening featured a lively program with speeches and songs that brought the Jewish community and friends together.

Bringing greetings were Canada's Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Robert Nicholson, and

Liberal MP Scott Brison. Both Minister Nicholson and Mr. Brison focused their remarks on Israel's right – and obligation – to defend herself and her citizens and on the many core liberal democratic values shared by Canada and Israel. This was followed by an address from Israel's Deputy Consul-General Alon Melchior, who updated the gathering on latest developments.

Rabbi Ari Isenberg, spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom, shared his experiences in Israel during the conflict via Shaar Shalom's co-President Mark Rosen. The



*(L-R) The Honourable Scott Brison, Alon Melchior, Deputy Consul General for Israel, The Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of National Defence*

Reminding the community that they are not alone, Pastor Clyde Lowe of Aylesford Baptist Church, who was accompanied by about 25 of his congregants from the Annapolis Valley, gave stirring remarks about his love for the Jewish people and Israel. Several members of Bridges for Peace were present as were many other pro-Israel Christians.

The Camp Kadimah Choir performed several Israeli songs, and the Prayer for Israel and the Prayer for the IDF were chanted by David Zer-Aviv, a former IDF paratrooper now living in Halifax.

The evening concluded with an emotional rendition of Hatikvah.

Rabbi's first-hand account of life in Israel today was riveting and reminded people of how the conflict is impacting daily life in Israel.



*Pastor Clyde Lowe from Aylesford, NS, second from left, spoke passionately at the rally in Halifax to support Israel, picture with his wife and Roman Filshtinsky, left, and Boris Khaikin, right.*



# Ambassador Barak Kicks Off Atlantic UJA Campaign

by Joel Jacobson



*Ambassador Rafael Barak*

**R**afael Barak was in the midst of a busy three day visit to Halifax August 19 when he helped kick off the UJA Atlantic Canada annual campaign. Speaking before an audience of about 120 Jewish community members and a few non-Jewish people, Barak spoke soon after a truce between Israel and Hamas during the current hostilities was broken prematurely by Hamas who once more started firing rockets into Israel.

At the Atlantic Jewish Council-sponsored event, at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, on his first Atlantic Canadian visit since assuming the role last January, cited the challenges facing Israel. There are several Middle East threats to Israel – from Iraq, Iran, Muslim Brotherhood and Al-Queda . Each morning, Israelis wake up to media reports of changes caused by those threats.

"It's a reality for Israelis," he said. "Iran is probably the most dangerous with its development of nuclear bombs. It, too, is providing Hamas with weapons and supports Hezbollah in Lebanon. We're just trying to cope with that."

Barak, a Uruguayan-born diplomat, who emigrated to Israel at 18, later praised

(Stephen McNeil of Nova Scotia), mayor (Michael Savage) of Halifax, and other government officials. I invited them to come to Israel to see what is happening between our country and yours, and what we can achieve by working together."

Barak met with the editorial board of the Halifax Chronicle Herald, the largest daily newspaper east of Montreal, and with representatives of ZIM, the Israeli shipping lines that works extensively out of Halifax. He scheduled a full day at Dalhousie University to meet with the president and other university officials. Dalhousie recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Ben Gurion University in Israel for a joint ocean research center. "In the discussions, he'll build on that agreement that includes many of the universities in Israel, not just Ben Gurion," said Marlon Lewis, chair of Dalhousie's Oceanography

Atlantic Canada for its devotion to the Jewish homeland and the efforts being put forth economically and educationally to improve relations between Israel and Canada. "On my agenda (as ambassador) is to extend that cooperation," he said Tuesday evening (August 19). "Today I met with the Premier

Department, which Lewis called number one in Canada and "arguably one of the top three oceanography schools in the world."

During his keynote address at the Atlantic Canada kick off of the 2014 UJA campaign, Barak talked of the volume of trade between Israel and Canada, and of conferences planned for Ottawa and Montreal in which Canada and Israel will be participating.

The UJA Kickoff was emceed by Howard Conter, regional chair UJA Atlantic. He urged support in these difficult times while thanking Atlantic Canadians for their generosity during the recent emergency campaign.

Three Halifax youth – Zane Brown, Jonah MacDonald and Jacob Suissa – spoke briefly of their impressions of the Biluim Israel 2014 trip, each expressing their awe at the uniqueness and cultural diversity of Israel.

Olga Kulekevich, who emigrated from Israel to Halifax five years ago, sang four Hebrew melodies, including Hava Nagila, during which the audience enthusiastically sang and clapped along.

AJC president Michael Argand introduced Barak and Karen Conter, chair of the women's division of UJA Atlantic, thanked him.



*Ambassador Rafael Barak, centre, with AJC President Michael Argand, left, and Howard Conter, Regional UJA Chair, right.*



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Le Consul Général

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הקונסול הכללי

נציג קבוע של ישראל לארגון החטופה האזרחית הבינלאומי



*Greetings from the Consul General of Israel, Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman,  
On the occasion of Rosh Hashanah 5775*

*Shalom dear Friends,*

*I am truly honored, on the eve of the holiest period on our calendar, to extend my most heartfelt best wishes to each and every member of the Jewish communities of Atlantic Canada for the year 5775.*

*As the incoming Consul General of Israel, I very much look forward to working with your community in the years ahead in order to pave new inroads for Israel throughout Atlantic Canada.*

*I am also very keen to meet and work with your region's elected officials, businesspeople, academics and the broader public in the hopes of engendering a greater understanding of Israel and its citizens amongst your neighbors.*

*As Jews, we are privileged to share a rich history and heritage that has spanned the course of many millennia. The solidarity that binds our people, both in Israel and throughout the Diaspora, is as crucial as ever as we continue to face many significant challenges.*

*On behalf of the State of Israel and my colleagues at the Consulate General in Montreal, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy year, while thanking your community for its strong engagement and undying love for Israel.*

*May this year bless Am Yisrael with peace, prosperity and unity.*

*Shana tova u'metuka and see you in 5775!*

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## AROUND OUR REGION: HALIFAX



Joel Lion, centre, spent time with NS Progressive Conservative leader Jamie Baillie and community member Natan Nevo during a reception at the Argand home.



Consul General Joel Lion and Mayor Mike Savage



Liberal MP Scott Brison addressing the crowd at the Rally for Israel.



Greetings at the Rally for Israel came from Minister of National Defence the Hon. Robert Nicholson, right, with the keynote address from Israel's Deputy Consul-General Alon Melchior, centre, pictured with Jon Goldberg, AJC Executive Director, left,



Olga Shepshelevich, AJC Program Associate, left, with Leah MacDonald, AJC summer student, hosted the AJC booth at the Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival.



Newcomer teens, Micha Farber (R) and David Farber (L) volunteer at the multicultural festival.



Pride Day, hosting the table, Bobbi Zahra, Mark David, CIJA Consultant, Micha Farber and David Farber.



Linda Smilestone, left, behind the table, volunteers at Pride Day and is visited by Judith Goldberg, right, while Israeli tourists enjoy the festivities.





*Slave Svidler, center, supports Israel at the rally, with Marcia and Jerry Kohler*



*Presentation at Camp Kadimah, Jared Goldlust, camp director, centre, with Michale Pink, co-chair of Camp Kadimah and Rebecca Soberman.*



*Supporting the Rally for Israel, Morris Strug, Shoshana Katz and Lilian Falk.*



*Philip & Dorothy Riteman at the Rally for Israel.*



*Joanne Argand, centre, speaks with singer Olga Kulakevich, right, at the Rally for Israel, pictured with Neli Shpoker, AJC- UJA Campaign Administrator, left.*



*Luba Farber, recently arrived newcomer to Halifax, discussed her work at the Jewish Agency in Israel, at a Seniors Tea, Beth Israel Synagogue.*



*Lee Cohen, immigration lawyer, presented updates on immigration at a BBQ for newcomers.*



*Mark Shvartzman volunteered his skills at the BBQ for newcomers to Halifax.*

# Cape Breton News

by Sharon Jacobson

**W**inter in Cape Breton outstayed its welcome to such an extent that spring couldn't find a time to visit. But, if the Seasons were a bit off, our visitors were not...Joyous, thoughtful and sad moments were part of island life.

We grieved the passing of Robert Ein, a loyal Cape Bretoner and summer Mira resident. His wife, Carmen and sons Matthew and Greg spend their summers here on the Mira River.

We attended funerals for Linda Hirsch and Minnie Nathanson.

There were unveilings for Etta Chernin, Fruma Shore, Hymie Goldberg and Alan Leith.

But then, there was a marvelous 106th Birthday for the irrepressible Ms. Fanny Cohen at which she waxed eloquent when asked by Matthew Jacobson what was the first Birthday she remembered...She held us spellbound for 15 minutes!

Summer is a popular time for returning Cape Bretoners to revisit their roots.

Some even reside here for these months. Unable to know everyone who crossed the Causeway, here are some names you might know...I was informed about these visitors.

The first 3 from Toronto, came to visit their mother, Jean (David) Marsha and (David) Stuart Freeman Sheldon, and Karen David, Alan and Valerie David.

From England, Margo Schwartz and her children.

The Carnats had their 4 grandkids, Sarah, Ben, Jacob and Sam and 2 eldest children, Uri and Toby.

The Jacobsons were visited by Matthew, Jonah and Riva and Izzy Jacobson, Joyce Barak, Sharon Derevensky and Rona Siegal, Lowell and Bunny Shore, their daughter Robin and her twin children, Eva and Sebastian, and also their son, Adam with Ruth, Lewis and Dia and Talie Jacobson, Jacqueline and Barry Jacobson.

Lonnie Dubinsky returned as is his custom, as did Anita and David Schick who were visited by their daughter, Rachel and her 2 children, and her sister, Rhoda and Allen Benedon; there was also Irwin and Sylvia Epstein, Stanley and Paula Epstein and their son Ein Epstein and his children, Michelle Lecker, Moishe Gryfe, Arlene Dubinsky.

Wendy Ross entertained her daughter Rebecca Maciorzki and granddaughter Olivia.

Myrna and Harold Yazer spent much of the summer in Boularderie, and Myrna graced the kiddushes with delicious baking. Myrna's son Joey, and sister Marsha Slaven attended shul as well as guests Sheldon and Jennifer Lipkus.

Peter and Peshe Kuriloff made it from their summer paradise in New Harris to attend shul.

Judy and Arnold Budovitch had a houseful including grandson, David Mendel as did Bella Shore with Marni and Sol Mednick, Jordanna Cohen, Sybil,

Lauren and Max Fineberg, Susan and Sheldon Abramovitch.

Evelyn and Harold Davis' daughter, Beverley always makes the trek home with her family.

Joan and Frank Elman usually have daughter Marlene and granddaughter Ariel. Rhona Conti, visiting in Beinn Breagh, also visited the synagogue.

I am sure I have only scratched the surface of people who have strong connections to and for Cape Breton....

Sydney's synagogue has realized a rebirth that reminds me of an article in the NY Times on the rebirth of the neighbourhood library. Both have had to adapt to a different world and, despite reduced numbers, new applications have led to an interesting revival.

The shul has become - A place for social assembly, learning, party events, and kibbutzing after the "home-made" Shabbat services.

There is "something happening here"....

And who could have foreseen the Kiddush Lunch as being an "Event to Consider"?

And yet, we have generous sponsors and people like the inexhaustible Shirley Chernin and Wendy Ross who prepare and bring and make a beautiful and bounteous table!

We must mention Steven Nathanson who has created a veritable museum of archival memorabilia, (which is inclusive of the other island Jewish communities as well) in the Sydney Shul, the Temple Sons of Israel.

And of course, there is always some good nachas to cheer about- A hearty Mazel Tov to Phil David, son of Tootsie and the late Ike David as he takes over the leadership of Camp Kadimah as its new Director!

**Please see Phil David's inaugural article on page 12**



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# Fredericton News

by Ayten Kranat

A successful barbecue co-sponsored by the AJC (Atlantic Jewish Council) and CIJA (Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) and hosted by Ayten and Marc Kranat, was held Sunday, August 17th. Organized by Marilyn Kaufman, Chair of the Atlantic CIJA Local Partnership Council and Ayten Kranat, Fredericton AJC representative, the event was well attended by local members of the Jewish community and invited guests.

Executive Director of the AJC, Jon Goldberg, and Atlantic Region Consultant for CIJA, Mark David, were on hand to meet the community.

The Honorable Keith Ashfield, MLA's Carl Urquhart, Brian Macdonald and Craig Leonard were in attendance along with Richard Blaquiére, columnist with The Woodstock Bugle. People had the opportunity to meet and speak with their elected government representatives in an informal setting.

Thank you to the star chefs for the afternoon, Marc Kranat and Seymour Kaufman.

A BIG THANK YOU to Jon Goldberg, Mark David, the AJC and CIJA for their assistance. As well, thank you to all those in the community who came out, in spite of the inclement weather, to make this event a success.



Jon Goldberg, Marc Kranat, Ayten Kranat, Mark David & Marilyn Kaufman hosted and sponsored the BBQ.



Jon Goldberg, Marilyn Kaufman (Chair, Atlantic Canada Local Partner Council), and the Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., MP for Fredericton chat at the BBQ.



The Honourable Craig Leonard, Minister of Energy and Mines, New Brunswick, Richard Blaquiére, Marlene Unger and Marc Kranat, enjoy the BBQ.



Brianna Carmichael, UNB graduate from the 2014 graduating class, received the David Spiro Award in History 5012, for best essay. Marilyn Kaufman, Vice-President, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue represented the Jewish community at the awards ceremony. Brianna's essay was entitled: *The Obstinate Jews Martin Luther's Evolving Recommendations for the Jews of Europe.*

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## *Moncton News*

by Nancy Cohen



*Irwin Lampert presented three JNF certificates to RCMP Superintendent Marlene Snowman on behalf of the Shul.*

**F**or those leaving shul on the second night of Shavuot the peacefulness of the holiday was marred by police cars racing up the street and the constant wail of sirens that seemed to go on and on. We were shocked to learn later that evening that four policemen had been murdered and two others wounded. Our usually peaceful and safe

community was suddenly under siege with the whole city locked down as the police searched for the shooter. Several members of the Jewish community live very close to where the shooting took place, and for them it must have been especially terrifying. It was indeed a great relief when the shooter was finally apprehended.

Everyone in Moncton was deeply impacted by this tragedy and shared in the grief of the families, friends and coworkers of the three officers. To honour the fallen RCMP officers and thank them for their bravery Tiferes Israel decided to have trees planted in Israel in each of their names. Irwin Lampert presented the three JNF certificates on behalf of the shul to RCMP Superintendent Marlene Snowman, who in turn presented them to the widows of Cst. Fabrice Gevaudan, Cst. Dave Ross and Cst. Douglas Larche. May their memory be for a blessing.

On June 21 a special Kiddush was held to

welcome a new family to our community. Leonid and Alina Langleban and their four lovely children, Shelly, Michal, Liran and Itay have joined our community and are settling in quite nicely. On August 16 Shelly Langleban celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at Tiferes Israel. Mazel tov to Shelly and family!

Mazel Tov to Nir El, son of Zohar El and Uri El, on his Bar Mitzvah which took place in Israel on July 17. Most Bar Mitzvahs are quite memorable for the Bar Mitzvah boy, but I'm sure it's an experience Nir will never forget. He and his brother Noam witnessed the Iron Dome anti-missile system in action and were quite impressed.

Everyone is looking forward to our annual community barbecue which will be taking place on August 24 at Betty Druckman's in Shediach Cape. Here's hoping for good weather.

Best wishes to all for health and happiness in the New Year!

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## Saint John News

by Susan Isaacs Lubin

**A**s the summer winds down, we take time to reflect on what has gone on in the past few months. We have been renovating a room on the upper level of our Synagogue to become a multi-purpose room – for use for youth and adult studies. We hope to have this finished by the end of September, so that we can all enjoy the activities that will be planned.

Our community is growing with a total of 17 new families and at least one more due to arrive in September. Many of them already have jobs, and all of them are settling in to become a major factor in our Synagogue life. They come to Services to help make a Minyan, and several of the men help read from the Torah. We certainly appreciate their contribution.

Mazel tov to Bar Khayat on his Bar Mitzvah on August 2nd. Bar is the son of Michael and Elena Khayat, one of our new families.



*Jen Michelson's 100th Birthday party. Jen, seated in front - second from the left, celebrates with members of the community.*

The whole community joined in with Bar to make his Bar Mitzvah memorable for him.

In October, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum will be presenting a Jewish Film Festival. This event will take place over one week, with the opening film and reception at the New Brunswick

Museum, and the other films at the Synagogue. This is a fundraiser for the Jewish Museum, and we wish them well, and look forward to viewing the many films.

Mazel tov to Anya and Eran Maor on the birth of a girl – Avigail. Avigail joins the Maor family of 3 young boys.

Mazel tov to Jackie Meltzer and family on the Bat Mitzvah of Allison, daughter of Michael and Linda Meltzer of Toronto. The Bat Mitzvah took place at the Western Wall in Israel.

Mazel tov to Jen Michelson on her 100th Birthday on July 1st, 2014. Jen is the widow of Lou Michelson, our lay leader in Saint John for many years. A party was held in her honour at the St. John & St. Stephen Nursing Home, where Jen now resides. Relatives from out of town attended as well as many from the Jewish Community.

## Saint John Jewish Historical Museum

by Katherine Biggs-Craft

**T**he Saint John Jewish Historical Museum opened new exhibits for the 2014 tourism season on Sunday, June 1. Our special guest for the opening was the Hon. Trevor Holder, Minister of Tourism and Parks for the Province of New Brunswick who brought greetings.



*Rachel and the diorama of Pamdenec*

The main exhibit for 2014 is **Pamdenec - The "Golden Days": 1920 to 1970**, an exhibition including video, photographs, artefacts and anecdotes to share the history of Jewish cottage life. We have also begun the construction of a diorama to illustrate the location of the clubhouse and family homes in the area. "Pamdenec" is a small settlement a short distance from the centre of Saint John that is now part of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield. Its name is an aboriginal word that describes the topography of the area. It was a stopping point for the Maliseet tribes who used the river as their transportation link between their inland communities and the sea. "Jewish" Pamdenec is listed as one of "Canada's Historic Places" which can be visited online.

Shortly after the First World War, a few

Jewish families from Saint John bought or built summer houses in Pamdenec: un-insulated wood frame buildings with small bedrooms, a well for water, a septic tank, a wood stove and very modest furnishings. This Jewish summer community grew to more than 50 families by the 1940s. For the young people who spent time there, Pamdenec became a vast collection of wonderful memories. For adults it was a time for relaxation and spending time with visiting friends and relatives from other parts of Canada and the US.

There are four smaller community exhibits. **Jewish Immigration to Saint John** looks at the history of Jewish arrivals to the city from David Gabel, who arrived with the Loyalists in 1783

*continued on page 28*



Carl Killen, M.L.A. Saint John Harbour, Hon. Trevor Holder, Minister of Tourism and Parks, and Gary Davis, President, Saint John Jewish Historical Society.

*continued from page 27*

through the arrivals from Western and Eastern Europe in the 19th and early 20th centuries, to the more recent arrivals from Israel. A number of individual stories make up **Saint**

**John Connections to the Holocaust**, mostly survivors who lived in Europe during the War as well as two men who were brought to Canada as "enemy aliens" interned in camps from 1940 to 1942. **Open for Business** is a pictorial and text exhibit about the dozens of Jewish businesses that once flourished in every part of the city, but which no longer exist today. Finally, **18 Exceptional Men and Women** highlight the significant contributions made to Saint John by 36 prominent community members. Visitors can also explore our permanent exhibit on the **Jewish Way of Life from the Cradle to the Grave** and have a quiet moment in the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

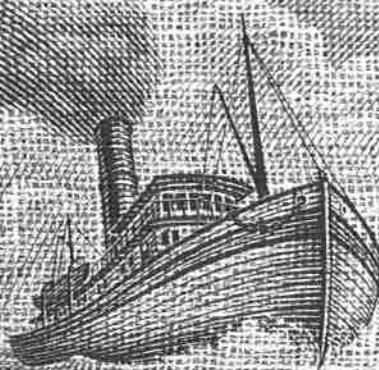
The museum will be open for the summer season until October 31. Regular hours are from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with additional hours on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in July and August. Tours are also available by appointment. The Museum is closed on Saturdays and Jewish Holy Days.

We expect to be very busy in the Museum during September and October when most of the cruise ships are scheduled to visit the city arrive – after a somewhat quiet beginning of the season we are looking forward to the bustle that will come on these days. If you are in the Saint John area and would like to meet a lot of very interesting people, we would appreciate a call so we can arrange a day for you to come and help us out.

We have been fortunate to have the assistance of six young university and college students to assist with a variety of archival projects and research. The students have organized hundreds of files and books in our archives which will make finding things much quicker and easier. Our research focus this year has been on the men and women from the Saint John Jewish community who enlisted in all branches of the services during the Second World War. We are calling and emailing family members who may have information that we can use. The information collected will be used to enhance the community's Remembrance Day observances.

If you have not yet visited the Jewish Museum this summer, please drop by – we would love to share out history with you.

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## News From The Rock

by Claire Frankel-Salama and Michael Paul, Beth El Synagogue

**B**y the time you read this report, you will have heard all the glowing reports of the record number of icebergs, whales and hot sunny days by tourists and Newfoundlanders alike. Among these tourists have been many guests from all over North America who have taken the time to visit Beth El and learn about the history and legacy of this community.

At the end of June we welcomed two groups of students. On June 6th we welcomed two large groups of students from Holy Trinity High School. Full of questions and answers, they represented their school beautifully and "made my day". On the 23rd, we greeted a smaller group of pupils all the way from Random Island, accompanied by their teacher Paulette Porter. Again, the pleasure of their interest was well appreciated. (see photo)

Among our visitors, we have welcomed Aaron Glassman and Toba Sheryl Lavine of

Toronto, who arrived on a motorcycle. We also had tourists from Princeton- Dan and Sally Brent, who were lawyers attending a legal meeting in town. As well there was an organized Jewish bus tour which brought about 11 older Jewish Americans to town. They travel to different areas each summer and endeavour to see any areas of Jewish interest. Several of them attended shul. As befitting Hachneset Orchim, every one of our visitors had tea and something to eat.

On Sunday, July 13th, Dr. David and Christine Wright invited the members and guests of the shul to their beautiful home in Tors Cove for the annual shul luncheon/picnic. Among the guests were Marty and Rachael Zaretsky, parents of Dr. Mark Zaretsky, a resident here at the Health Sciences. Again, this year, we were also able to invite the two young Chabadniks- Ephraim Merovich and Zeev Nussbaum, who took advantage of the opportunity to ride the Wright's ATV on the shores of the North Atlantic. The rest of us stood on the decks and watched the whales breaching in the sun. Fantastic experience! Our warm thanks go to the Wrights for their excellent hospitality. (see photo)

On Sunday, July 20th, we had a town hall/brunch meeting as Linda Kislowicz, President and CEO of Jewish Federations Canada was visiting with her husband and family. It was very kind of her to take time



*Some guests at the picnic at Tors Cove.* out of her private holiday to connect with us and we appreciate it greatly. She spoke about the general situation in Israel and what Federations is doing and plans to do in the future. We sincerely hope that she saw many icebergs, whales and puffins on the rest of her trip. (see photo)

Of course what would summer be, if we did not see Judy Wilansky during her annual return to Newfoundland, where she spent over 30 years and where she and her late husband raised 3 accomplished children. Judy comes back to see old friends and to attend her "old" shul where she and family spent so much time.

Dr. David Mercer and Arlene Bloomfield, were welcomed back "home". They were married in Montreal's Shaare Zion synagogue on Cote St Luc Road on Thursday August 21. They invited family and friends from all over the US and Canada. The service was held in the smaller chapel at the shul. Rabbi Moses officiated and read the Ketubah in Aramaic, stressing the duties of the couple to each other. Rabbi Moses also mentioned David's late wife June, with whom David made a Jewish home in Holyrood. It was a very emotional moment for those who knew the late June Mercer well. Arlene circled David 7 times and Chazzan Orbach chanted the Sheva berachot. David's son Geoffrey placed the glass beneath his father's right foot, and after it was broken we all broke out singing "Mazal tov v'siman tov..." We were all so pleased that Arlene

*continued on page 30*



*Mercer-Bloomfield wedding in Montreal.*



*Students from Holy Trinity visiting Beth El.*



*Two students from Chabad with Dr. David Wright.*

*continued from page 29*

had found an good husband in David, and that David found Arlene to cherish to ease his sadness.

Dr. Michael Paul helped to sponsor an exhibit of 32 antiquarian Hebrew texts at the Jewish Public Library in Montreal, and also helped to sponsor the publication of an exhibit catalogue, for which he wrote the preface. The opening event gala

was at the Library in Montreal on 14 May 2014, which was the 100th Anniversary of its opening in the downtown Jewish section of Montreal. The recent event was well attended and was followed by a wine and cheese party at the Gelber Centre at the Federation Cummings House. The exhibit has attracted thousands of viewers over its 3 1/2 month viewing period. The work is ongoing to catalogue the entire



*Linda Kislowicz, Chief Executive Officer Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA, addressing some members of the community at a breakfast/town hall meeting.*

collection of 1300 ancient texts.

Beth El Synagogue services begin at 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening until the High Holiday time change( and then services start at 6:30pm), and at 9:30 a.m. on Shabbat morning. If you are among the thousands of people visiting this beautiful land, please take the time to come and see us; you'll be happy you did!

## Jewish Community Havura

by Ruth Noel and Nancy Bennett

**A**fter surviving a long, long winter and a cold spring which lasted into mid-June, the weather turned and we experienced one of the hottest summers on record. In addition to the welcomed warmth, we were treated to an amazing display of icebergs - not just along the north coast - but right outside the St. John's harbour into July! Not only did we get the hot weather, the province had a healthy tourist season some of whom made their way to our Havura services.

We always enjoy meeting people from other places.

In May, Chava Finkler represented the Jewish Community Havura at the Hindu Temple's Multi-Faith Symposium on Spirituality for the second time. The topic was the Role of Images in Worship, and Chava explained that images are not used by Jews in worship. She explained several of our religious symbols, including the menorah and Magen David. Her presentation was very well received and many of those present asked questions when time allowed.

In mid-June, we had our annual end of the year barbeque, hosted again this year by Nancy Bennett at her home in Manuels. The weather had been cool, but that day it was warm and sunny enough for

us to be outside. We had our usual grilled salmon, corn and vegetarian hot dogs and burgers as well as salads, desserts and other items provided by our members. Special summer treats were given to the children, much to their delight. Carl Schofield, aided by Robert Sweeney, expertly ran the barbeque. It was a lovely way to begin the summer.

Two Hassidic rabbinic students, Zev Nussbaum (Montreal) and Ephraim Merovitch (Toronto) visited St. John's for about a month. Lorne Sulsky and his wife Heather MacDonald lent them a car so they could get around during their stay. Zev and Ephraim dropped by a Havura Shabbat Service and also visited some of our members. They baked challah at their temporary quarters in the nearby town of Paradise and delivered loaves to several households. It was delicious. They traveled to Corner Brook to meet our Jewish Premier Tom Marshall and presented him with a Siddur. They also met some other Jewish Corner Brookers.



*Hassidic rabbinic students Zev Nussbaum and Ephraim Merovitch present Newfoundland Premier Tom Marshall with a Siddur.*



The Havura was invited to help the province mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. We were asked to provide a representative to join with religious leaders of the major denominations to read prayers of remembrance at the beginning of an ecumenical service at the Roman Catholic Basilica. Gil Shalev represented the Havura and the Jewish community at the August 4th event. At 9:25 p.m., church bells tolled throughout the Province for 10 minutes, marking exactly 100 years from when then-Governor Davidson received a telegram advising him that Great Britain had declared war on Germany and that Newfoundland was thus at war. The Basilica was filled for this celebration of remembrance.

## News and Notes:

Congratulations to Paul Bendzsa who retired from Memorial University (Faculty of Music). Paul is keeping active playing his clarinet with various groups, teaching, and pursuing other interests which had been on the back burner.

Congratulations to Matthew Bendzsa on his graduation from high school. He will enter Memorial University in the fall.

## The summer of goodbyes:

We said good-bye to Trina Rosenzweig who was leaving us for Toronto to continue her studies. Trina was an important member of our Havura and will be greatly missed by all of us. She was active in leading services,

reading from the Torah and singing the Hebrew chants and songs. She also helped organize this year's Holocaust Memorial Service. Trina was especially beloved by our youngest members – she's a real kid-magnet – and all the children will miss her very much.

Jen Marcus was only with us for a year while completing a psychology internship at Memorial, but she quickly became active in our community, especially at services, where she read Hebrew with ease and sang beautifully. We'll miss her infectious smile and laugh.

Finally, we say good bye to Justin and Rachel Shapiro who will be returning to the U.S. Justin was transferred here to work for the oil industry and Rachel finished her MBA at Memorial. During their time here they became very involved in the St. John's community. Both served on the Havura Board of Directors, Justin ran in the local Tely 10 ten-mile road race and rowed in the Royal St. John's Regatta. Both have told us that, given the opportunity, they would come back. We hope they will.

Chava Finkler has taken up a fulltime position at the Grenfell Campus of



*Hula hoop fun at the Havura's Annual Picnic.*

Memorial University, in Corner Brook. A faithful and active attendee of our Shabbat and Holiday Services, Chava will be missed in St. John's. We look forward to her visits here from time to time and she is still a member of our community.

We wish all these wonderful friends good luck in their future endeavours.

Remember, if you come this way, please join our community for a Shabbat Service or High Holiday Service. You can write to us at [info@havura.org](mailto:info@havura.org) or check out our website at [havura.org](http://havura.org) or call us at 709-834-7866. Shana Tova to all of you. May there be peace throughout Israel, the Middle East and all the world and let us say "Amen".

# PEI News

by Rosalie Simeone

## Shanah Tova to all.

Some highlights of the past few months include:

Community Pesach Seder, annual summer picnic, and a visit from Mr. Joel Lion, on his farewell tour as Israeli Consul General.

The PEI Jewish community will host egalitarian, participatory Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services again this year.

Future holiday celebrations include Sukkot and Chanukah.

Our newly established Kabbalat Shabbat evenings will resume after the high Holidays.

Our condolences go out to the Bloom family, on the loss of their son Eric.

If you are coming to PEI, and wish to participate in any of our events, please contact us through [www.peijc.org](http://www.peijc.org)



*The Jewish community warmly welcomed Ambassador Rafael Barak, on his first official visit to PEI, at a reception co-hosted by the AJC, pictured with Leslee Sack.*

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# *Towards a Good New Year*

by Rabbi David Ellis, Regional Chaplain, Atlantic Jewish Council



**T**he days grow quickly shorter. The sun rises later. The air cools.

Many meanings to many people.

But for Jews, it cannot but mean that Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are at hand.

The long winter--everyone was affected by it. It persisted into the spring.

But now we are looking at some wonderful days.

I am hoping to see everyone around the region during the next few months.

And let it be only for simchahs.

We thank the Atlantic Jewish Council for making our important work possible.

Important discussions of interfaith topics, Israel, community development and personal support will be the first for us. My children will deal with challenging issues of being Jewish on campus.

For all our friends--see you soon. And only for simchahs!

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Rabbi David Ellis is available for introducing persons looking for Jewish mates in the region.

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# *The Necessity of Moral Action*

by Rabbi Amram Maccabi, Beth Israel Synagogue, Halifax

**K**ristallnacht is no longer just a dark memory in the world's history, that night when evil emerged as a force that was not thwarted before it was too late. Destruction of synagogues and Jewish-owned stores, deaths of over a hundred and the expulsion of thousands, were encountered by the world's silence. (Nov 9th 1938, 'the night of broken glass').

Today, Jews worldwide are constantly forced to deal with violent demonstrations, the burning of their synagogues, and antidemocratic laws disguised as formal judicial arguments. Up till now (Aug 3, 2014), in France alone, three synagogues were set on fire by Islamic radicals. Signs posted in Belgium taunted: Jews are prohibited to enter! Verbal violence can quickly escalate to life-threatening violence: less than a month ago, in Calgary, several participants in a Support



Israel rally were attacked with severity enough to send them to hospital. Nor is Halifax immune: on July 29th, there was a pro-Hamas demonstration in Canada's

ocean's playground. It was led by an American, who is a known associate of outlaws, an Imam named Jamal Bedawi. The demonstrators praised the Hamas and raised an ISIS flag. I am writing this column to warn you that the seeds of radicalism were planted in the indifferent streets of Halifax at that demonstration.

In 1938, that night between Nov 9th and the 10th was a checkpoint, a test. Hitler paused to see what the world's reaction would be to the planned pogrom. Well, "the world" was not touched. The result of that? A green light flashed to Hitler to continue with the Final Solution.

What starts with Jews never ends there; hatred's target is not only Jews. Throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia, Christians are being persecuted by radical Islamists. Baha'i in Iran, the Yazidi of Iraq, and other minorities, are being expelled and tortured

*continued on page 34*

*continued from page 33*

wherever radical Islam rules. It must be emphasized that, in Islamic states, the victims of the radicals are, by and large, Muslims.

Ethical people should not tolerate hate-sponsored demonstrations on their city streets.

Moral action does not consist of listening to lectures about the value of ethics while passively ignoring the spread of immorality. True morality entails active protest when, unfortunately, such protest is needed. Evil such as we see today does not voluntarily leave. It needs to be fought and defeated.

What can we, citizens and residents of Halifax, do to act morally and to combat even the possibility of terrorism here at home?

A simple look at the recent pro-Hamas demonstrations on Halifax's main streets would show hundred and fifty Hamas supporters versus a handful of Jews. But that is not the case. We were certainly outnumbered but we were not unheard.

We flew two flags, the Canadian red and the Israeli blue. We saw the relief on spectators' faces, as they realized that there are those who, like them, oppose radicalism. At the demonstration I realized a profound thing – we are not alone! The majority of the Canadian public do not want a radical pro-Hamas neighbor.

So, again, how can each of us stand against the radical Islamic bully?

- Speak out against Hamas, the Muslim brotherhood, ISIS, with as many people as possible. Talk to colleagues at work, chat with friends in social activities, converse with family, and let the discussion rise on the streets.

- Strengthen moderate Muslims who are suffering from inclusion with radicalism.

- Next time there is a pro-terror demonstration, be there! Encourage your friends of every denomination to participate in opposing the next demonstration. In this way, we will change the numbers, and stand as the majority we actually are.

- When you see pro-Hamas protestors in public places do not ignore them. Express your contempt and objection in a way that passersby's will see the hatred and lies will not be tolerated on our streets.
- If you hear anti-Jewish or anti-Israeli comments, confront them outloud, in a way that will identify the speakers as the liars they are.
- Remember that there is one powerful way to fight lies – to tell the truth.

As representations of a modern society, believers in the God of peace, compassion, love and justice, WE ARE THE MAJORITY whose voice must be heard loud and clear declaring:

There is no room for radicalism of any sort on our streets!

On the eve of a new year, may we all merit:

*"...there ends a year and its maledictions and a new one begins with its blessings".*



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# Israel in Crisis

by Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Shaar Shalom Congregation, Halifax

**I** could not think of a more appropriate gesture during Israel's time of crisis and need this summer than to fly there myself and offer the full weight of my rabbinic support (and, by extension, greetings and well wishes from the Halifax Jewish community). After all, as the Talmud states, "Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh ba'Zeh" | *All of Israel Are Responsible for Each Other*. When one's family is in crisis, when loved ones are in danger or pain, it's often natural to drop everything and tend to them. Perhaps this is because we realize that, fundamentally, our wellbeing is inextricably linked to theirs.

The Israel I encountered was one the likes of which I had never before experienced. Streets were desolate, public spaces and parks were closed, and restaurants were half empty. Tension and anxiety were the dominant, palpable sensations. Families stayed home, in close proximity to their bomb shelters. Even those out of harm's way were not immune to the helplessness that engulfed the country over the summer. Every citizen – Jew, Christian, Druze, Muslim, Ba'hai – felt the burden of this conflict.

As Israel's young men and women were killed in battle, the country united. Thousands attended funerals and paid shiva calls. Hundreds gathered in city centres to sing melancholy songs of wartime (most of these songs, like our Biblical prophetic accounts, describe the hope for a time in the future when peace and tranquility will overcome all violence).

I joined Israelis in this process, tending to the mourners, visiting the cemeteries, offering a hug and lending an ear to citizens of the hardest-hit regions who wished to recount stories about their reality. I also experienced the panic and terror of having 15-seconds to frantically find shelter during a red alert siren.

Israelis, reflecting on their reality,

articulated the crux of the issue: What can you do when a radical Islamist entity is determined to destroy your nation, your people? How do you respond when the ever-scrutinizing and discriminately biased eye of the world is meticulously questioning and analyzing your every move while accepting the other side's account without much scrutiny?

Renowned Israeli novelist Amos Oz, an infamous peacenik, was notably vocal throughout the conflict. One remark of his that stuck with me:

What is the difference between European pacifists and Israeli peaceniks?

European pacifists deem war to be the ultimate evil.

Israeli peaceniks consider aggression to be the ultimate evil. Sometimes, and regrettably, in order to repel and quell aggression, one must engage in battle.

A war of defense (or, in Jewish terminology, a Milchemet Mitzvah) is always tragic and is never pleasant, but in the face of existential aggression, it must sometimes be carried out.

Around the world, Anti-Semitism seems to have found a new, acceptable platform. As I write this, I'm reading of an Hotelier in Holland who, this weekend, prevented an Israeli family from checking in to the hotel they had reserved. I also heard about a shopkeeper in Old Montreal who pretended to close his store when a man donning a Kippah tried to make a purchase. These are but two examples from what



is an ever-growing and despicable list.

This is why it has become increasingly important to be vocal in constructive ways. Allow me to enumerate a few:

1. Write letters to our elected officials. Reinforce our appreciation and gratitude to those who vocally support Israel and offer resources to those who don't. Our voices really do inform the positions of elected officials. Be numerous and vocal.
2. Offer support to each other. Spend time with members of your Jewish community and simply listen. Be supportive of those who are anxious about the state of affairs and try to arrange safe spaces where issues can be discussed.
3. Make financial contributions to Israeli institutions and organizations. PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) has almost reached an epidemic scope in Israel. The Israel Trauma Coalition, for instance, is in great need of support to carry out its work.
4. Continue to be proud of your heritage, our collective narrative. Share that pride.

Wishing you a Shanah Tovah, with prayers for a year of peace (shalom), fulfillment (shleimut), health (bri'ut), and happiness (osher).

Rabbi Ari Isenberg  
halifaxrabbi@gmail.com



Visiting a kindergarten in Ashkelon.



# A New Year

by Rabbi Yitzchok I Yagod, Congregation Tiferes Israel, Moncton

**A**s we approach a New Year many ask The Big Question: "What will we do this year to make it better and more exceptional?" Please allow me to answer that by presenting a very short account of heroic life lived:

*In Memoriam*

This past August 24th my favorite uncle, a holocaust survivor who lived in Montreal since 1946 was called back to Heaven at the age of 94 ½. He was born in Poland in 1920 and he was very powerful and clever teenager who singlehandedly defended himself against a tall, strapping



local brute and then managed to escape from Poland with another young friend. Most of his large family was unable to leave and perished in the war.

He firmly put his past sorrows behind him and resolved to make a new life without looking back in sadness. He always aimed for excellence and motivated everyone around him to do just that. He learned to speak English fluently and especially trained himself to make sure that it was without an accent.

He was a brilliant and beloved teacher to multitudes of people in over a half century of teaching. He was famous for his contagious optimism, boundless energy and passion and ever-present sharp wit and humor. He was paragon of excellence in numerous roles teaching, public orator, erudite scholar, Torah reader, Chazzan, Rabbi, advisor, an activist for Israel, a communal leader and builder and numerous other roles.

Although he did so much, he was facing immense challenges quietly. He defied death numerous times as he had serious lung illness, numerous heart attacks and other serious conditions for over 52 years and the experts did not expect him to survive past 1962. He did not give in to despair and kept a full lively schedule, teaching, traveling and leading right thru to the end and it really never stopped him from anything. He taught by example the value of a steely strong willpower. A wonderful family man, who was truly devoted and loved by his children grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There is much more to say but time is short and it is to his memory that I dedicate this.

The Torah in Parshat Shoftim, there is a phrase "a prophet will come from amongst you". Rav S. Hirsch points out that this teaches us that a prophet, a holy person, is also an ordinary person. He or she comes from right amongst you. Not a remote, distant figure who cannot relate to the average person. The holy prophet lives like ordinary people do and comes from ordinary circumstances. There is a tendency today to idolize the remoteness of certain leaders and the way they seem to comport. But the message is just the opposite. The leader is an ordinary human being who full of virtue, honesty, passion and wisdom. It's the honesty and everlasting devotion of the leaders that marks him or her to become G-d's prophet. Even when they become a prophet they still seem to be from amongst you; a regular person who did very well.

This is an ideal that my Uncle lived by. May we all merit long and happy lives.



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# What Do We Expect from the New Year?

by Rabbi Yosef Goldman, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, Fredericton

**T**his past year, there were 385 days on the Jewish calendar, because it was a leap year, in order to keep the commandment of observing the Holiday of Passover in the Spring. The year ahead is "only" 354 days, but it has its own special quality. The coming year is a year of Shmita - a special Sabbatical year for the land, and allowing social justice, by sharing the produce with all social levels. In addition, we are told in the Torah, that the animals, too, will benefit from us leaving our crops in the fields and the fruit on the trees, without harvesting them.

You may ask, here in Canada we are not able to keep these commandments because they are only for the Land of Israel? Also, even if it were not limited to the Promised Land, none of us are farmers?!

I believe the answer comes from how we

approach the New Year. In Psalms 19, 3 it says: "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night revealeth knowledge". This means that if we see each day as a new opportunity to 'utter speech' and 'reveal knowledge', the ultimate result will be a full year of excitement, getting into a fuller relationship with our fellow human-being and with Hashem. The reason why I use the word excitement is because the Zohar (the Kabala's most basic text) says that this verse allows us to see each day (almost) as a person! When a person wants to connect with another, the most basic way is through conversation, through sharing of knowledge. So, according to Kabala, we can treat each and every day & night, as a friend who we want to connect with.

Back to the Shmita year... If we want to connect with our brothers & sisters in Israel, especially the farmers amongst them, we can learn about their challenges in keeping

these Mitzvahs, we can make sure that we buy the Four Species we use for Succoth from a Jewish farmer in Israel and not from a Greek or Egyptian farmer (I have nothing against Greece or Egypt); We

can support them by praying for good rains for the land, so that there is plenty of free produce for everyone; Last, but not least, we can keep the Commandment to not collect debts at the end of the year, this Mitzvah may be kept outside of Israel.

Wishing you all a very Good, Happy, Healthy & Exciting New Year!



## The Jews and the Atom Bomb

by Rabbi Mendel Feldman, Chabad Lubavitch of the Maritimes

In times of such unrest in Israel as we are experiencing in the last number of weeks, we wonder and worry even more than usual, "How can such a tiny nation survive surrounded by a sea of enemies?"

In a public address the Lubavitcher Rebbe once asked the following two questions, being that the Jews are a tiny minority, A) How can it be expected of a Jew to stand up against overwhelming odds and live a life committed to Torah? B) Even if a Jew does buck the trend, what effect can it have on the world, ultimately, we will always be such a small minority? Our potential to accomplish anything significant as Jews seems so remote.

The Rebbe then explained that the answer to these questions can be found in modern science. Nuclear fission was discovered in the late 1930s and its power was famously harnessed in the 1940s by the Manhattan

Project team of scientists who developed the atomic bomb. What is the concept behind nuclear fission? It is that a tiny particle, the atom, can start a chain reaction that can release incredible power.

We can take heed from our Patriarch Abraham. Abraham was the consummate Jewish role model, he was the ultimate minority, one single person against the entire world, yet he not only discovered G-d, he introduced and taught monotheism to the world.

What we can learn from this is that bigger is not necessarily better, less can actually be more. The tiny Jewish people - like the tiny atom - has immense power. How do we release our "atomic power"? By fulfilling our function imposed on us by the Creator to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation" believing in One G-d and leading a life that He has prescribed for us in His holy Torah.

The message is simple, we are great not in spite of, but rather because we are small, our 'otherness' in thought and in conduct is not our weakness but our strength!

I want to suggest that in such times of unrest we turn to the 'nuclear' option right here and right now. We are the sons and daughters of Abraham, though we are the tiniest minority each one of us has the power to change the world as did our Patriarch.

With Rosh Hashanah upon us I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.



# Jewish Perspective on Organ Donation

By Rabbi Amram Maccabi

## **I**ntroduction: current situation in Nova Scotia

Currently potential organ donors in Nova Scotia are identified by opt-in option when they register for their health card. In addition, potential donors are identified by discussion with next of kin and physicians in critical care facilities around the province.

As reported in *Globe and Mail*, April 24, 2014 (Kelly Grant): "The Nova Scotia government is considering becoming the first province to make organ donation automatic unless people opt out before they die, a proposal that could reignite the debate about whether presumed consent laws should be enacted elsewhere to help the thousands of Canadians awaiting a transplant.

Health Minister Leo Glavine said he is preparing to ask the province's deputy health minister to lead an online public consultation asking Nova Scotians whether they would support a "reverse onus" law that would compel people to register their opposition if they do not

want their organs harvested after death... Canada had 15.5 % deceased donors per million in 2012, according to a report released in February by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI.)"

### **Why even bother?**

Saving a person's life is clearly a big command in the Jewish Bible, as it is said: "You shall not stand by [the shedding of] your fellow's blood. I am the G-d" (Vayikra 19:15).

Maimonides (Avoda Zara 10:1, Meiree) states that a person must save other's lives, whether they are Jewish or not Jewish.

"And G-d created man in His image; in the image of G-d He created him.." (Bereshit 1:27)

### **Can you kill to save a life?!**

A central matter is that a human beings life would not be measured in terms of personal quantity – "how much time do I have left?" nor by the standard quality measurement we're used to i.e. how much pleasure, suffering, Q.O.L (Quality

Of Life) we can absorb. It doesn't even end with one's accomplishments, as we don't know what G-d destined us to accomplish in this world. – Life is an absolute value! The ramification I am pointing at is that saving one's life, by taking even one second from another, is prohibited. Even though we may save the life of a beautiful baby while taking a second from a suffering old man – there is no way we can allow it.

### **When does a person's status changes to 'dead'?**

The point of declaring a person's death therefore is fundamental. A second before, we cannot use his organs to save others. When is the second after?

"Everything that had the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils, of all that were on the dry land, died" (Genesis 7:22). The rabbis in the Talmud ordains, that a person is declared "Dead", when her/his breathing stops completely. If you're alone, with no other equipment, you can take a feather, put it close to the person's nostrils, and if it doesn't move for couple of minutes, there is no life there. (Talmud Yoma 83-85).

Today, thank goodness, we have better equipment than feathers. Therefore we are obligated to make sure as much as possible today, that the person is really dead.

### **Are we dead when the brain stops or the heart?**

A central question is whether a brain-stem dead patient, whose heart continues to beat with the help of a ventilator, is considered dead or alive. If Jewish law considers this person to be 'alive', then removal of organs would be forbidden because you would be 'killing' the donor. From a medical viewpoint, this makes it difficult to transplant organs because once the heart stops pumping oxygenated blood to other organs; they begin to

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deteriorate and die. These organs are typically no longer viable for transplant. (This is the opinion of Rav Elyashiv: The breath that stops is just an indicator that the heart is also dead).

And yet death can be confirmed, even in the presence of a beating heart. This was shown by cutting off a head of an animal, while maintaining the heart artificially beating. – A certain death, and with yet a useful heart. (Igrot Moshe yo”d, 146. Israel chief rabbinate 1986 acc. to Rav Fainstein). It is a matter of a fact that organs can remain alive with the mechanical artificial help of a ventilator supplying the organs with oxygen, although the person is non-arguably dead. Life is not determined by the heart, you are alive only so long as the brain continues to function: brain death is death.

#### **What is being done today?**

Death can be determined at the bedside by confirming absence of brain function. This includes an examination demonstrating several findings: absent pupil response, absent gag, absent sucking reflexes. Importantly this also includes the “apnea test” where the ventilator is turned off for a period of several minutes combined with close observation for spontaneous breathing. Absence of breathing confirms brain death. (GB Young, “Diagnosis of Brain Death” [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com)).

Two doctors required to confirm the above findings.

However, the gold standard is mechanical testing for brain blood flow (for example CTA, cerebral angiography or MRA), in which never in the history of modern medicine has there ever been a case of a brain-stem dead person ‘waking up.’ (Dr. B. Haroon, ICU NS)

#### **An open door for health care abuse?**

Regarding the concern that doctors might prematurely declare you dead in order to harvest your organs:

First, we believe in the righteous ethics of the Doctors, and confident they will follow their oath to save people and not kill.

Second, it is the reality that death is

determined by at least two doctors. Although the doctors might (and in NS probably do) know each other, every doctor knows that there are enough doctors waiting in line to replace her/him and take over the position if caught in a crime of collusion.

Third, even if a doctor breaks the rules in order to use an organ, and in doing so kills a patient, it is the doctor's own crime. This does not take from the good deed of the donor. It is not the wicked who decides the law, and a low probability of such mischief must not prevent such good like saving lives (See first paragraph – “Why even bother”).

#### **What about religious rituals after death?**

There are three main severe prohibitions in Judaism regarding the treatment of the body after a person's death, which might prevent from allowing organ donation:

Since the body is a vessel that carries a holy soul and by that being itself sanctified (Chatam Sofer 6:10), Jewish people are not allowed delay the burial (Devarim 21:23), to benefit from a dead body (Talmud Avo”z 29) nor any mutilation of the dead (Sifree Devarin 221).

Another concern is what will be done with the remaining after the process is done. (Talmud Jerusalem Nazir 7, 1). According to the Jewish law every piece of the body needs to be buried, including every blood drop that will be spilled during the transplant process.

#### **Closing thoughts on “reverse onus” legislation**

##### **Is it ethical?**

Legislation is the most ethical approach.

##### **Should there be government involvement?**

It is the obligation of the government to make us do better, even if it is not the easiest emotional decision for the individual.

##### **Religious Rights?**

Being opted-in by default maintains the balance between our right to completely own every organ in our body and the privilege to save lives after our passing.

The new legislation brings Nova Scotia's society to a higher level, that by default every citizen is part of the collective need and on the same time enables her/him to for personal reasons and/or religious restriction to opt-out.

#### **Critical concerns for all parties?**

At least one independent doctor will verify brain death with the use mechanical equipment for confirmation, unless mechanical testing cannot be performed in cases where donors are not stable enough to undergo testing, for example if cardiac arrest has occurred.

An easy and accessible way to opt out completely or partially (for a person who doesn't want to donate a certain organ for her/his person reasons, but desires to do so with other organs).

Possibility to request for a religious authority in the process, in a way that will not interfere with the practical process of the transplant. (Talmud Sanhedrin 46).

#### **Critical concerns in the Jewish community?**

Every other organ or remaining of the body of a Jewish person after her/his passing, must be brought over for burial in the same grave (including blood that was spilled). (Talmud Jerusalem, Nazir 7)

Consent must be obtained from a donor's next of kin, so long as it is possible to contact them without reducing the probability for the success of the transplant. Dishonor for one's body is considered disrespect for the deceased family as well (Talmud Sanhedrin 46).

Since death is a ‘once in a lifetime’ event that involves our spirituality, I suggest that every person talk to her/his religious leader regarding practical issues and whether she/he should opt-out or not.

Ethically those who are willing to donate organs should also receive priority to receive them. Though problematic practically, ethically a person who opted-out would have a lesser priority than someone who stayed a donor. The principal is non punitive, but rather that an individual who thinks it is wrong to donate must agree that it is not ethically right to receive.



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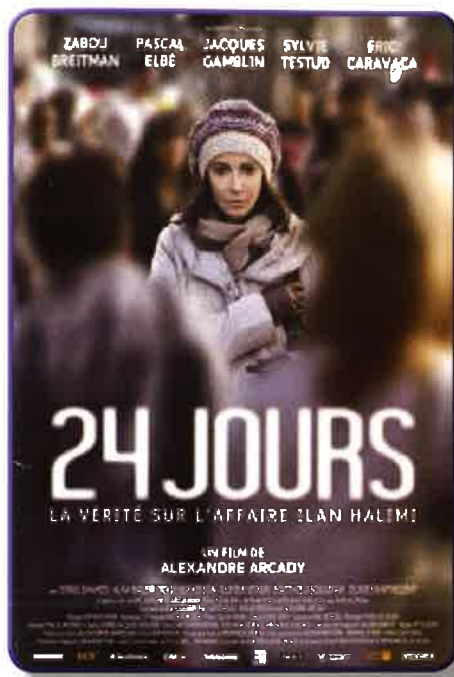
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